

National Parks and Wildlife Service

Conservation Objectives Series

South Dublin Bay SAC 000210



*An Roinn
Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta*

*Department of
Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht*



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Citation:

**NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: South Dublin Bay SAC 000210. Version 1.
National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the
Gaeltacht.**

**Series Editor: Rebecca Jeffrey
ISSN 2009-4086**

Introduction

The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives and Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as the Natura 2000 network.

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain habitats and species in the Natura 2000 network at favourable conservation condition. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites.

A site-specific conservation objective aims to define favourable conservation condition for a particular habitat or species at that site.

The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

- its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing, and
- the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and
- the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and
- there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

Notes/Guidelines:

1. The targets given in these conservation objectives are based on best available information at the time of writing. As more information becomes available, targets for attributes may change. These will be updated periodically, as necessary.
2. An appropriate assessment based on these conservation objectives will remain valid even if the targets are subsequently updated, providing they were the most recent objectives available when the assessment was carried out. It is essential that the date and version are included when objectives are cited.
3. Assessments cannot consider an attribute in isolation from the others listed for that habitat or species, or for other habitats and species listed for that site. A plan or project with an apparently small impact on one attribute may have a significant impact on another.
4. Please note that the maps included in this document do not necessarily show the entire extent of the habitats and species for which the site is listed. This should be borne in mind when appropriate assessments are being carried out.
5. When using these objectives, it is essential that the relevant backing/supporting documents are consulted, particularly where instructed in the targets or notes for a particular attribute.

Qualifying Interests

** indicates a priority habitat under the Habitats Directive*

000210	South Dublin Bay SAC
1140	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide

Please note that this SAC overlaps with South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (004024). See map 2. The conservation objectives for this site should be used in conjunction with those for the overlapping site as appropriate.

Supporting documents, relevant reports & publications

Supporting documents, NPWS reports and publications are available for download from: www.npws.ie/Publications

NPWS Documents

Year :	2006
Title :	A survey of intertidal mudflats and sandflats in Ireland
Author :	Aquafact
Series :	Unpublished report to NPWS
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Year :	2013
Title :	South Dublin Bay SAC (site code 210) Conservation objectives supporting document- marine habitat V1
Author :	NPWS
Series :	Conservation objectives supporting document

Other References

Year :	2012
Title :	Intertidal survey of South Dublin Bay SAC and South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA
Author :	MERC
Series :	Unpublished report to the Marine Institute and NPWS

Spatial data sources

Year : Interpolated 2013
Title : 2006, 2011 intertidal surveys
GIS Operations : Polygon feature classes from marine community types base data sub-divided based on interpolation of marine survey data. Expert opinion used as necessary to resolve any issues arising
Used For : 1140, marine community types (maps 3 and 4)

