

National Parks and Wildlife Service

Conservation Objectives Series

Rutland Island and Sound SAC 002283



*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*

002283	Rutland Island and Sound SAC
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1150	Coastal lagoons*
1160	Large shallow inlets and bays
1170	Reefs
1210	Annual vegetation of drift lines
1365	Harbour seal <i>Phoca vitulina</i>
2110	Embryonic shifting dunes
2120	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes)
2130	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)*
2190	Humid dune slacks

Please note that this SAC overlaps with Illancrone and Inishkeeragh SPA (004132) and adjoins Gweedore Bay and Islands SAC (001141) and Termon Strand SAC (001195). See map 2. The conservation objectives for this site should be used in conjunction with those for 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 :	1990
Title :	1989 survey of breeding herds of common seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>) with reference to previous surveys
Author :	Harrington, R.
Series :	Unpublished report to Wildlife Service
Year :	2004
Title :	Harbour seal population assessment in the Republic of Ireland: August 2003
Author :	Cronin, M.; Duck, C.; O'Cadhla, O.; Nairn, R.; Strong, D.; O'Keeffe, C.
Series :	Irish Wildlife Manual No. 11
Year :	2004
Title :	Summary of National Parks & Wildlife Service surveys for common (harbour) seals (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>) and grey seals (<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>), 1978 to 2003
Author :	Lyons, D.O.
Series :	Irish Wildlife Manual No. 13
Year :	2007
Title :	Inventory of Irish Coastal Lagoons v.2
Author :	Oliver, G.
Series :	Unpublished report to NPWS
Year :	2008
Title :	Survey of sensitive subtidal benthic marine communities in Mullet/Blacksod Bay Complex SAC, Rutland Island and Sound SAC, Mulroy Bay SAC
Author :	MERC
Series :	Unpublished report to NPWS
Year :	2009
Title :	Coastal Monitoring Project 2004-2006
Author :	Ryle, T.; Murray, A.; Connolly, C.; Swann, M.
Series :	Unpublished report to NPWS
Year :	2013
Title :	Rutland Island and Sound SAC (site code 2283) Conservation objectives supporting document- coastal habitats V1
Author :	NPWS
Series :	Conservation objectives supporting document
Year :	2013
Title :	Rutland Island and Sound SAC (site code 2283) Conservation objectives supporting document- marine habitats and species V1
Author :	NPWS
Series :	Conservation objectives supporting document
Year :	2013
Title :	Rutland Island and Sound SAC (site code 2283) Conservation objectives supporting document- lagoons V1
Author :	NPWS
Series :	Conservation objectives supporting document

Other References

Year :	1980
Title :	An assessment of the status of the common seal (<i>Phoca vitulina vitulina</i>) in Ireland
Author :	Summers, C.F.; Warner, P.J.; Nairn, R.G.W.; Curry, M.G.; Flynn, J.
Series :	Biological Conservation 17: 115-123
Year :	1983
Title :	An assessment of the breeding populations of common seals (<i>Phoca vitulina vitulina</i> L.) in the Republic of Ireland during 1979
Author :	Warner, P.J.
Series :	Irish Naturalists' Journal 21: 24-26
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
Year :	2008
Title :	The phytosociology and conservation value of Irish sand dunes
Author :	Gaynor, K.
Series :	Unpublished PhD thesis, National University of Ireland, Dublin
Year :	2011
Title :	Subtidal benthic investigations in Rutland Island and Sound cSAC (cSAC site code: IE002283) Co. Donegal
Author :	Aquafact
Series :	Unpublished report to the Marine Institute and NPWS
Year :	2011
Title :	Reef investigations in Rutland Island and Sound cSAC (cSAC site code IE002283) Co. Donegal
Author :	Aquafact
Series :	Unpublished report to the Marine Institute and NPWS
Year :	2013
Title :	Monitoring and assessment of Irish lagoons for the purposes of the EU Water Framework Directive, 2009-2011. Parts 1 and 2
Author :	Roden, C.M; Oliver, G. A.
Series :	Unpublished report to the Environmental Protection Agency

Spatial data sources

Year :	Revision 2011
Title :	Inventory of Irish Coastal Lagoons. Version 3
GIS Operations :	Clipped to SAC boundary
Used For :	1150 (map 3)
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. EPA WFD transitional waterbody data erased from extent. Expert opinion used as necessary to resolve any issues arising
Used For :	1160 (map 4)
Year :	Interpolated 2013
Title :	1996 BioMar Survey; 2008, 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 :	1170, Marine community types (maps 5 and 6)
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 6)
Year :	2013
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 :	1365 (map 7)
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. Expert opinion used as necessary to resolve any issues arising
Used For :	1365 (map 7)

