

# National Parks and Wildlife Service

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## *Conservation Objectives Series*

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Kilkee Reefs SAC 002264



*An Roinn*  
*Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta*  

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*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*

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002264	Kilkee Reefs SAC
1160	Large shallow inlets and bays
1170	Reefs
8330	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves

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**Please note that this SAC overlaps with Illaunonearaun SPA (004114). 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](http://www.npws.ie/Publications)

### NPWS Documents

**Year :** 2014  
**Title :** Kilkee Reefs SAC (site code: 2264) Conservation objectives supporting document- marine habitats V1  
**Author :** NPWS  
**Series :** Conservation objectives supporting document

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### Other References

**Year :** 1997  
**Title :** The BioMar biotope viewer: a guide to marine habitats, fauna and flora in Britain and Ireland  
**Author :** Picton, B.E.; Costello, M.J.  
**Series :** Environmental Science Unit, Trinity College Dublin

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**Year :** 2014  
**Title :** Subtidal benthic survey and subtidal reef survey of Kilkee Reefs SAC  
**Author :** MERC  
**Series :** Unpublished report to the Marine Institute and NPWS

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**Year :** 2014  
**Title :** Intertidal benthic survey and intertidal reef survey of Kilkee Reefs SAC  
**Author :** MERC  
**Series :** Unpublished report to the Marine Institute and NPWS

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## Spatial data sources

<b>Year :</b>	2005
<b>Title :</b>	OSi Discovery series vector data
<b>GIS Operations :</b>	High Water Mark (HWM) polyline feature class converted into polygon feature class; clipped to SAC boundary. EPA WFD transitional waterbody data erased from extent. Expert opinion used as necessary to resolve any issues arising
<b>Used For :</b>	1160 (map 3)
<b>Year :</b>	Interpolated 2014
<b>Title :</b>	1994 BioMar survey; 2011, 2012 reef surveys
<b>GIS Operations :</b>	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
<b>Used For :</b>	1170, marine community types (maps 3 and 5)
<b>Year :</b>	Derived 2014
<b>Title :</b>	Coast of Ireland Oblique Imagery Survey 2003
<b>GIS Operations :</b>	Point dataset created from visual inspection of survey
<b>Used For :</b>	8330 (map 4)
<b>Year :</b>	2005
<b>Title :</b>	OSi Discovery series vector data
<b>GIS Operations :</b>	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
<b>Used For :</b>	Marine community types base data (map 5)

**1160 Large shallow inlets and bays**

**To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Large shallow inlets and bays in Kilkee Reefs SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:**

<b>Attribute</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Habitat area	Hectares	The permanent habitat area is stable or increasing, subject to natural processes. See map 3	Habitat area estimated as 1350ha using OSi data and expert judgement
Community distribution	Hectares	Conserve the following community types in a natural condition: Sediment community complex; Exposed intertidal reef community complex; Exposed subtidal reef community complex. See map 5	Based on a 1994 BioMar survey (Picton and Costello, 1997) and 2011 and 2012 reef surveys (MERC, 2012). See marine supporting document for further details

**1170 Reefs**

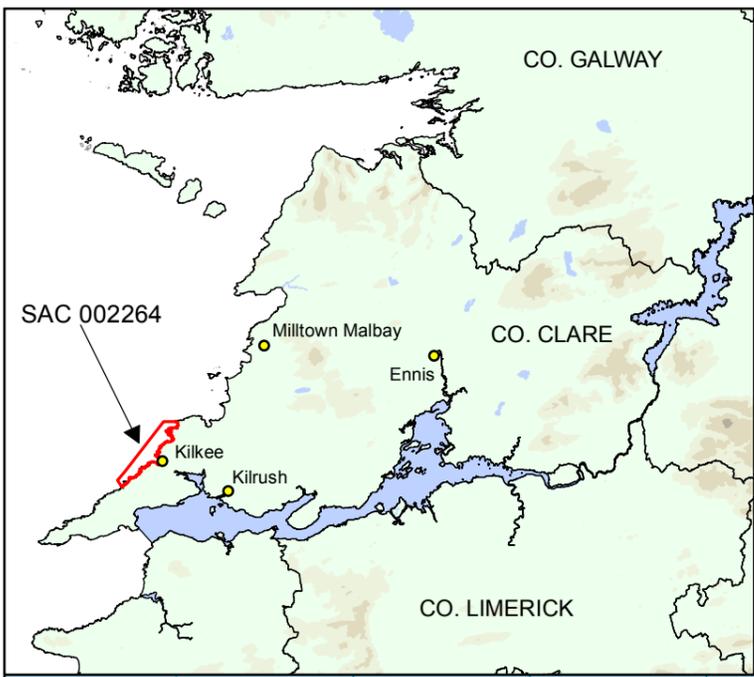
**To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Reefs in Kilkee Reefs SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:**

