

National Parks and Wildlife Service

Conservation Objectives Series

Ballinskelligs Bay and Inny Estuary SAC 000335



*An Roinn
Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta*

*Department of
Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht*



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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*

000335	Ballinskelligs Bay and Inny Estuary SAC
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1330	Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)
1395	Petalwort <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>
1410	Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>)

Please note that this SAC overlaps with Iveragh Peninsula SPA (004154) and is adjacent to Killarney National Park, Macgillicuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC (000365). See map 2. The conservation objectives for this site should be used in conjunction with those for the overlapping and adjacent sites 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 :	2009
Title :	Saltmarsh monitoring project 2007-2008
Author :	McCorry, M.; Ryle, T.
Series :	Unpublished report to NPWS
Year :	2013
Title :	<i>Patalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Wils.) Nees & Gottsche (Petalwort) in the Republic of Ireland. Article 17 report backing document
Author :	Campbell, C; Hodgetts, N; Lockhart, N.
Series :	Unpublished report to NPWS
Year :	2014
Title :	Ballinskelligs Bay and Inny Estuary SAC (site code: 335) Conservation objectives supporting document- coastal habitats V1
Author :	NPWS
Series :	Conservation objectives supporting document

Other References

Year :	2013
Title :	Conservation of selected legally protected and Red Listed bryophytes in Ireland
Author :	Campbell, C.
Series :	Unpublished Ph.D. Thesis, Trinity College Dublin

Spatial data sources

Year :	Revision 2010
Title :	Saltmarsh Monitoring Project 2007-2008. Version 1
GIS Operations :	QIs selected; clipped to SAC boundary; overlapping regions with Coastal CO data investigated and resolved with expert opinion used
Used For :	1330, 1410 (map 3)
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Year :	2014
Title :	NPWS rare and threatened species database
GIS Operations :	Dataset created from spatial references in database records. Expert opinion used as necessary to resolve any issues arising
Used For :	1395 (map 4)
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1330 Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) in Ballinskelligs Bay and Inny Estuary SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	Area stable or increasing, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession. See map 3	Based on data from the Saltmarsh Monitoring Project (SMP) (McCorry and Ryle, 2009). 1.37ha of potential Atlantic salt meadows was identified from an examination of aerial photographs as well as 19.09ha of potential saltmarsh mosaic. Assuming that half of this potential saltmarsh represents Atlantic Salt Meadows gives a total estimated area of 10.92ha. NB further unmapped areas maybe present within the SAC. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline or change in habitat distribution, subject to natural processes. See map 3 for known distribution	The saltmarsh at Ballinskelligs Bay and Inny Estuary occurs in the inner sheltered area of the Inny Estuary and along both sides of the channel. NB further unmapped areas maybe present within the SAC. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: sediment supply	Presence/ absence of physical barriers	Maintain/restore natural circulation of sediments and organic matter, without any physical obstructions	See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: creeks and pans	Occurrence	Maintain/restore creek and pan structure, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession	See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: flooding regime	Hectares flooded; frequency	Maintain natural tidal regime	See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: zonation	Occurrence	Maintain range of coastal habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession	See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: vegetation height	Centimetres	Maintain structural variation within sward	See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: vegetation cover	Percentage cover at a representative number of monitoring stops	Maintain more than 90% area outside creeks vegetated	See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities	Percentage cover at a representative number of monitoring stops	Maintain range of sub-communities with typical species listed in McCorry and Ryle (2009)	See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: negative indicator species - <i>Spartina anglica</i>	Hectares	There is no cordgrass (<i>Spartina anglica</i>) recorded from this SAC. Prevent establishment of cordgrass	As cord grass (<i>Spartina anglica</i>) has never been recorded from this area, the target is to ensure that the site remain free of this highly invasive species. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details

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1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*)

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*) in Ballinskelligs Bay and Inny Estuary SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