1150 Coastal lagoons

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Coastal lagoons in Rutland Island and Sound SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	Area stable, subject to slight natural variation. Favourable reference area 4.9ha. See map 3	Area calculated from spatial data derived from Oliver, 2007. Site code IL081 (Sally's Lough). See lagoons supporting document for further details
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, subject to natural processes. See map 3	Site IL081 in Oliver, 2007. See lagoons supporting document for further details
Salinity regime	Practical salinity units (psu)	Median annual salinity and temporal variation within natural range	Sally's Lough is recorded as a polyhaline/euhaline lagoon. See lagoons supporting document for further details
Hydrological regime	Metres	Annual water level fluctuations and minima within natural ranges	Maximum depth of Sally's Lough is recorded as less than 4m. See lagoons supporting document for further details
Barrier: connectivity between lagoon and sea	Permeability	Appropriate hydrological connections between lagoon and sea, including where necessary, appropriate management	Sally's Lough is described as a rock/peat lagoon with an artificial channel to the sea. See lagoons supporting document for further details
Water quality: Chlorophyll <i>a</i>	µg/L	Annual median chlorophyll <i>a</i> within natural ranges and less than 5µg/L	Target based on Roden and Oliver (2013). See lagoons supporting document for further details
Water quality: Molybdate Reactive Phosphorus (MRP)	mg/L	Annual median MRP within natural ranges 0.1mg/L	Target based on Roden and Oliver (2013). See lagoons supporting document for further details
Water quality: Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (DIN)	mg/L	Annual median DIN within natural ranges and less than 0.15mg/L	Target based on Roden and Oliver (2013). See lagoons supporting document for further details
Depth of macrophyte colonisation	Metres	Macrophyte colonisation to at least 2m depth	Where the lagoon is less than 2m deep, it is expected that macrophyte colonisation would extend to the full depth. See lagoons supporting document for further details
Typical plant species	Number and m ²	Maintain number and extent of listed lagoonal specialists, subject to natural variation	Species listed in Oliver, 2007. See lagoons supporting document for further details
Typical animal species	Number	Maintain listed lagoon specialists, subject to natural variation	Species listed in Oliver, 2007. See lagoons supporting document for further details
Negative indicator species	Number and % cover	Negative indicator species absent or under control	Low salinity, shallow water and elevated nutrient levels increase the threat of unnatural encroachment by reedbeds. See lagoons supporting document for further details

1160 Large shallow inlets and bays

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Large shallow inlets and bays in Rutland Island and Sound 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 4	Habitat area was estimated as 3619ha using OSI data and the Transitional Water Body area as defined under the Water Framework Directive
Community extent	Hectares	Maintain the extent of the <i>Zostera</i> -dominated community, subject to natural processes. See map 6	Based on a dive survey undertaken in 2008 (MERC, 2008). See marine supporting document for further details
Community structure: <i>Zostera</i> density	Shoots per m ²	Conserve the high quality of <i>Zostera</i> -dominated community, subject to natural processes	Based on 2008 diver observation and underwater viewer (MERC, 2008). See marine supporting document for further details
Community distribution	Hectares	Conserve the following community types in a natural condition: Coarse sediment with crustaceans community complex; Sand with <i>Tellina</i> sp. and <i>Perioculodes longimanus</i> community complex; Intertidal reef community; <i>Laminaria</i> -dominated community complex. See map 6	Based on the BioMar survey in 1996 (Picton and Costello, 1997), subtidal data obtained in 2010 (Aquafact, 2011) and an intertidal walkover undertaken in 2013. See marine supporting document for further information

1170 Reefs

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Reefs in Rutland Island and Sound 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 5	Habitat area estimated as 707ha from the 1996 BioMar survey (Picton and Costello, 1997), a 2010 subtidal reef survey (Aquafact, 2011), InfoMar data, orthophotographs and an intertidal walkover undertaken in 2013
Distribution	Occurrence	The distribution of reefs remains stable, subject to natural processes. See map 5 for mapped distribution	Distribution derived from the 1996 BioMar survey (Picton and Costello, 1997), a 2010 subtidal reef survey (Aquafact, 2011) and an intertidal walkover undertaken in 2013
Community structure	Biological composition	Conserve the following community types in a natural condition: Intertidal reef community; <i>Laminaria</i> -dominated community complex. See map 6	Community mapping based on the 1996 BioMar survey (Picton and Costello, 1997), a 2010 subtidal reef survey (Aquafact, 2011) and an intertidal walkover undertaken in 2013. See marine supporting document for further details

1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Annual vegetation of drift lines in Rutland Island and Sound 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	Current area is unknown. Habitat is very difficult to measure in view of its dynamic nature, which means that it can appear and disappear within a site from year to year. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, or change in habitat distribution, subject to natural processes	Current distribution is unknown as the site was not surveyed during the Coastal Monitoring Project (Ryle et al., 2009). Thought to be present along the western flank of Rutland Island but likely to be more widespread. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: functionality and sediment supply	Presence/ absence of physical barriers	Maintain the natural circulation of sediment and organic matter, without any physical obstructions	Dunes are naturally dynamic systems that require continuous supply and circulation of sand. Accumulation of organic matter in tidal litter is essential for trapping sand and initiating dune formation. Physical barriers can affect sediment supply. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: zonation	Occurrence	Maintain the range of coastal habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession	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 the presence of species-poor communities with typical species: sea rocket (<i>Cakile maritima</i>), sea sandwort (<i>Honckenya peploides</i>), prickly saltwort (<i>Salsola kali</i>) and orache (<i>Atriplex spp.</i>)	Based on data from Gaynor (2008) and Ryle et al. (2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: negative indicator species	Percentage cover	Negative indicator species (including non-natives) to represent less than 5% cover	Negative indicators include non-native species, species indicative of changes in nutrient status and species not considered characteristic of the habitat. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details