<b>Attribute</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Habitat area	Hectares	The permanent habitat area is stable or increasing, subject to natural processes. See map 4	Habitat area estimated as 2391ha from a 1994 BioMar survey (Picton and Costello, 1997) and 2011 and 2012 reef surveys (MERC, 2012)
Distribution	Occurrence	The distribution of reefs is stable or increasing, subject to natural processes. See map 4	Based on information from a 1994 BioMar survey (Picton and Costello, 1997) and 2011 and 2012 reef surveys (MERC, 2012)
Community structure	Biological composition	Conserve the following community types in a natural condition: Exposed intertidal reef community complex; Exposed subtidal reef community complex. See map 5	Based on information from a 1994 BioMar survey (Picton and Costello, 1997) and 2011 and 2012 reef surveys (MERC, 2012). See marine supporting document for further details

**8330 Submerged or partially submerged sea caves**

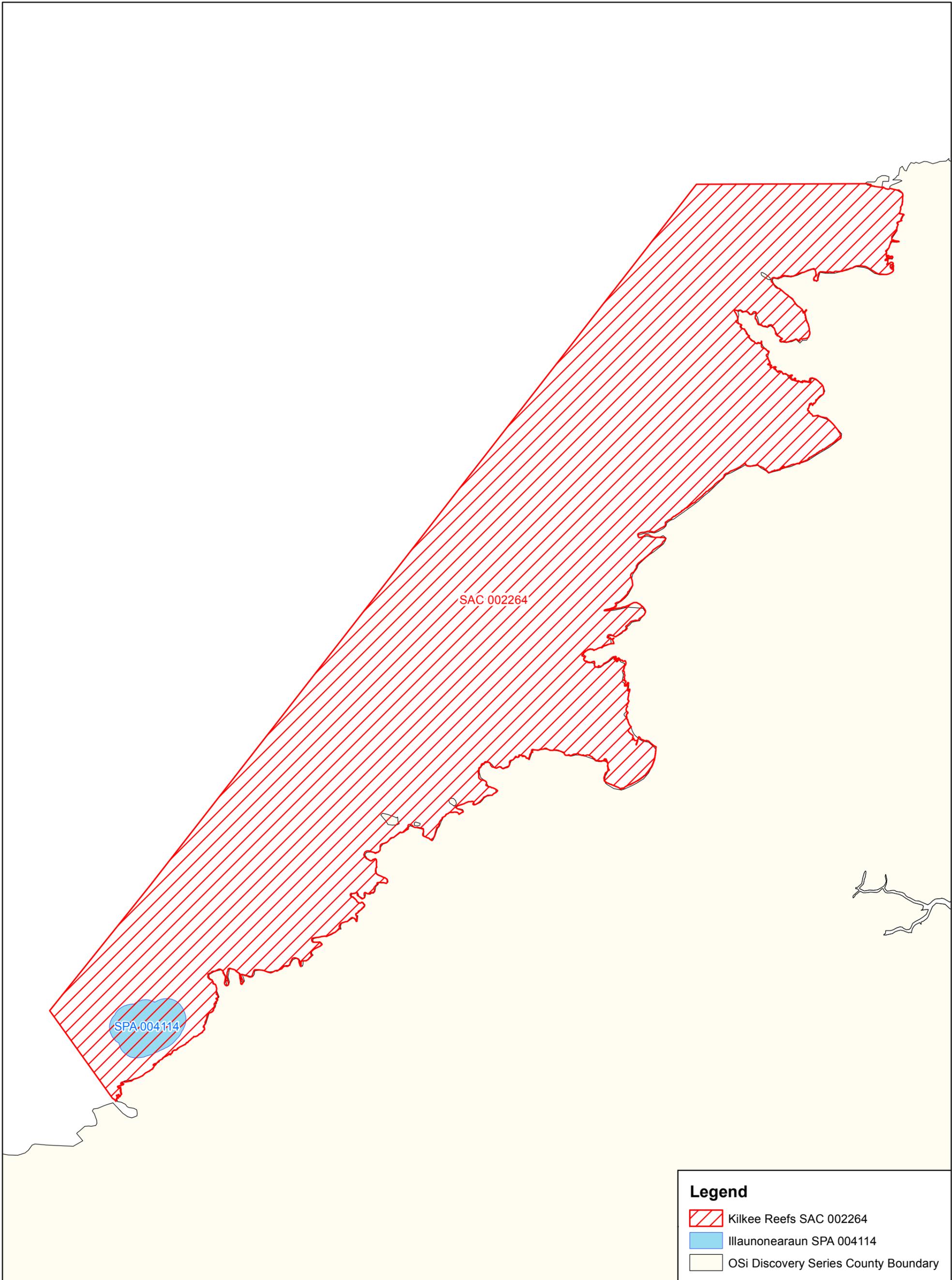
**To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Submerged or partially submerged sea caves in Kilkee Reefs SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:**