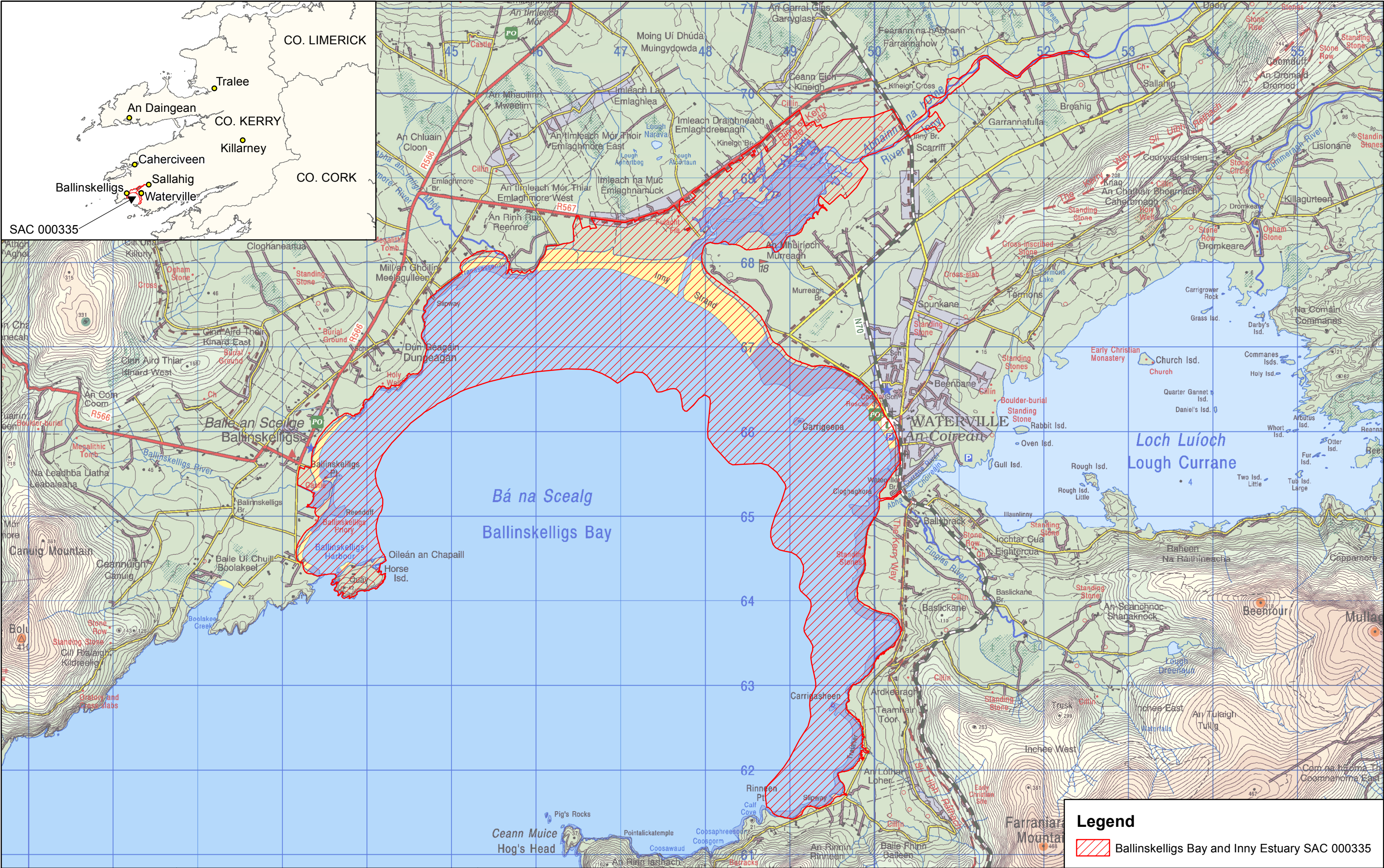
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	Area stable or increasing, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession. See map 3	Based on data from the Saltmarsh Monitoring Project (SMP) (McCorry and Ryle, 2009). A total of 19.09ha of potential saltmarsh habitat mosaic was identified from an examination of aerial photographs. Assuming that half of this potential saltmarsh represents Mediterranean Salt Meadows gives a total estimated area of 9.55ha. NB further unmapped areas maybe present within the SAC. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, subject to natural processes. See map 3 for known distribution	The saltmarsh at Ballinskelligs Bay and Inny Estuary occurs in the inner sheltered area of the Inny Estuary and along both sides of the channel. NB further unmapped areas maybe present within the SAC. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: sediment supply	Presence/absence of physical barriers	Maintain/restore natural circulation of sediments and organic matter, without any physical obstructions	See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: creeks and pans	Occurrence	Maintain/restore creek and pan structure, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession	See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: flooding regime	Hectares flooded; frequency	Maintain natural tidal regime	Mediterranean salt meadows is found high up in the saltmarsh but requires occasional tidal inundation. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: zonation	Occurrence	Maintain range of saltmarsh habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession	See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: vegetation height	Centimetres	Maintain structural variation in the sward	See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: vegetation cover	Percentage cover at a representative number of monitoring stops	Maintain more than 90% of area outside creeks vegetated	See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities	Percentage cover at a representative number of monitoring stops	Maintain range of sub-communities with characteristic species listed in McCorry and Ryle (2009)	See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: negative indicator species - <i>Spartina anglica</i>	Hectares	There is no cordgrass (<i>Spartina anglica</i>) recorded from this SAC. Prevent establishment of cordgrass	As cord grass (<i>Spartina anglica</i>) has never been recorded from this area, the target is to ensure that the site remain free of this highly invasive species. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details

