

National Parks and Wildlife Service

Conservation Objectives

Kingstown Bay SAC 002265



*An Roinn
Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta*

*Department of
Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht*

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*

002265 Kingstown Bay SAC

QI	Description
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1160	Large shallow inlets and bays
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Supporting documents, relevant reports & publications (listed by date)

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

Title: Kingstown Bay SAC (002265): Conservation objectives supporting document - marine habitats [Version 1]

Year: 2011

Author: NPWS

Series: Unpublished Report to NPWS

Title: Subtidal benthic Investigations in Kingstown Bay (cSAC Site Code: IE002265) Co. Galway

Year: 2010

Author: Aquafact

Series: Unpublished Report to NPWS & MI

Title: Survey of sensitive subtidal benthic marine communities in Kilkieran Bay & Islands SAC and Kingstown Bay SAC

Year: 2005

Author: MERC

Series: Unpublished Report to NPWS

Title: Environmental survey of the cSAC site at Kingstown Bay County Galway

Year: 2003

Author: Aquafact

Series: Unpublished Report to Dúchas - The Heritage Service

Title: The BioMar biotope viewer: a guide to marine habitats, fauna and flora in Britain and Ireland

Year: 1997

Author: Picton, B.E.; Costello, M.J.

Series: Trinity College Dublin

Spatial data sources

Year: 2005
Title: OSi Discovery series vector data
GIS operations: High Water Mark (HWM) polyline feature class converted into polygon feature class; clipped to SAC boundary. Seaward boundary defined by expert judgement
Used for: 1160 (map 2)

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; Saltmarsh and Sand Dune CO datasets erased out if applicable
Used for: Marine community types base data (map 3)

Year: Interpolated 2011
Title: 1994 BioMar Survey; 2003, 2005, 2010 subtidal 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: Marine community types (map 3)

Conservation objectives for: Kingstown Bay SAC [002265]

1160 Large shallow inlets and bays

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Large shallow inlets and bays in Kingstown 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 2	Habitat area was estimated using OSi data as 75ha. See marine supporting document for further details
Community extent	Hectares	Maintain the natural extent of the <i>Zostera</i> dominated and Maërl dominated communities. See map 3	The likely extent of the <i>Zostera</i> dominated and Maërl dominated communities was derived from 1994 BioMar Survey (Picton and Costello, 1997) and a dive survey undertaken in 2005 (MERC, 2005). See marine supporting document for further details
Shoot density	Shoots per m ²	Maintain the high quality of <i>Zostera</i> dominated community	Based on 2005 diver observation (MERC, 2005). See marine supporting document for further details
Community structure	Biological composition	Maintain the high quality of Maërl dominated community	Area established a dive survey in 2005 (MERC, 2005). See marine supporting document for further details
Community distribution	Hectares	The following communities/community complexes should be maintained in a natural condition: Subtidal sand with amphipods and polychaetes community; Mud with <i>Arenicola marina</i> and anemones community; Intertidal sediment community complex; and Intertidal reef community complex. See map 3	The likely area of communities was derived from a combination of surveys undertaken in 1994, 2003, 2005 and 2010 (Picton and Costello, 1997; Aquafact, 2003, 2010; MERC, 2005)



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