2110 Embryonic shifting dunes

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Embryonic shifting dunes in Rutland Island and Sound 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	Current area is unknown. Habitat is very difficult to measure in view of its dynamic nature. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, subject to natural processes	Current distribution is unknown as the site was not surveyed during the Coastal Monitoring Project (Ryle et al., 2009). Thought to be present along the western flank of Rutland Island but likely to be more widespread. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: functionality and sediment supply	Presence/absence of physical barriers	Maintain the natural circulation of sediment and organic matter, without any physical obstructions	Dunes are naturally dynamic systems that require continuous supply and circulation of sand. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: zonation	Occurrence	Maintain the range of coastal habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession	Based on data from Gaynor (2008) and Ryle et al. (2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: plant health of foredune grasses	Percentage cover	More than 95% of <i>Elytrigia juncea</i> (sand couch) and/or <i>Leymus arenarius</i> (lyme-grass) should be healthy (i.e. green plant parts above ground and flowering heads present)	Based on data from Ryle et al. (2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities	Percentage cover	Maintain the presence of species-poor communities with typical species: <i>Elytrigia juncea</i> (sand couch) and/or <i>Leymus arenarius</i> (lyme-grass)	Based on data from from Gaynor (2008) and Ryle et al. (2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: negative indicator species	Percentage cover	Negative indicator species (including non-native species) to represent less than 5% cover	Based on data from Gaynor (2008) and Ryle et al. (2009). Negative indicators include non-native species, species indicative of changes in nutrient status and species not considered characteristic of the habitat. Sea-buckthorn (<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>) should be absent or effectively controlled. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details

2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes)

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ('white dunes') in Rutland Island and Sound 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	Current area is unknown. Habitat is very difficult to measure in view of its dynamic nature. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, or change in habitat distribution, subject to natural processes	Current distribution is unknown as the site was not surveyed during the Coastal Monitoring Project (Ryle et al., 2009). Thought to be present along the western flank of Rutland Island but likely to be more widespread. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: functionality and sediment supply	Presence/ absence of physical barriers	Maintain the natural circulation of sediment and organic matter, without any physical obstructions	Dunes are naturally dynamic systems that require continuous supply and circulation of sand. Marram grass (<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>) reproduces vegetatively and requires constant accretion of fresh sand to maintain active growth encouraging further accretion. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: zonation	Occurrence	Maintain the range of coastal habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession	Based on data from Gaynor (2008) and Ryle et al. (2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: plant health of dune grasses	Percentage cover	95% of marram grass (<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>) and/or lyme-grass (<i>Leymus arenarius</i>) should be healthy (i.e. green plant parts above ground and flowering heads present)	Based on data from Ryle et al. (2009). 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 the presence of species-poor communities dominated by marram grass (<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>) and/or lyme-grass (<i>Leymus arenarius</i>)	Based on data from Gaynor (2008) and Ryle et al. (2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: negative indicator species	Percentage cover	Negative indicator species (including non-natives) to represent less than 5% cover	Based on data from Gaynor (2008) and Ryle et al. (2009). Negative indicators include non-native species; species indicative of changes in nutrient status and species not considered characteristic of the habitat. Sea-buckthorn (<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>) should be absent or effectively controlled. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details

2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('grey dunes') in Rutland Island and Sound 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	Current area is unknown but thought to represent a significant portion of the dune system on Rutland Island. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, or change in habitat distribution, subject to natural processes	Current distribution is unknown as the site was not surveyed during the Coastal Monitoring Project (Ryle et al., 2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: functionality and sediment supply	Presence/ absence of physical barriers	Maintain the natural circulation of sediment and organic matter, without any physical obstructions	Physical barriers can lead to fossilisation or over-stabilisation of dunes, as well as beach starvation resulting in increased rates of erosion. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: zonation	Occurrence	Maintain the range of coastal habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession	Based on data from Gaynor (2008) and Ryle et al. (2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: bare ground	Percentage cover	Bare ground should not exceed 10% of fixed dune habitat, subject to natural processes	Based on data from Gaynor (2008) and Ryle et al. (2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: sward height	Centimetres	Maintain structural variation within sward	Based on data from Gaynor (2008) and Ryle et al. (2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities	Percentage cover at a representative sample of monitoring stops	Maintain range of sub-communities with typical species listed in Ryle et al. (2009)	Based on data from Ryle et al. (2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: negative indicator species (including <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>)	Percentage cover	Negative indicator species (including non-natives) to represent less than 5% cover	Negative indicators include non-native species, species indicative of changes in nutrient status and species not considered characteristic of the habitat. Sea-buckthorn (<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>) should be absent or effectively controlled. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: scrub/trees	Percentage cover	No more than 5% cover or under control	Based on data from Gaynor (2008) and Ryle et al. (2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details

