

National Parks and Wildlife Service

Conservation Objectives Series

Codling Fault Zone SAC 003015



NPWS

An tSeirbhís Páirceanna
Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúlra
National Parks and Wildlife
Service

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Citation:

**NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives: Codling Fault Zone SAC 003015. Version
2. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local
Government and Heritage.**

**Series Editors: Maria Long and Colin Heaslip
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*

003015	Codling Fault Zone SAC
1180	Submarine structures made by leaking gases
1351	Harbour Porpoise <i>Phocoena phocoena</i>

Please note that this site overlaps with North-west Irish Sea SPA (004236). See map 1a. The conservation objectives for this site should be used in conjunction with those for the overlapping site as appropriate. IMPORTANT: This 'Version 2' document includes 1 additional QI (1351). The conservation objectives for pre-existing QIs have generally not been updated.

Supporting documents, relevant reports & publications

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

NPWS Documents

Year :	2013
Title :	CE13016 - MDACs Survey Cruise Report
Author :	Leahy, Y.
Series :	Unpublished report to NPWS
Year :	2023
Title :	Codling Fault Zone SAC (site code: 003015) Conservation objectives supporting document - marine habitat V1
Author :	NPWS
Series :	Conservation objectives supporting document
Year :	2024
Title :	Codling Fault Zone SAC (site code 003015) Conservation objectives supporting document - Harbour Porpoise V1
Author :	NPWS
Series :	Conservation objectives supporting document

Other References

Year :	2005
Title :	Gas-related seabed structures in the Western Irish Sea (IRL-SEA6)
Author :	Croker, P.F.; Kozachenko, M.; Wheeler, A.J.
Series :	Technical report produced for UK Department of Trade and Industry's offshore energy Strategic Environmental Assessment programme
Year :	2007
Title :	Extensive methane-derived authigenic carbonates in the Irish Sea
Author :	Judd, A.; Croker, P.F.; Tizzard, L.; Voisey, C.
Series :	Geo-Marine Letters, 27(2):259-267
Year :	2010
Title :	RV Celtic Voyager CV10_28 Cruise. Report 2nd June – 7th June 2010
Author :	O'Reilly, S.; Szpak, M.; Monteys X.; Kelleher B.P.
Series :	Technical report

Spatial data sources

Year : 2005

Title : Point file associated with Croker (2005)

GIS Operations : Dataset created from spatial references; clipped to SAC boundary. Expert opinion used as necessary to resolve any issues arising

Used For : 1180 (map 2)

Conservation Objectives for : Codling Fault Zone SAC [003015]

1180 Submarine structures made by leaking gases

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Submarine structures made by leaking gases in Codling Fault Zone SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