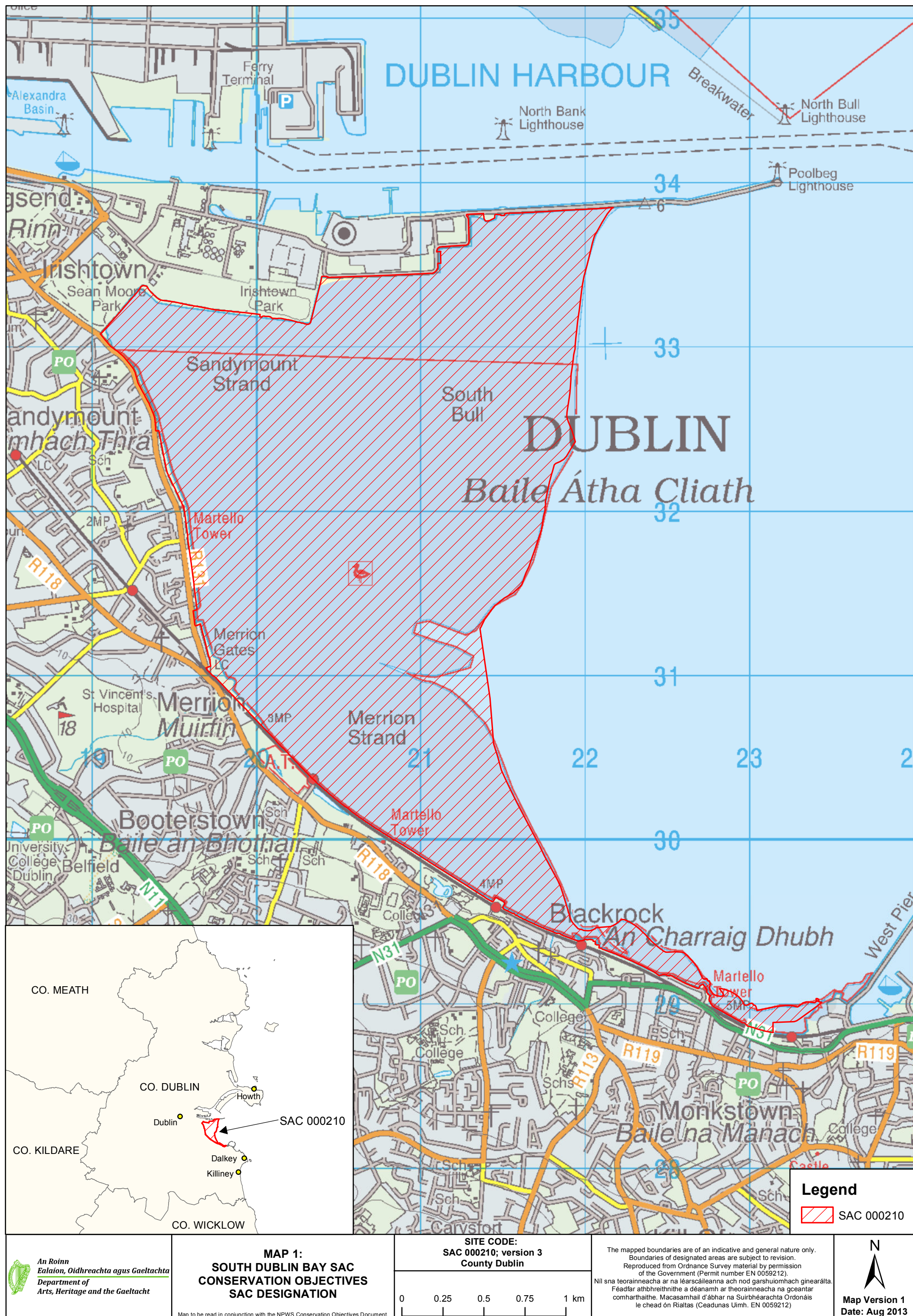
Year : 2005
Title : OSi Discovery series vector data
GIS Operations : High water mark (HWM) and low water mark (LWM) polyline feature classes converted into polygon feature classes and combined; EU Annex I Saltmarsh and Coastal data erased out if present
Used For : Marine community types base data (map 4)