Conservation Objectives for : Rutland Island and Sound SAC [002283]

2190 Humid dune slacks

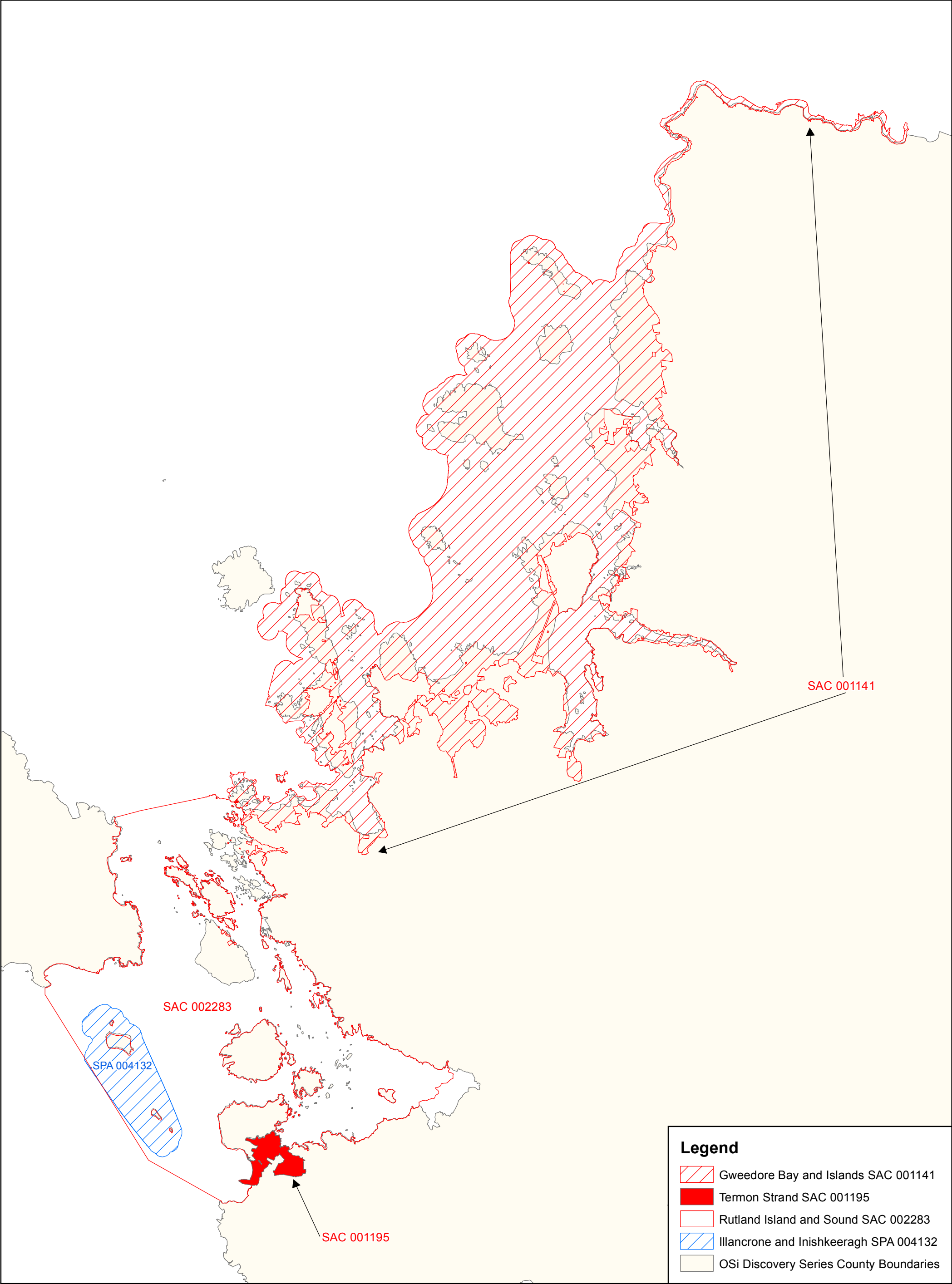
To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Humid dune slacks in Rutland Island and Sound SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	Area stable or increasing, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession	Current area is unknown. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details.
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, subject to natural processes	Current distribution is unknown as the site was not surveyed during the Coastal Monitoring Project (Ryle et al., 2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details.
Physical structure: functionality and sediment supply	Presence/ absence of physical barriers	Maintain the natural circulation of sediment and organic matter, without any physical obstructions	Physical barriers can lead to fossilisation or over-stabilisation of dunes, as well as beach starvation, resulting in increased rates of erosion. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: hydrological and flooding regime	Water table levels; groundwater fluctuations (metres)	Maintain natural hydrological regime	Based on data from Gaynor (2008) and Ryle et al. (2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: zonation	Occurrence	Maintain the range of coastal habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession	Based on data from Gaynor (2008) and Ryle et al. (2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: bare ground	Percentage cover	Bare ground should not exceed 5% of dune slack habitat, with the exception of pioneer slacks which can have up to 20% bare ground	Based on data from Gaynor (2008) and Ryle et al. (2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: vegetation height	Centimetres	Maintain structural variation within sward	Based on data from Gaynor (2008) and Ryle et al. (2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities	Percentage cover at a representative sample of monitoring stops	Maintain range of sub-communities with typical species listed in Ryle et al. (2009)	Based on data from Gaynor (2008) and Ryle et al. (2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: cover of <i>Salix repens</i>	Percentage cover; centimetres	Maintain less than 40% cover of <i>Salix repens</i> (creeping willow)	Cover of <i>Salix repens</i> (creeping willow) needs to be maintained/controlled (e.g. through an appropriate grazing regime) which prevents the development of a coarse, rank vegetation cover. Based on data from Ryle et al. (2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: negative indicator species	Percentage cover	Negative indicator species (including non-natives) to represent less than 5% cover	Negative indicators include non-native species, species indicative of changes in nutrient status and species not considered characteristic of the habitat. Sea-buckthorn (<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>) should be absent or effectively controlled. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: scrub/trees	Percentage cover	No more than 5% cover or under control	Based on data from Ryle et al. (2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details