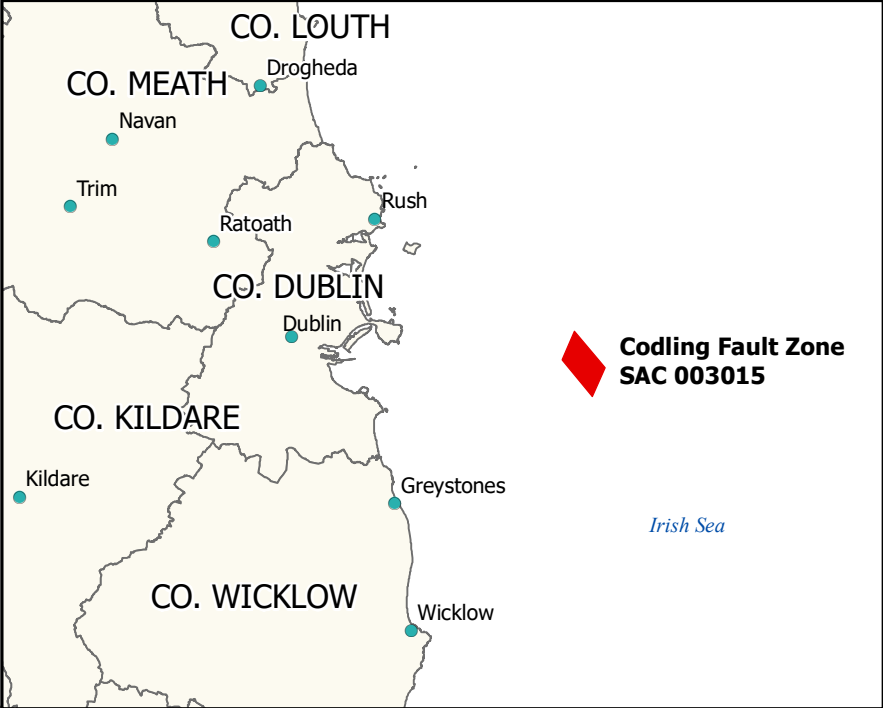
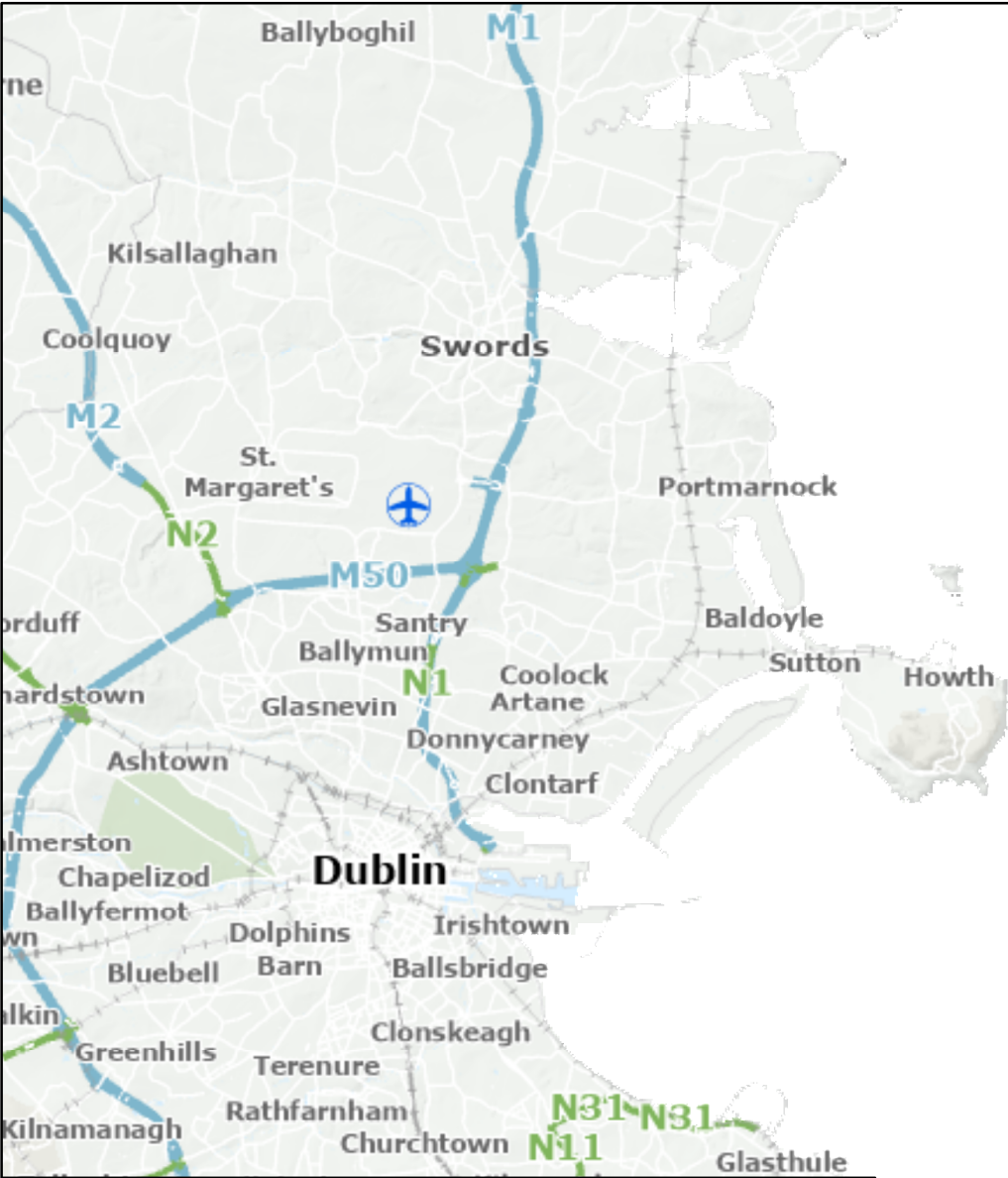
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Area of methane derived authigenic structures (MDAC) features	Hectares	The permanent area is stable or increasing, subject to natural processes. See map 2	The entire area of the methane derived authigenic structures (MDAC) features in Codling Fault Zone SAC is currently unknown. The mapped point locations of the MDAC mounds, based on Croker et al. (2005), are shown on map 2. See also Judd et al. (2007), O'Reilly et al. (2010) and Leahy (2013). It is important to note that further unsurveyed areas of the habitat may be present in the SAC. See the Codling Fault Zone SAC conservation objectives supporting document for marine habitats for further details
Distribution	Occurrence	Distribution stable or increasing, subject to natural processes. See map 2	The point locations of the mapped methane derived authigenic structures (MDAC) based on Croker et al. (2005) are shown on map 2. See also Judd et al. (2007), O'Reilly et al. (2010) and Leahy (2013). Please note that further unsurveyed areas of the habitat may be present in the SAC. See the marine habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure	Presence and structure	Maintain the structural integrity of the MDAC features, subject to natural processes	Based on information from Leahy (2013). See the marine habitats supporting document for further details
Community structure	Biological composition	Conserve the Codling Fault Zone MDACs community complex in a natural condition, subject to natural processes	Based on information from Leahy (2013). See the marine habitats supporting document for further details