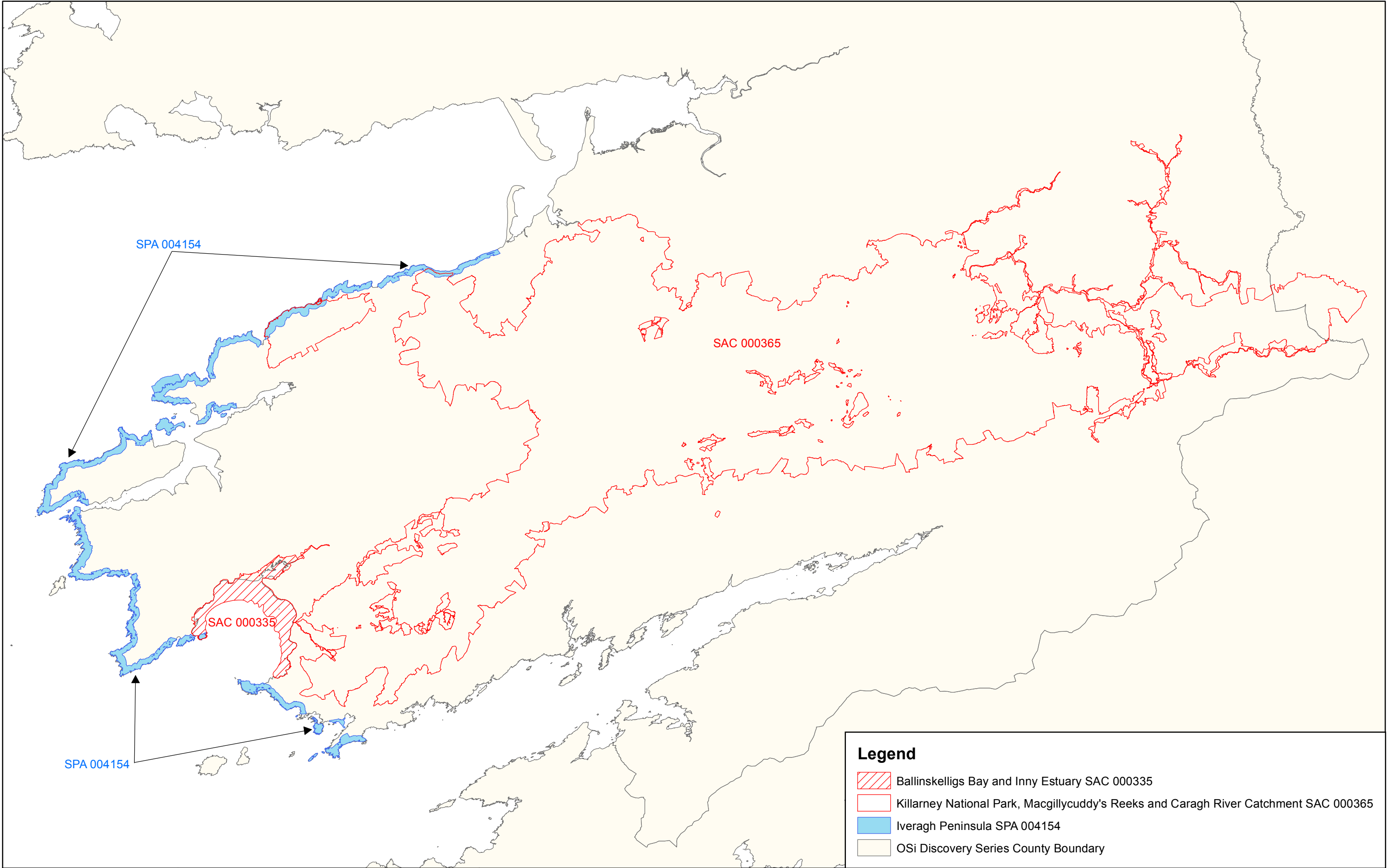
Conservation Objectives for : Ballinskelligs Bay and Inny Estuary SAC [000335]