Conservation Objectives for : Rutland Island and Sound SAC [002283]**1365 Harbour seal *Phoca vitulina***

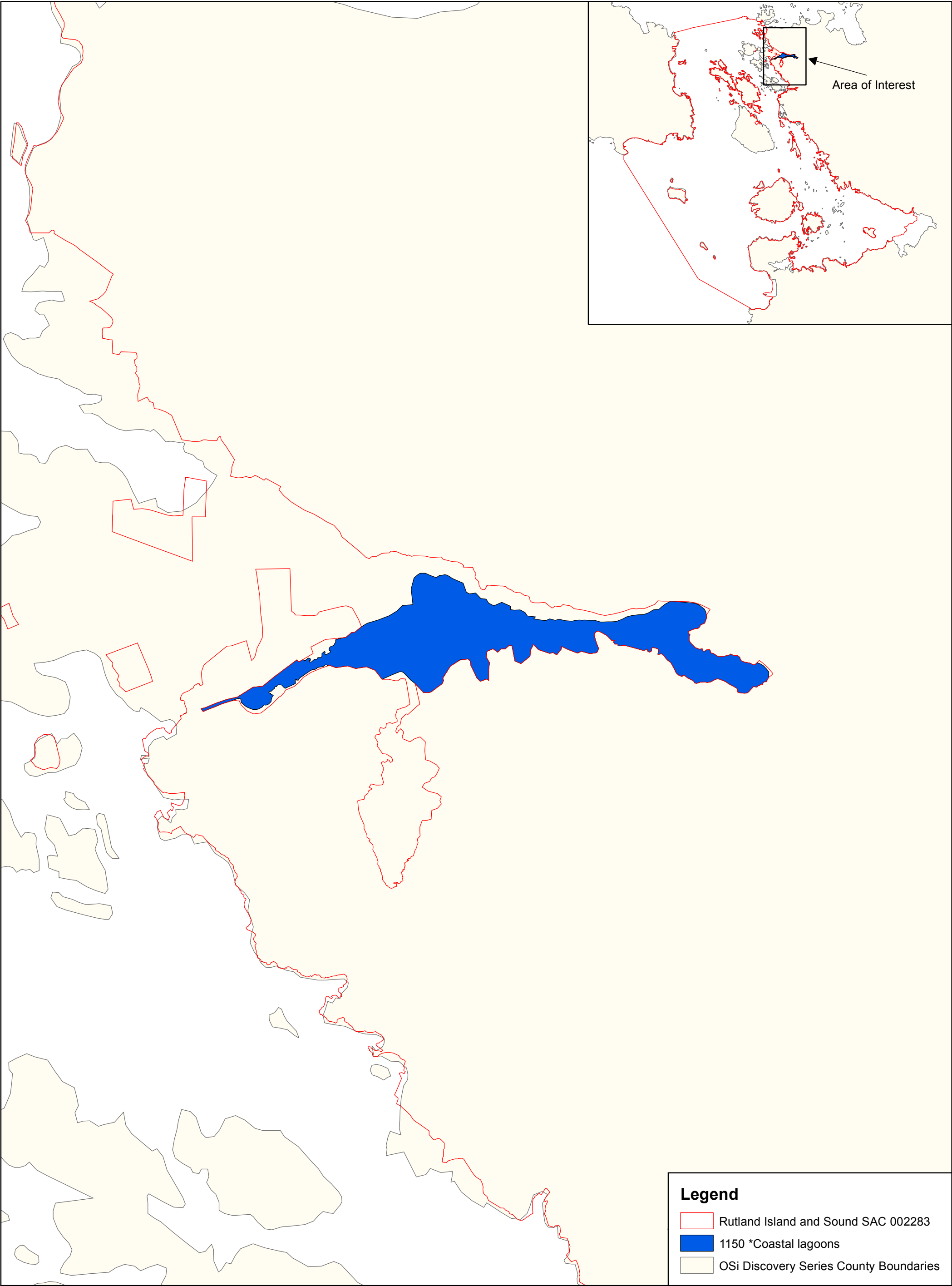
To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Harbour Seal in Rutland Island and Sound SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Access to suitable habitat	Number of artificial barriers	Species range within the site should not be restricted by artificial barriers to site use. See map 7	See marine supporting document for further details
Breeding behaviour	Breeding sites	Conserve the breeding sites in a natural condition. See map 7	Attribute and target based on background knowledge of Irish breeding populations, review of data summarised by Summers et al. (1980), Warner (1983), Harrington (1990), Lyons (2004) and unpublished NPWS records. See marine supporting document for further details
Moulting behaviour	Moult haul-out sites	Conserve the moult haul-out sites in a natural condition. See map 7	Attribute and target based on background knowledge of Irish populations, review of data from Lyons (2004), Cronin et al. (2004) and unpublished NPWS records. See marine supporting document for further details
Resting behaviour	Resting haul-out sites	Conserve the resting haul-out sites in a natural condition. See map 7	Attribute and target based on background knowledge of Irish populations, review of data from Lyons (2004) and unpublished NPWS records. See marine supporting document for further details
Disturbance	Level of impact	Human activities should occur at levels that do not adversely affect the harbour seal population at the site	See marine supporting document for further details