Conservation Objectives for : Codling Fault Zone SAC [003015]


1351 Harbour Porpoise *Phocoena phocoena*

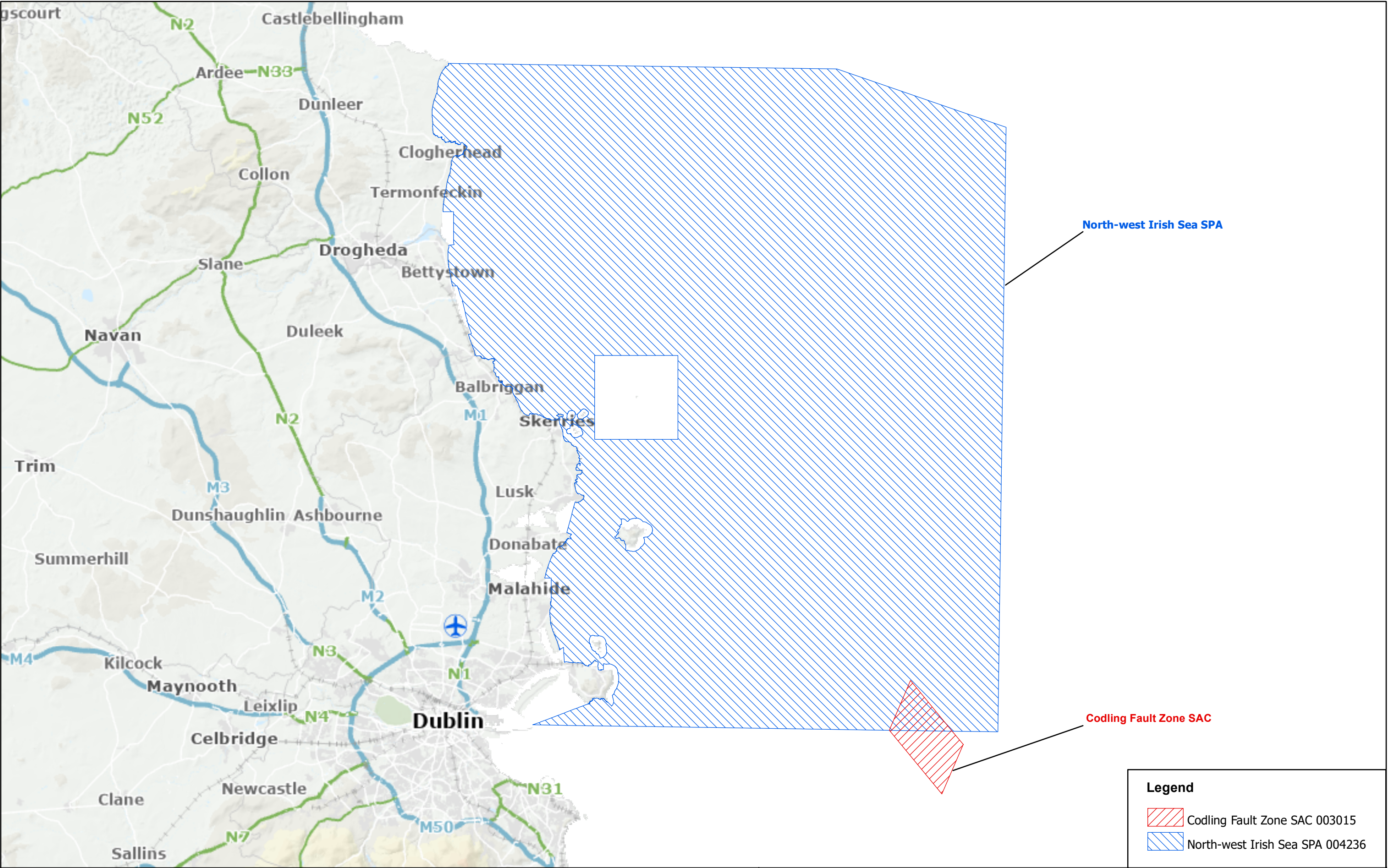
To maintain the Favourable conservation condition of Harbour Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) in Codling Fault Zone SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