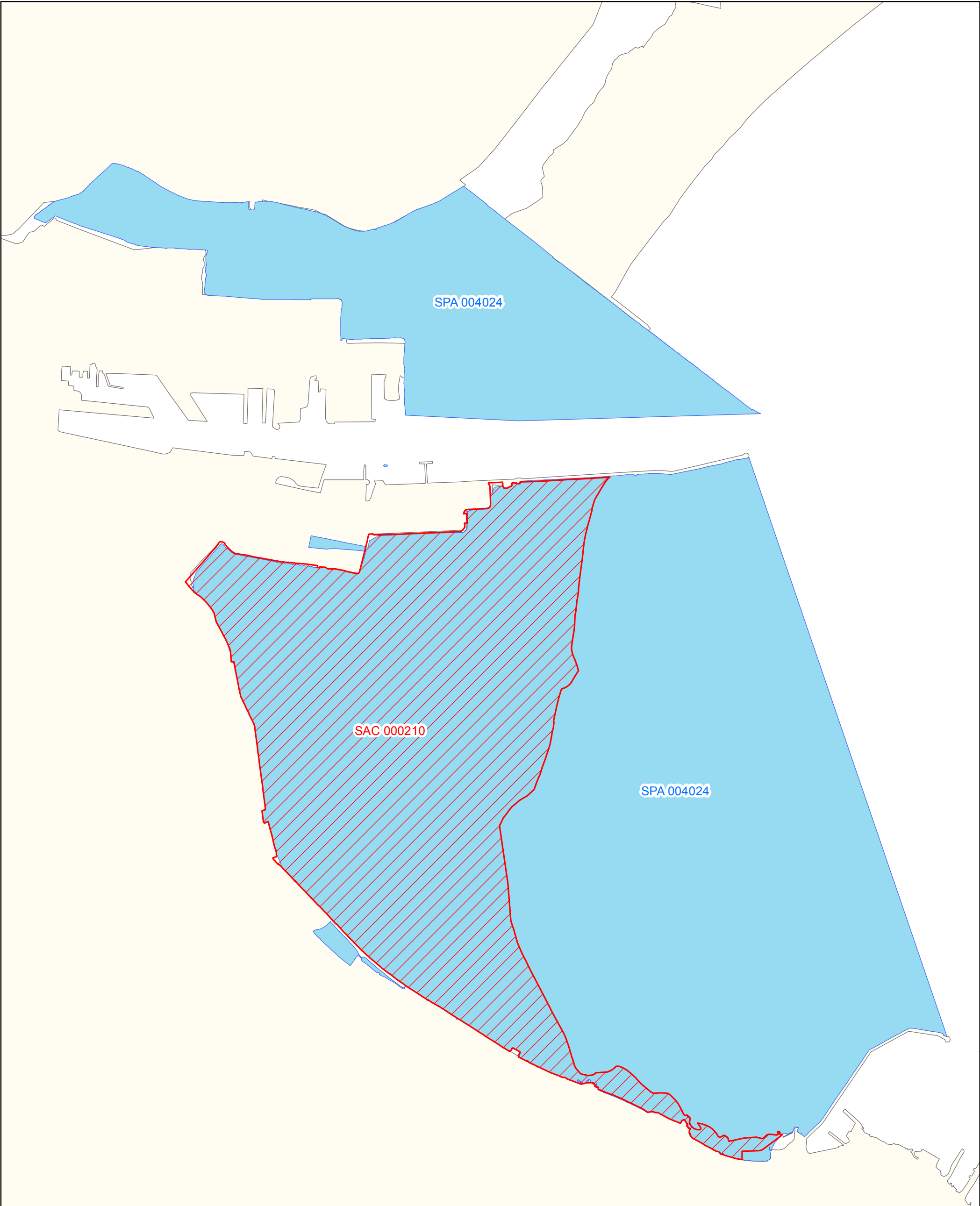
Conservation Objectives for : South Dublin Bay SAC [000210]

1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide




To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide in South Dublin Bay SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