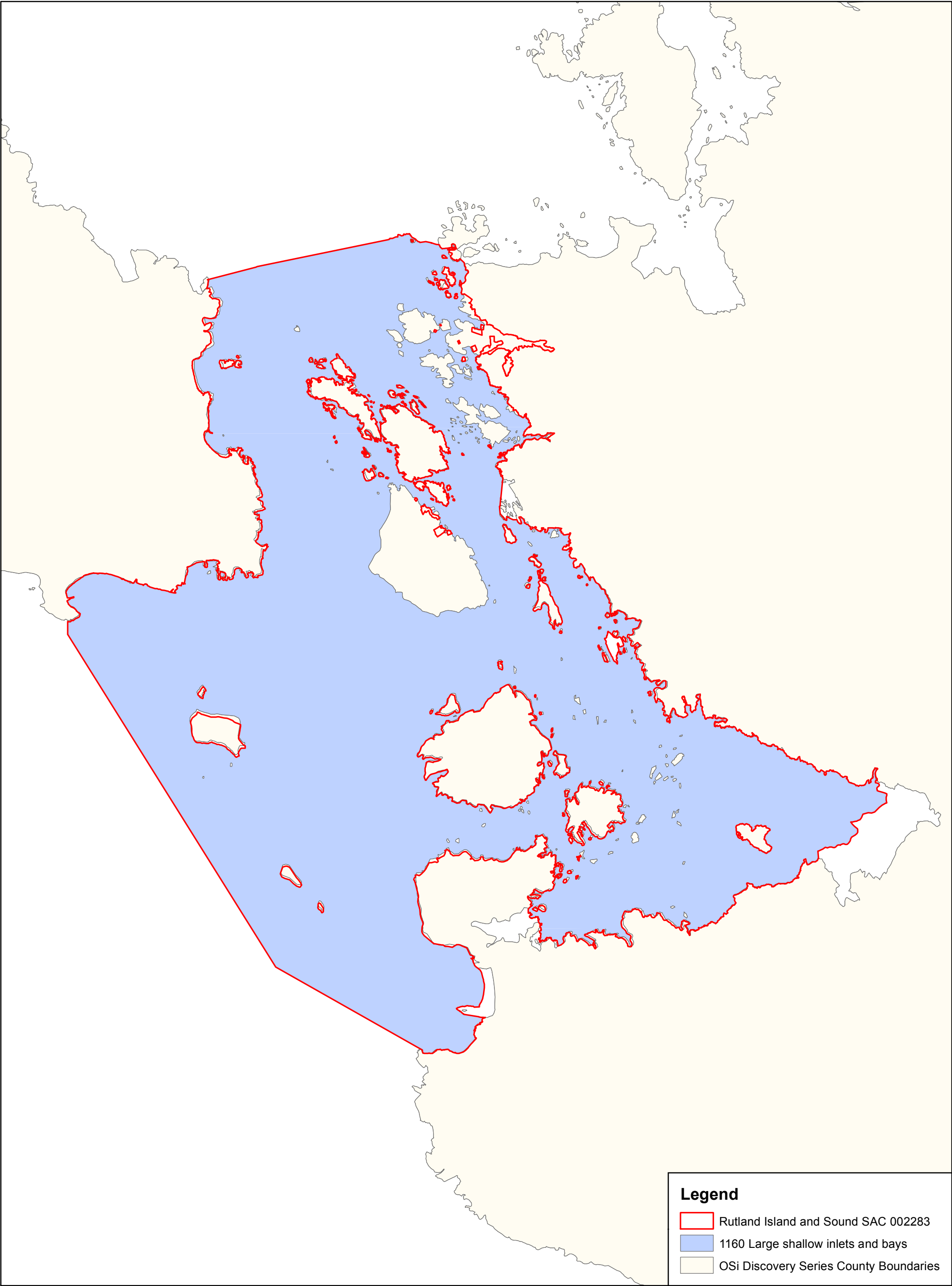
Legend

-  Gweedore Bay and Islands SAC 001141
-  Termon Strand SAC 001195
-  Rutland Island and Sound SAC 002283
-  Illancrone and Inishkeeragh SPA 004132
-  OSI Discovery Series County Boundaries