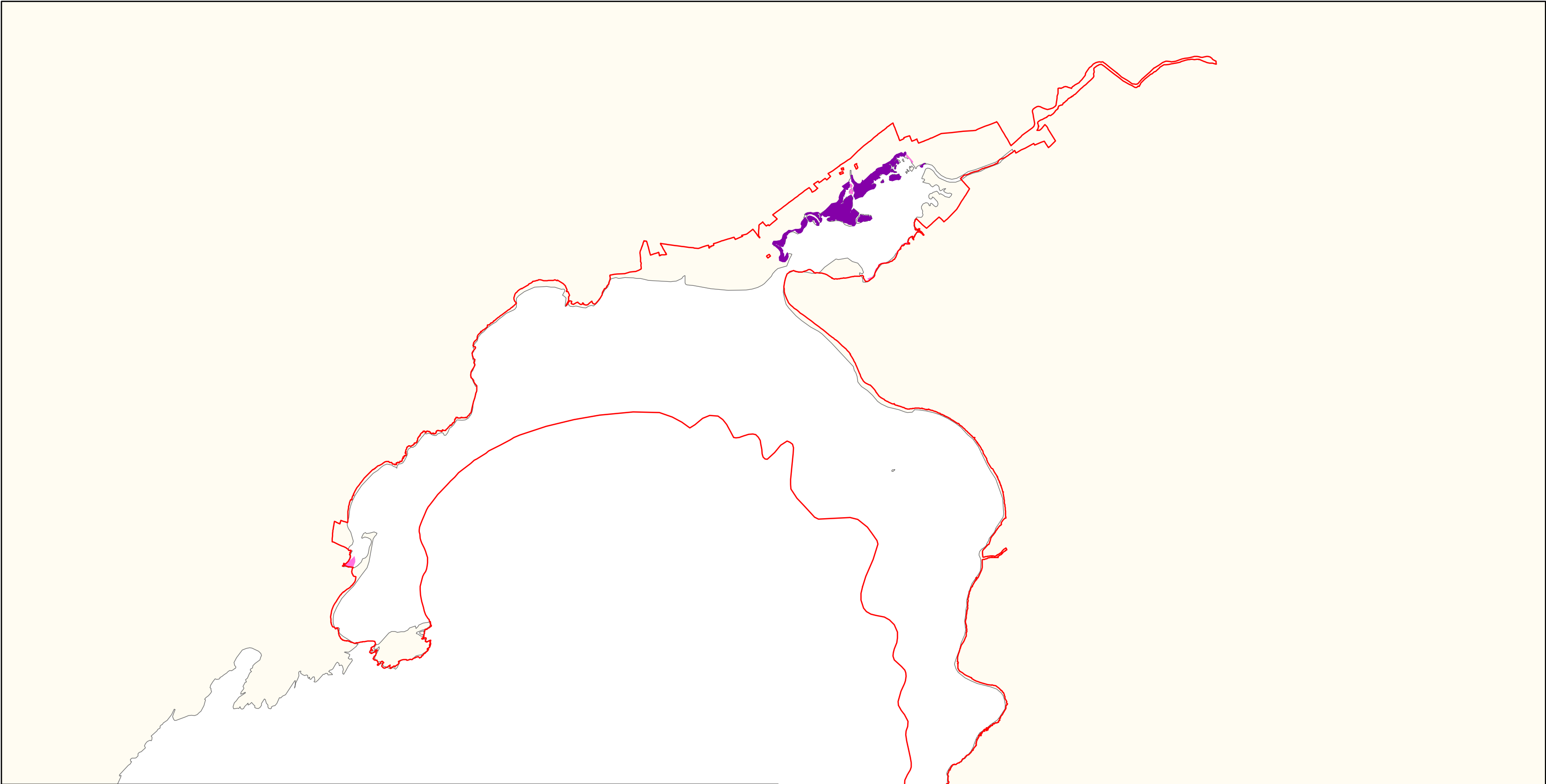
1395 Petalwort *Petalophyllum ralfsii*

To restore the favourable conservation condition of Petalwort in Ballinskelligs Bay and Inny Estuary SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Distribution of populations	Number and geographical spread of populations	No decline. See map 4 for recorded location	The population at West of Inny Ferry was last seen by Lockhart in 1998 on a sandy bank/ridge bordering the south-east side of the eastern reedbed. Visits by Lockhart in 2007 and Campbell in 2009-2011 failed to re-find thalli. Data from NPWS surveys and Campbell (2013). See Campbell et al. (2013) for further information
Population size	Number of individuals	No decline. The population is estimated to be a maximum of 50 thalli	Counts of thalli: Lockhart counted in the region of 30-50 thalli in 1998, however the species has not been seen there since that time despite searches by Lockhart in 1997 and Campbell in 2009, 2010 and 2011 (Campbell, 2013)
Area of suitable habitat	Hectares	No decline. Area of suitable habitat at West of Inny Ferry is estimated to be 0.00005ha	The extent of suitable habitat at West of Inny Ferry has not been measured by GPS but was known to be very small (0.5m ²) when last seen by Lockhart in 1998
Hydrological conditions: soil moisture	Occurrence of damp soil conditions	Maintain hydrological conditions so that substrate is kept moist and damp throughout the year, but not subject to prolonged inundation by flooding in winter	<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> grows in damp sand. Based on Campbell (2013)
Vegetation: open structure	Height and percentage cover of vegetation	Restore open, low vegetation, with a high percentage cover of bryophytes (small acrocarps and liverwort turf) and bare ground	<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> grows in compacted, sandy ground, maintained by rabbit (<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>) and cattle grazing. Lockhart recorded plants growing in tightly-grazed turf, on firm but moist sandy soil, half way up a sandy ridge surrounding a flooded depression, heavily grazed and poached by cattle. However, when visited by Campbell (2013) the site appeared under-grazed and a mean height of vegetation of 7.2cm, with bryophyte cover c.11-75% and bare ground c.0-4% (based on two 1 x1m plots from 2009 and 2011) and no thalli were recorded. See Campbell et al. (2013). Reinstatement of previous grazing levels could restore conditions for the <i>P. ralfsii</i> population to re-establish/increase at this SAC







Legend

- Ballinskelligs Bay and Inny Estuary SAC 000335
- OSi Discovery Series County Boundary
- Saltmarsh Habitats**
- Qualifying Interests**
- Potential 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)
- Potential 1330 / 1410 Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) / Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*)