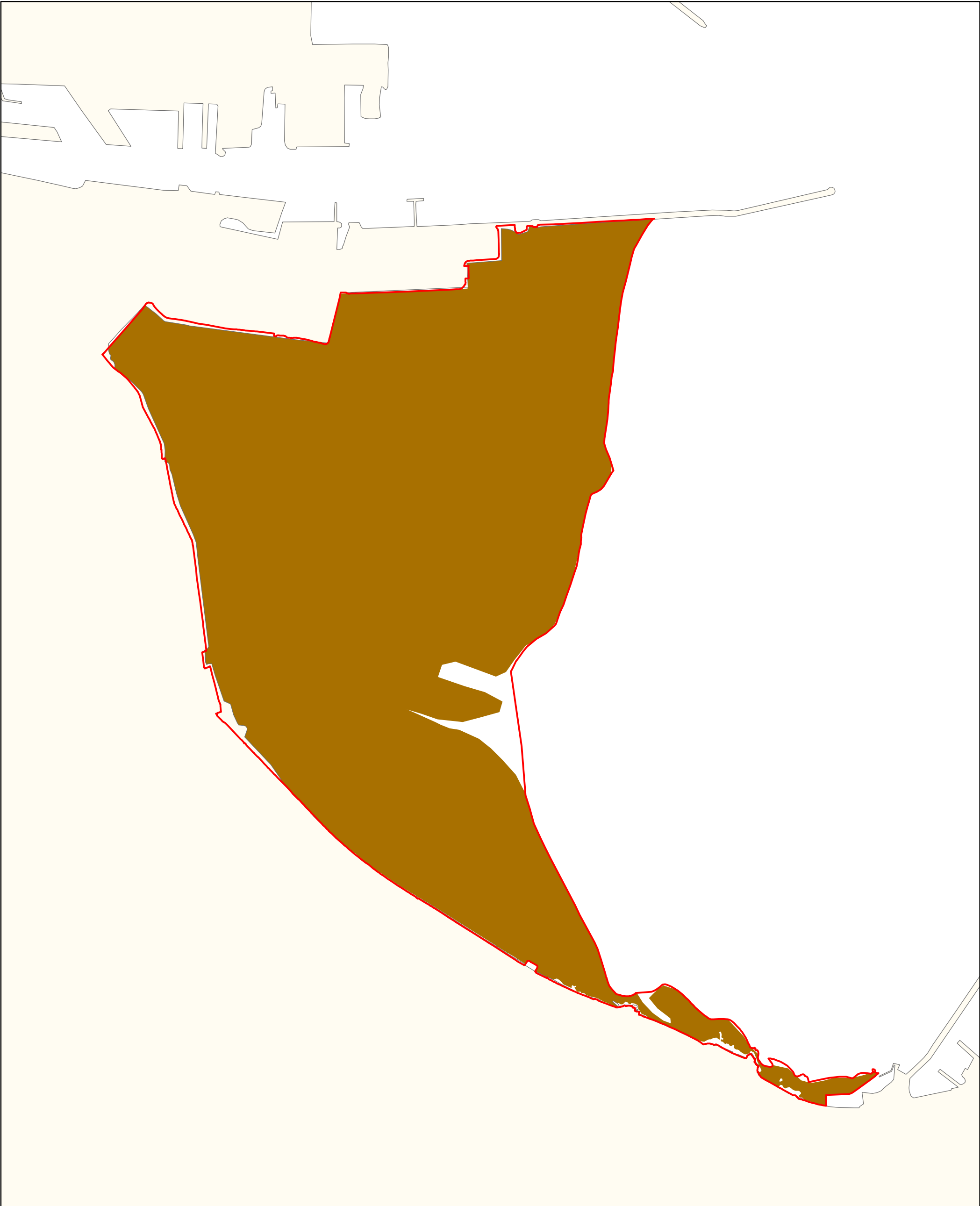
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	The permanent habitat area is stable or increasing, subject to natural processes. See map 3	Habitat area was estimated using OSi data as 720ha
Community extent	Hectares	Maintain the extent of the <i>Zostera</i> -dominated community, subject to natural processes. See map 4	Based on an intertidal survey undertaken in 2011 (MERC, 2012). See marine supporting document for further information
Community structure: <i>Zostera</i> density	Shoots/m ²	Conserve the high quality of the <i>Zostera</i> -dominated community, subject to natural processes	Based on an intertidal survey undertaken in 2011 (MERC, 2012). See marine supporting document for further details
Community distribution	Hectares	Conserve the following community type in a natural condition: Fine sands with <i>Angulus tenuis</i> community complex. See map 4	Based on intertidal surveys undertaken in 2006 (Aquafact, 2006) and 2011 (MERC, 2012). See marine supporting document for further information