Legend

- Rutland Island and Sound SAC 002283
- 1150 *Coastal lagoons
- OSi Discovery Series County Boundaries



Legend

-  Rutland Island and Sound SAC 002283
-  1160 Large shallow inlets and bays
-  OSi Discovery Series County Boundaries

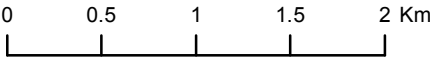


An Roinn
Ealaíon, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta
Department of
Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

MAP 4:
RUTLAND ISLAND AND SOUND SAC
CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES
LARGE SHALLOW INLETS AND BAYS

Map to be read in conjunction with the NPWS Conservation Objectives Document.

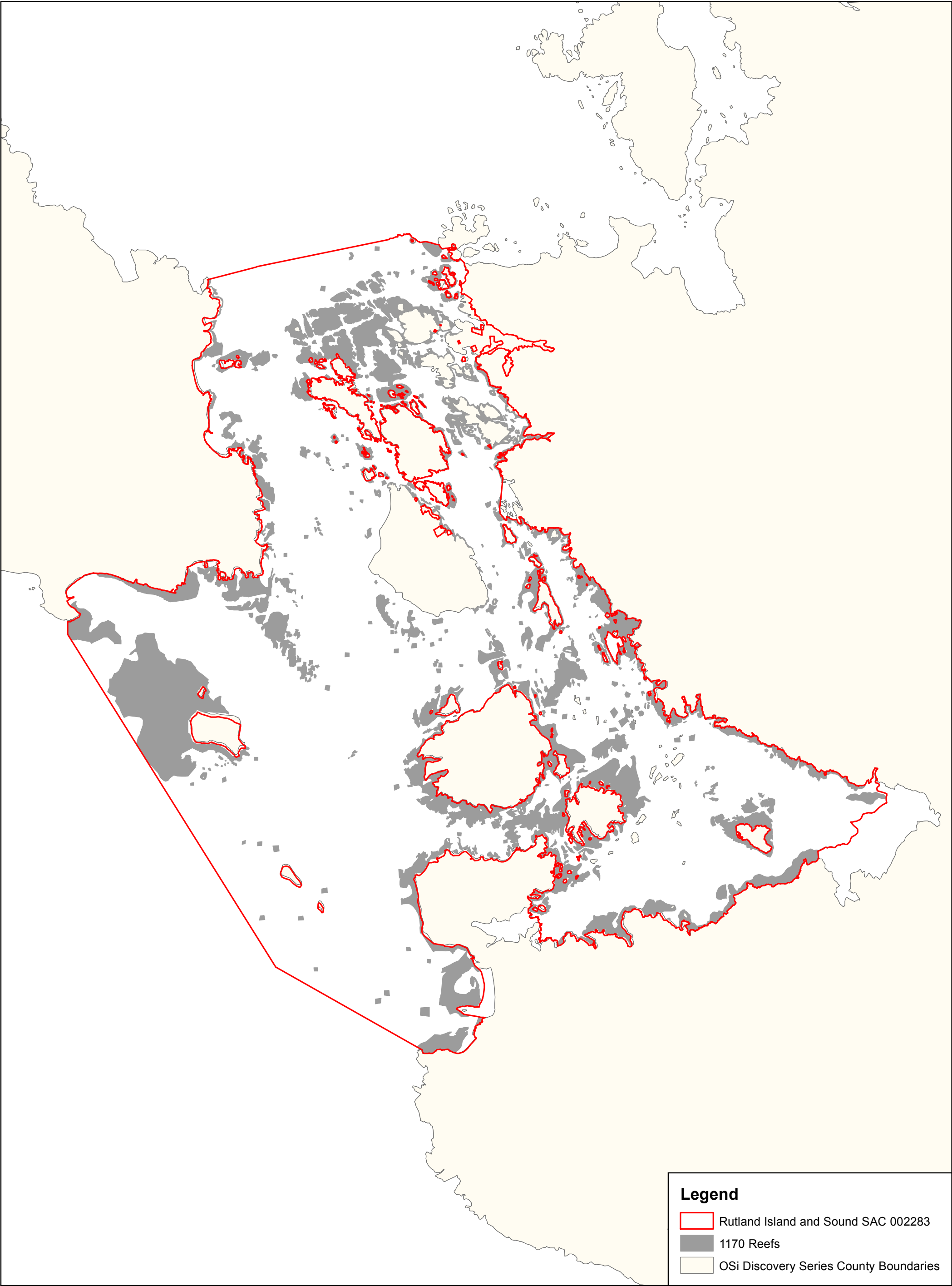
SITE CODE:
SAC 002283; version 3.
CO DONEGAL



