

National Parks and Wildlife Service

Conservation Objectives Series

The Raven SPA 004019



***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

004019	The Raven SPA	
A001	Red-throated Diver <i>Gavia stellata</i>	wintering
A017	Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	wintering
A065	Common Scoter <i>Melanitta nigra</i>	wintering
A141	Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	wintering
A144	Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i>	wintering
A395	Greenland White-fronted goose <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>	wintering
A999	Wetlands	

Please note that this SPA is adjacent to Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA 004076. These SPAs partially overlap with Raven Point Nature Reserve SAC 000710 and Slaney River Valley SAC 000781. See map 2. The conservation objectives for this site should be used in conjunction with those for adjacent and overlapping designations as appropriate.

Supporting documents, relevant reports & publications (listed by date)

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

Title: Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA (004076) and the Raven SPA (004019): Conservation Objectives Supporting Document [Version 1]

Year: 2011

Author: NPWS

Series: Unpublished Report to NPWS

A001 Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Red-throated Diver in The Raven SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Number and range of areas used by waterbirds	There should be no significant decrease in the numbers or range of areas used by waterbird species, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2009/2010 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

A017 Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Cormorant in The Raven SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Number and range of areas used by waterbirds	There should be no significant decrease in the numbers or range of areas used by waterbird species, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2009/2010 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

A065 Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Common Scoter in The Raven SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Number and range of areas used by waterbirds	There should be no significant decrease in the numbers or range of areas used by waterbird species, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2009/2010 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

A141 Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Grey Plover in The Raven SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Number and range of areas used by waterbirds	There should be no significant decrease in the numbers or range of areas used by waterbird species, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2009/2010 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

A144 Sanderling *Calidris alba*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Sanderling in The Raven SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Number and range of areas used by waterbirds	There should be no significant decrease in the numbers or range of areas used by waterbird species, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2009/2010 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

A395 Greenland White-fronted goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Greenland White-fronted Goose in The Raven SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Number and range of areas used by waterbirds	There should be no significant decrease in the numbers or range of areas used by waterbird species, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2009/2010 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

A999 Wetlands

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat in The Raven SPA as a resource for the regularly-occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it. This is defined by the following attribute and target:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Wetland habitat area	Hectares	The permanent area occupied by the wetland habitat should be stable and not significantly less than the area of 4,207ha, other than that due to natural patterns of variation	The wetland habitat area was estimated as 4,207ha using OSi data and relevant orthophotographs. For further information see parts three and five of the conservation objectives supporting document