<b>Attribute</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Distribution	Occurrence	The distribution of sea caves is stable, subject to natural processes. See map 4 for known caves	Sea cave distribution at this site was derived from an oblique aerial survey and therefore only detects the presence of sea caves visible intertidally in the flight path. NB other sea caves may occur within the SAC
Community structure	Biological composition	Human activities should occur at levels that do not adversely affect the ecology of sea caves in the SAC	See marine supporting document for further details



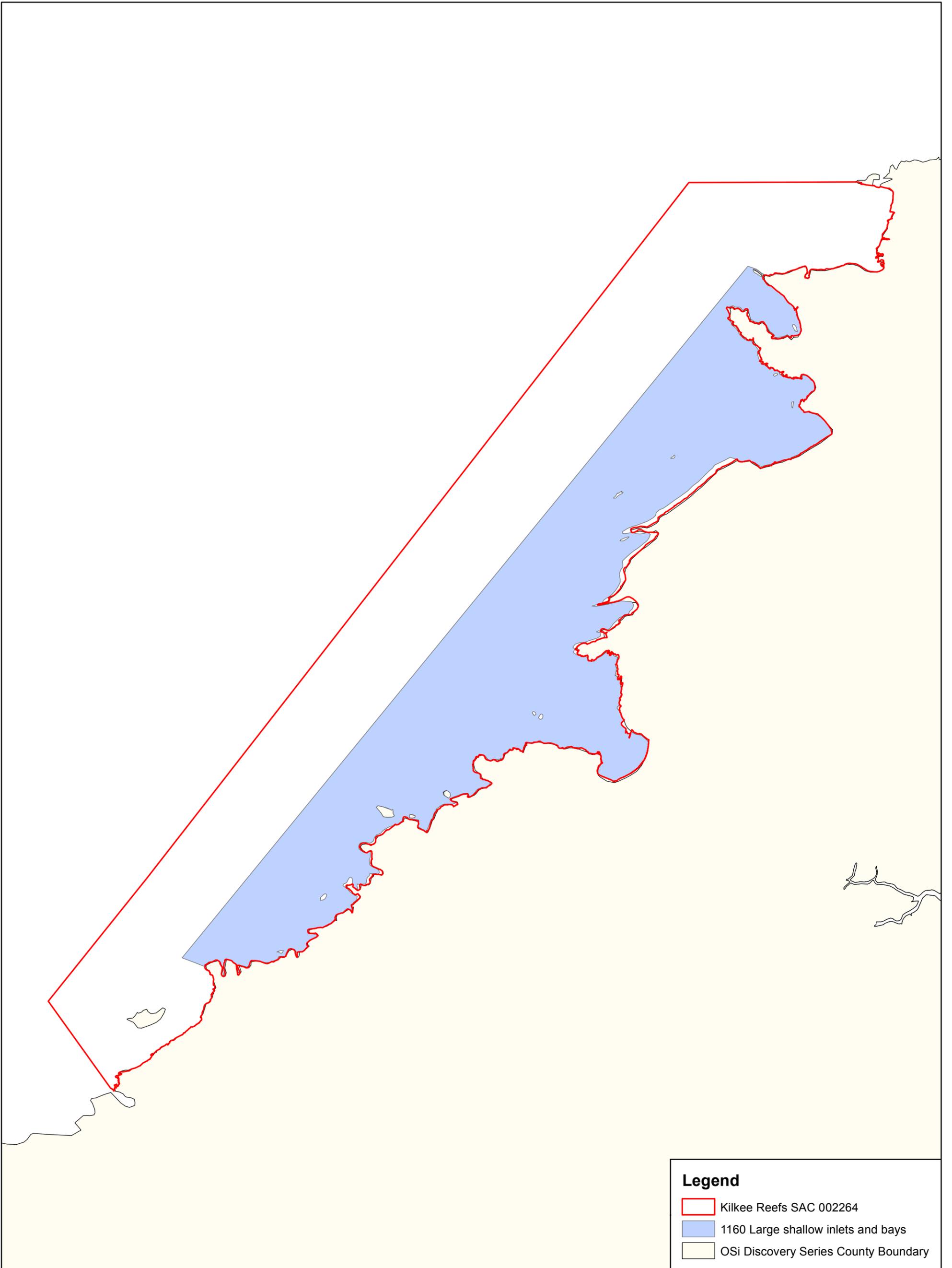
**Legend**

 Kilkee Reefs SAC 002264



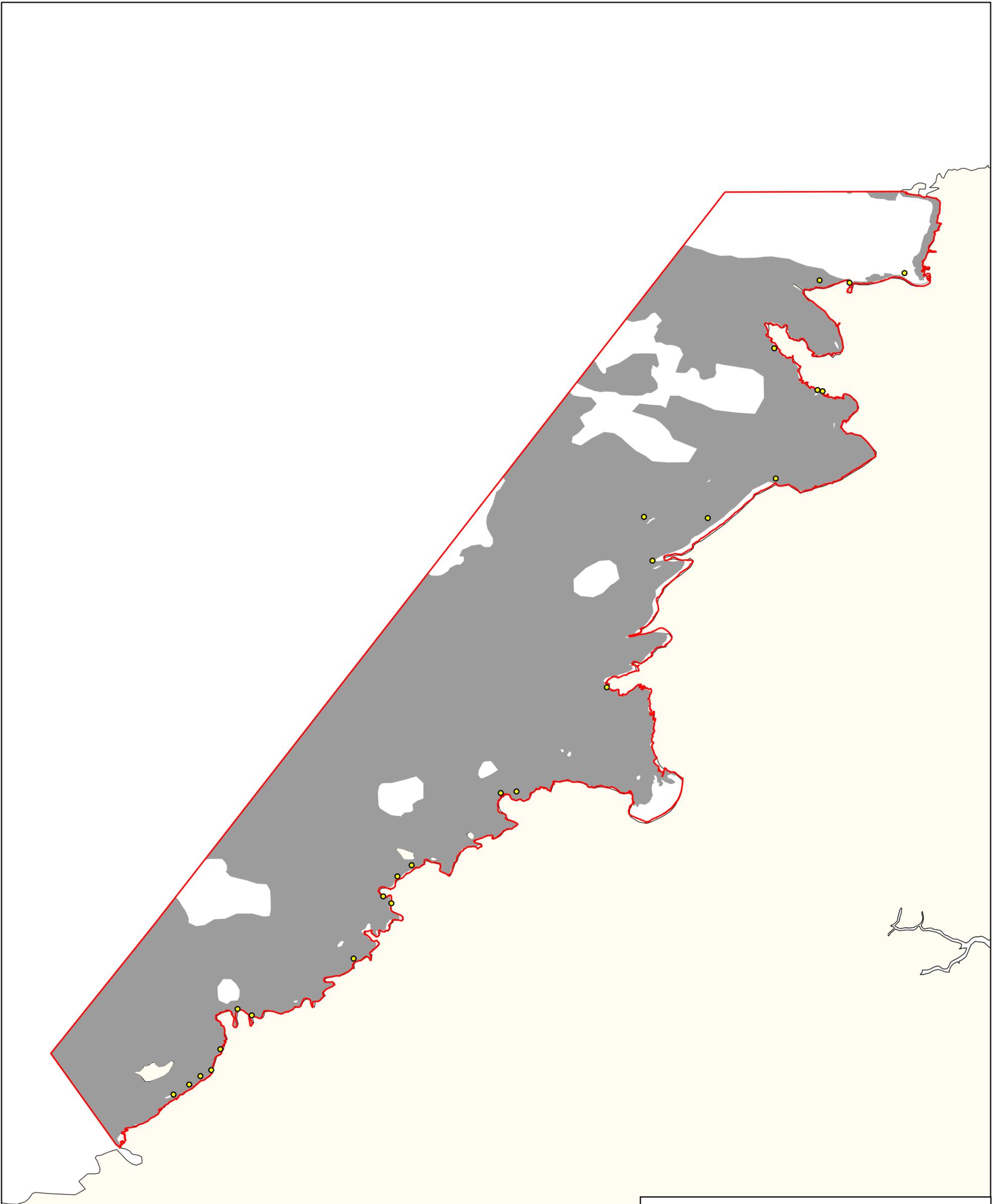
**Legend**

-  Kilkee Reefs SAC 002264
-  Illaunonearaun SPA 004114
-  OSi Discovery Series County Boundary