The mapped boundaries are of an indicative and general nature only.
Boundaries of designated areas are subject to revision.
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Níl sna teorainneacha ar na léarscáileanna ach nod garshuíomhach ginearálta.
Féadfar athbhreithniú a déanamh ar theorainneacha na goeantar
comharthaíthe. Macasamhail d'ábhar na Suirbhéarachta Ordonáis
le cead ón Rialtas (Ceadúnas Uimh. EN 0059212)

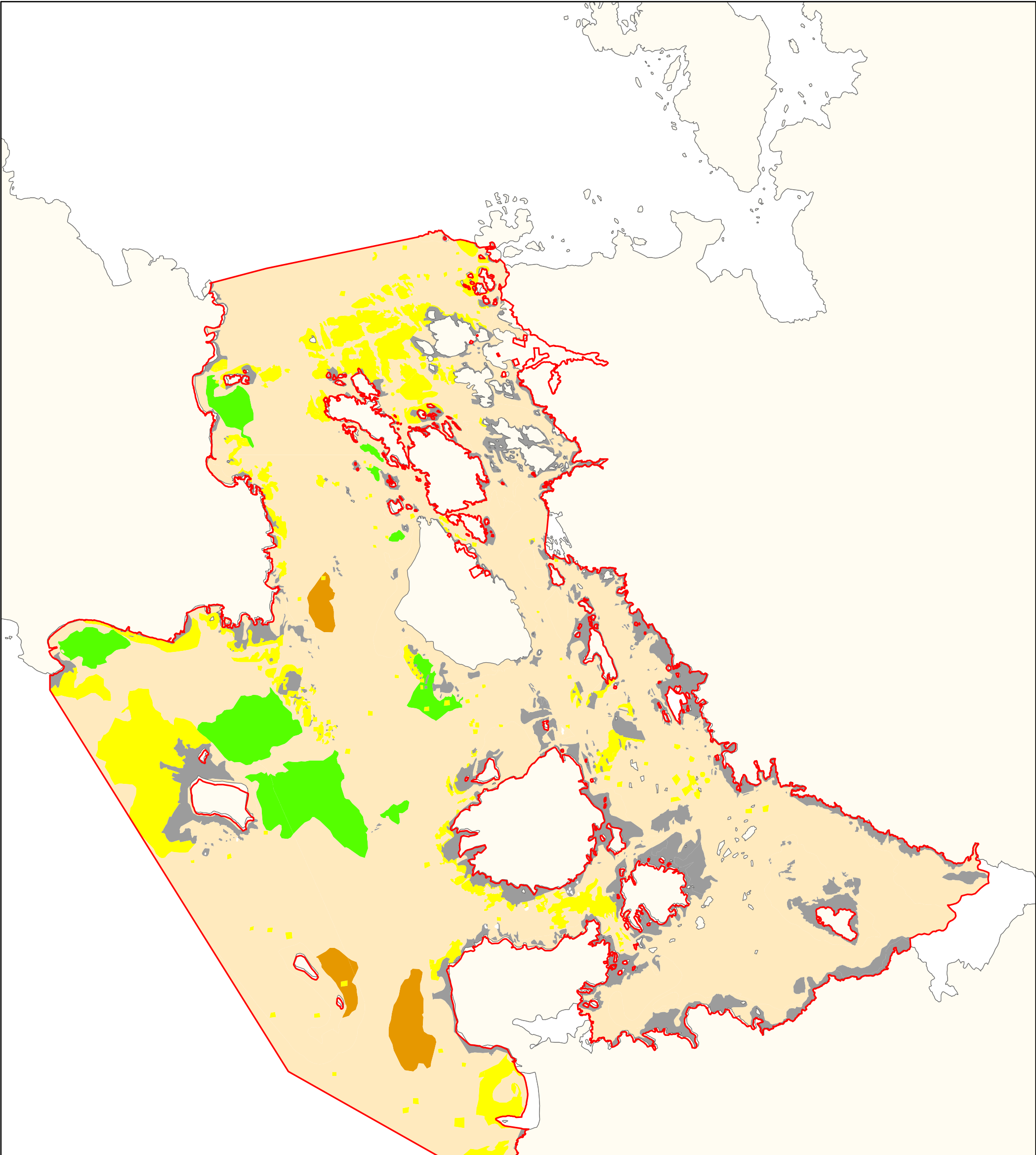


Map Version 1
Date: Sept 2013



Legend

- Rutland Island and Sound SAC 002283
- 1170 Reefs
- OSi Discovery Series County Boundaries



Legend

- Rutland Island and Sound SAC 002283
- OSi Discovery Series County Boundaries
- Marine Community Types**
- Coarse sediment with crustaceans community complex
- Intertidal reef community
- Laminaria*-dominated community complex
- Sand with *Tellina* sp. and *Periculodes longimanus* community complex
- Zostera*-dominated community