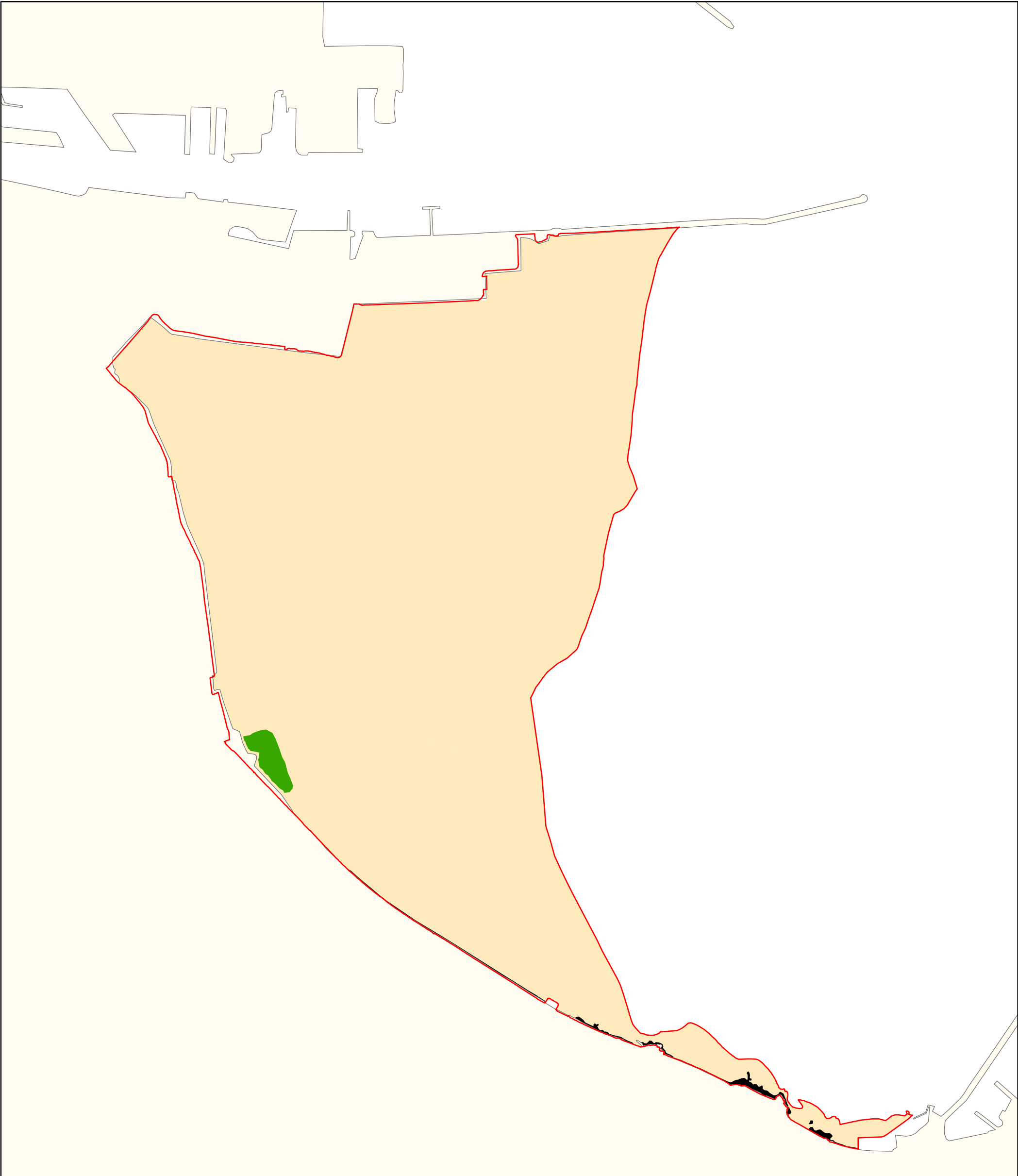
Legend

-  South Dublin Bay SAC 000210
-  South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA 004024
-  OSi Discovery Series County Boundaries








Legend

-  SAC 000210
-  1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by sea water at low tide
-  OSi Discovery Series County Boundaries



Legend

-  SAC 000210
-  OSi Discovery Series County Boundaries
- Marine Community Types**
 -  Fine sands with *Angulus tenuis* community complex
 -  Intertidal reef community
 -  *Zostera*-dominated community