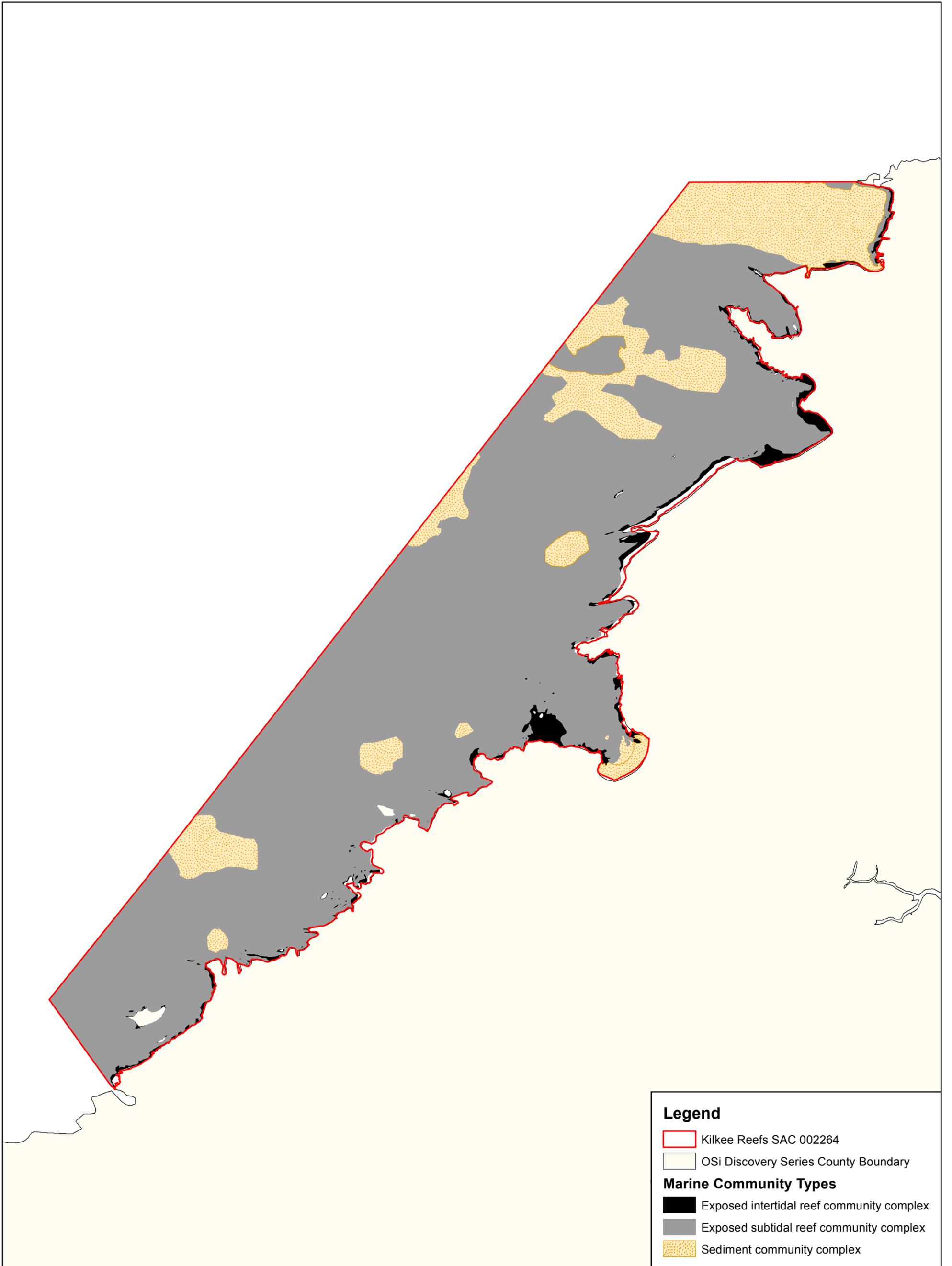
**Legend**

- Kilkee Reefs SAC 002264
- 1160 Large shallow inlets and bays
- OSi Discovery Series County Boundary



**Legend**

- Kilkee Reefs SAC 002264
- 1170 Reefs
- 8330 Submerged or partially submerged sea caves
- OSi Discovery Series County Boundary



**Legend**

- Kilkee Reefs SAC 002264
- OSi Discovery Series County Boundary
- Marine Community Types**
- Exposed intertidal reef community complex
- Exposed subtidal reef community complex
- Sediment community complex