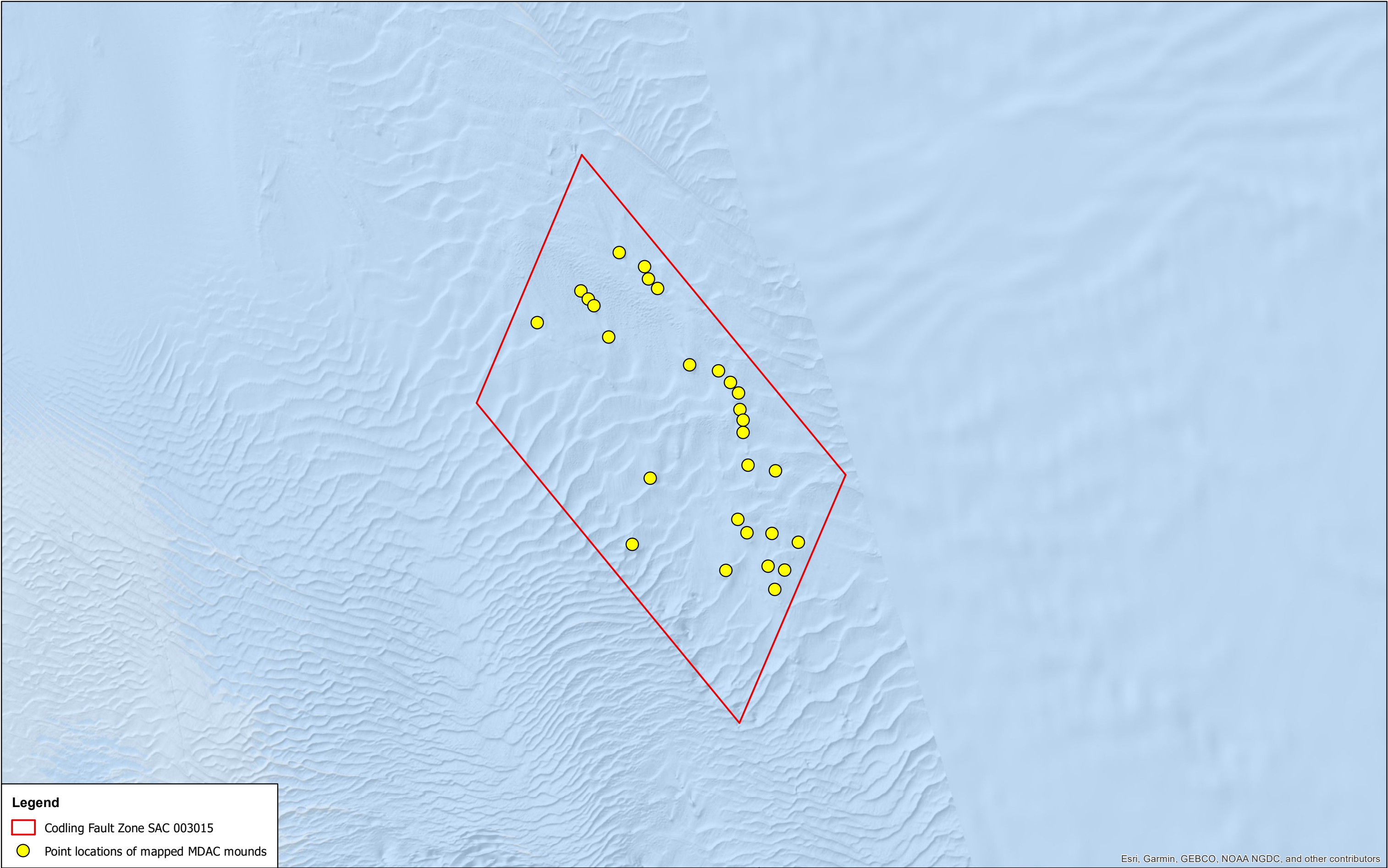
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Access to suitable habitat	Number of artificial barriers	Species range within the site should not be restricted by artificial barriers to site use. See map 1	See the Codling Fault Zone SAC conservation objectives supporting document - Harbour Porpoise for further details (NPWS, 2024)
Disturbance	Level of impact	Human activities should occur at levels that do not adversely affect the Harbour Porpoise community at the site	See the Codling Fault Zone SAC conservation objectives supporting document - Harbour Porpoise for further details (NPWS, 2024)





Legend

 Codling Fault Zone SAC 003015





Legend

-  Codling Fault Zone SAC 003015
-  Point locations of mapped MDAC mounds

Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors