

# National Parks and Wildlife Service

## Conservation Objectives

Dundalk Bay SAC 000455

Dundalk Bay SPA 004026



*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

### 000455 Dundalk Bay SAC

QI	Description
1130	Estuaries
1140	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide
1220	Perennial vegetation of stony banks
1310	<i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand
1330	Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> )
1410	Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> )

### 004026 Dundalk Bay SPA

QI	Description	
A005	Great Crested Grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	wintering
A043	Greylag Goose <i>Anser anser</i>	wintering
A046	Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>	wintering
A048	Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	wintering
A052	Teal <i>Anas crecca</i>	wintering
A053	Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	wintering
A054	Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>	wintering
A065	Common Scoter <i>Melanitta nigra</i>	wintering
A069	Red-breasted Merganser <i>Mergus serrator</i>	wintering
A130	Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	wintering
A137	Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	wintering
A140	Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	wintering
A141	Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	wintering
A142	Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	wintering
A143	Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i>	wintering
A149	Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>	wintering
A156	Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i>	wintering
A157	Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i>	wintering
A160	Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>	wintering
A162	Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>	wintering
A179	Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	wintering
A182	Common Gull <i>Larus canus</i>	wintering
A184	Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i>	wintering
A999	Wetlands & Waterbirds	

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

*Supporting documents, NPWS reports and publications are available for download from: [www.npws.ie/Publications](http://www.npws.ie/Publications)*

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- Title:** Dundalk Bay SPA (004026): Conservation objectives supporting document [Version 1]  
**Year:** 2011  
**Author:** NPWS  
**Series:** Unpublished Report to NPWS
- 
- Title:** Dundalk Bay SAC (000455): Conservation objectives supporting document - marine habitats [Version 1]  
**Year:** 2011  
**Author:** NPWS  
**Series:** Unpublished Report to NPWS
- 
- Title:** Dundalk Bay SAC (000455): Conservation objectives supporting document - coastal habitats [Version 1]  
**Year:** 2011  
**Author:** NPWS  
**Series:** Unpublished Report to NPWS
- 
- Title:** A subtidal soft sediment survey of Dundalk Bay  
**Year:** 2009  
**Author:** Aquatic Services Unit  
**Series:** Unpublished Report to NPWS
- 
- Title:** Saltmarsh Monitoring Report 2007-2008  
**Year:** 2009  
**Author:** McCorry, M.; Ryle, T.  
**Series:** Unpublished Report to NPWS
- 
- Title:** A survey of mudflats and sandflats in Ireland. An intertidal soft sediment survey of Dundalk Bay  
**Year:** 2008  
**Author:** Aquatic Services Unit  
**Series:** Unpublished Report to NPWS
- 
- Title:** A survey of mudflats and sandflats [Dundalk Bay]  
**Year:** 2007  
**Author:** Aquatic Services Unit  
**Series:** Unpublished Report to NPWS
- 
- Title:** Saltmarsh Monitoring Report 2006  
**Year:** 2007  
**Author:** McCorry, M.  
**Series:** Unpublished Report to NPWS
- 
- Title:** National Shingle Beach Survey of Ireland 1999  
**Year:** 1999  
**Author:** Moore, D.; Wilson, F.  
**Series:** Unpublished Report to NPWS
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## Spatial data sources

<b>Year:</b>	2010
<b>Title:</b>	EPA transitional waterbody data
<b>GIS operations:</b>	Clipped to SAC boundary
<b>Used for:</b>	1130
<b>Year:</b>	Interpolated 2011
<b>Title:</b>	Mudflat and sandflat surveys 2007, 2008; subtidal soft sediment survey 2009
<b>GIS operations:</b>	Polygon feature classes from marine community types base data sub-divided based on interpolation of marine survey data
<b>Used for:</b>	Marine community types, 1140
<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; Saltmarsh and Sand Dune CO datasets erased out
<b>Used for:</b>	Marine community types base data
<b>Year:</b>	Revision 2010
<b>Title:</b>	Saltmarsh Monitoring Project 2007-2008. Version 1
<b>GIS operations:</b>	QIs selected; clipped to SAC boundary
<b>Used for:</b>	1310, 1330, 1410
<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; saltmarsh data for site combined to HWM and LWM polygon feature class; resulting polygon feature class unioned with SPA boundary; resulting polygon feature class clipped to SPA boundary; bird use zone attributes assigned to each polygon
<b>Used for:</b>	Bird use zones (map 6)

**1130 Estuaries**

**To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Estuaries in Dundalk Bay 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 2	Habitat area was estimated at 2799ha using OSI data and the defined Transitional Water Body area under the Water Framework Directive. See marine habitats supporting document for further information
Community distribution	Hectares	The Subtidal fine sand community complex should be conserved in a natural condition. See map 4	Habitat structure was elucidated from intertidal core and dig sampling undertaken in 2007 and 2008 combined with data obtained from subtidal grab samples obtained in 2009. See marine habitats supporting document for further information

**1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide**

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide at Dundalk Bay 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 was estimated at 4375ha using OSI data. See marine habitats supporting document for further information
Community distribution	Hectares	The Muddy fine sand community and Intertidal fine sand community complex should be conserved in a natural condition. See map 4	Habitat structure was elucidated from intertidal core and dig sampling undertaken in 2007 and 2008 combined with data obtained from subtidal grab samples obtained in 2009. See marine habitats supporting document for further information

1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Perennial vegetation of stony banks in Dundalk Bay SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	Area stable, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession	Exact current area unknown, but shingle is known to occur almost continuously from Salterstown to Lurgan White House in the south bay and from Jenkinstown to east of Giles Quay in the north bay. Shingle is estimated to cover 12ha. Probably less than 25% of this would be vegetated. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, subject to natural processes	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	Based on data from the national shingle beach survey conducted in 1999 (Moore and Wilson, 1999). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: zonation	Occurrence	Maintain range of habitat zonations including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession. See map 5	Based on data from Moore and Wilson (1999). 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 the presence of species-poor communities with characteristic species: <i>Honckenya peploides</i> , <i>Beta vulgaris</i> ssp. <i>maritima</i> , <i>Crithmum maritimum</i> , <i>Tripleurospermum maritimum</i> , <i>Glaucium flavum</i> and <i>Silene uniflora</i>	Based on data from Moore and Wilson (1999). 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 Moore and Wilson (1999). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details



**1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand**

To restore the favourable conservation condition of *Salicornia* and other annuals colonizing mud and sand in Dundalk Bay 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. For sub-site surveyed: 35.00ha. See map 5	Based on data from the Saltmarsh Monitoring Project (McCorry and Ryle, 2009). One sub-site (Dundalk Bay) was mapped, giving a total estimated area of 35ha for <i>Salicornia</i> mudflat, which is one of the largest areas of this habitat in the country. NB further unsurveyed areas maybe present within the site. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details.
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, subject to natural processes. See map 5 for known distribution	See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: sediment supply	Presence/absence of physical barriers	Maintain/restore natural circulation of sediments and organic matter, without any physical obstructions	See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: creeks and pans	Occurrence	Maintain/restore creek and pan structure, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: flooding regime	Hectares flooded; frequency	Maintain natural tidal regime	See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: zonation	Occurrence	Maintain range of saltmarsh habitat zonations including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession. See map 5	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: vegetation height	Centimetres	Maintain structural variation within sward	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009)
Vegetation structure: vegetation cover	Percentage cover at a representative sample of monitoring stops	Maintain more than 90% of area outside creeks vegetated	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009)
Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities	Percentage cover at a representative sample of monitoring stops	Maintain range of sub-communities with characteristic species listed in Saltmarsh Monitoring Project (McCorry & Ryle, 2009)	See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: negative indicator species - <i>Spartina anglica</i>	Hectares	No significant expansion of <i>Spartina</i> . No new sites for this species and an annual spread of less than 1% where it is already known to occur	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details

**1330 Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)**

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic salt meadows in Dundalk Bay 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. For the sub-site (357.57ha) and potential areas (22.42ha) mapped: 379.98ha. See map 5	Based on data from the Saltmarsh Monitoring Project (McCorry and Ryle, 2009). One sub-site (Dundalk Bay) was mapped and additional areas of potential saltmarsh were identified from an examination of aerial photographs, giving a total estimated area for Atlantic salt meadow of 379.98ha. NB further unsurveyed areas maybe present within the site. See coastal habitats supporting document for further information
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, subject to natural processes. See map 5 for known distribution	See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: sediment supply	Presence/absence of physical barriers	Maintain/restore natural circulation of sediments and organic matter, without any physical obstructions	See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: creeks and pans	Occurrence	Maintain/restore creek and pan structure, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: flooding regime	Hectares flooded; frequency	Maintain natural tidal regime	See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: zonation	Occurrence	Maintain range of saltmarsh habitat zonations including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession. See map 5	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: vegetation height	Centimetres	Maintain structural variation within sward	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009)
Vegetation structure: vegetation cover	Percentage cover at a representative sample of monitoring stops	Maintain more than 90% of area outside creeks vegetated	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009)
Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities	Percentage cover at a representative sample of monitoring stops	Maintain range of sub-communities with characteristic species listed in Saltmarsh Monitoring Project (McCorry & Ryle, 2009)	See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: negative indicator species- <i>Spartina anglica</i>	Hectares	No significant expansion of <i>Spartina</i> . No new sites for this species and an annual spread of less than 1% where it is already known to occur	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details

**1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*)**

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Mediterranean salt meadows in Dundalk Bay 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. For sub-site mapped: 0.045ha. See map 5	Based on data from the Saltmarsh Monitoring Project (McCorry and Ryle, 2009). One sub-site (Dundalk Bay) was mapped, giving a total estimated area of 0.045ha for Mediterranean salt meadow. NB further unsurveyed areas maybe present within the site. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, subject to natural processes. See map 5 for known distribution	See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: sediment supply	Presence/absence of physical barriers	Maintain/restore natural circulation of sediments and organic matter, without any physical obstructions	See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: creeks and pans	Occurrence	Maintain/restore creek and pan structure, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: flooding regime	Hectares flooded; frequency	Maintain natural tidal regime	See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: zonation	Occurrence	Maintain range of saltmarsh habitat zonations including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession. See map 5	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: vegetation height	Centimetres	Maintain structural variation within sward	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009)
Vegetation structure: vegetation cover	Percentage cover at a representative sample of monitoring stops	Maintain more than 90% of area outside creeks vegetated	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009)
Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities	Percentage cover at a representative sample of monitoring stops	Maintain range of sub-communities with characteristic species listed in Saltmarsh Monitoring Project (McCorry & Ryle, 2009)	See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: negative indicator species- <i>Spartina anglica</i>	Hectares	No significant expansion of <i>Spartina</i> . No new sites for this species and an annual spread of less than 1% where it is already known to occur	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details

**A005 Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus***

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Great Crested Grebe in Dundalk Bay 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	Population trend assessment (Generalised Additive Modelling (GAM)) was undertaken using waterbird count data collected through the Irish Wetland Bird Survey and other surveys. See the the SPA conservation objectives supporting document for further details
Distribution	Number and range of areas used by waterbirds	No significant decrease in the numbers or range of areas used by waterbird species, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	As determined by regular low tide and other waterbird surveys. Waterbird distribution from the 2009/2010 waterbird survey programme is discussed in Section 5 of the SPA conservation objectives supporting document

**A043 Greylag Goose *Anser anser***

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Greylag Goose in Dundalk Bay 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	Population trend assessment (Generalised Additive Modelling (GAM)) was undertaken using waterbird count data collected through the Irish Wetland Bird Survey and other surveys. See the the SPA conservation objectives supporting document for further details
Distribution	Number and range of areas used by waterbirds	No significant decrease in the numbers or range of areas used by waterbird species, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	As determined by regular low tide and other waterbird surveys. Waterbird distribution from the 2009/2010 waterbird survey programme is discussed in section 5 of the SPA conservation objectives supporting document

**A046 Light-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota***

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Light-bellied Brent Geese in Dundalk Bay 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	Population trend assessment (Generalised Additive Modelling (GAM)) was undertaken using waterbird count data collected through the Irish Wetland Bird Survey and other surveys. See the the SPA conservation objectives supporting document for further details
Distribution	Number and range of areas used by waterbirds	No significant decrease in the numbers or range of areas used by waterbird species, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	As determined by regular low tide and other waterbird surveys. Waterbird distribution from the 2009/2010 waterbird survey programme is discussed in Section 5 of the SPA conservation objectives supporting document

**A048**     **Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna***

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Shelduck in Dundalk Bay 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	Population trend assessment (Generalised Additive Modelling (GAM)) was undertaken using waterbird count data collected through the Irish Wetland Bird Survey and other surveys. See the the SPA conservation objectives supporting document for further details
Distribution	Number and range of areas used by waterbirds	No significant decrease in the numbers or range of areas used by waterbird species, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	As determined by regular low tide and other waterbird surveys. Waterbird distribution from the 2009/2010 waterbird survey programme is discussed in Section 5 of the SPA conservation objectives supporting document

**A052 Teal *Anas crecca***

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Teal in Dundalk Bay 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	Population trend assessment (Generalised Additive Modelling (GAM)) was undertaken using waterbird count data collected through the Irish Wetland Bird Survey and other surveys. See the the SPA conservation objectives supporting document for further details
Distribution	Number and range of areas used by waterbirds	No significant decrease in the numbers or range of areas used by waterbird species, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	As determined by regular low tide and other waterbird surveys. Waterbird distribution from the 2009/2010 waterbird survey programme is discussed in Section 5 of the SPA conservation objectives supporting document



**A053 Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos***

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Mallard in Dundalk Bay 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	Population trend assessment (Generalised Additive Modelling (GAM)) was undertaken using waterbird count data collected through the Irish Wetland Bird Survey and other surveys. See the the SPA conservation objectives supporting document for further details
Distribution	Number and range of areas used by waterbirds	No significant decrease in the numbers or range of areas used by waterbird species, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	As determined by regular low tide and other waterbird surveys. Waterbird distribution from the 2009/2010 waterbird survey programme is discussed in Section 5 of the SPA conservation objectives supporting document

**A054 Pintail *Anas acuta***

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Pintail in Dundalk Bay 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	Population trend assessment (Generalised Additive Modelling (GAM)) was undertaken using waterbird count data collected through the Irish Wetland Bird Survey and other surveys. See the the SPA conservation objectives supporting document for further details
Distribution	Number and range of areas used by waterbirds	No significant decrease in the numbers or range of areas used by waterbird species, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	As determined by regular low tide and other waterbird surveys. Waterbird distribution from the 2009/2010 waterbird survey programme is discussed in Section 5 of the SPA conservation objectives supporting document

**A065 Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra***

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Common Scoter in Dundalk Bay 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	Population trend assessment using (Generalised Additive Modelling (GAM)) could not be undertaken for this species due to an incomplete dataset. A measure of population change was calculated using the 'generic threshold' method. See Section 4 of the SPA conservation objectives supporting document for more details
Distribution	Number and range of areas used by waterbirds	No significant decrease in the numbers or range of areas used by waterbird species, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	As determined by regular low tide and other waterbird surveys. Waterbird distribution from the 2009/2010 waterbird survey programme is discussed in Section 5 of the SPA conservation objectives supporting document

**A069 Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator***

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Red-breasted Merganser in Dundalk Bay 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	Population trend assessment (Generalised Additive Modelling (GAM)) was undertaken using waterbird count data collected through the Irish Wetland Bird Survey and other surveys. See the the SPA conservation objectives supporting document for further details
Distribution	Number and range of areas used by waterbirds	No significant decrease in the numbers or range of areas used by waterbird species, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	As determined by regular low tide and other waterbird surveys. Waterbird distribution from the 2009/2010 waterbird survey programme is discussed in Section 5 of the SPA conservation objectives supporting document

**A130 Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus***

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Oystercatcher in Dundalk Bay 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	Population trend assessment (Generalised Additive Modelling (GAM)) was undertaken using waterbird count data collected through the Irish Wetland Bird Survey and other surveys. See the the SPA conservation objectives supporting document for further details
Distribution	Number and range of areas used by waterbirds	No significant decrease in the numbers or range of areas used by waterbird species, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	As determined by regular low tide and other waterbird surveys. Waterbird distribution from the 2009/2010 waterbird survey programme is discussed in Section 5 of the SPA conservation objectives supporting document

**A137 Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula***

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Ringed Plover in Dundalk Bay 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	Population trend assessment (Generalised Additive Modelling (GAM)) was undertaken using waterbird count data collected through the Irish Wetland Bird Survey and other surveys. See the the SPA conservation objectives supporting document for further details
Distribution	Number and range of areas used by waterbirds	No significant decrease in the numbers or range of areas used by waterbird species, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	As determined by regular low tide and other waterbird surveys. Waterbird distribution from the 2009/2010 waterbird survey programme is discussed in Section 5 of the SPA conservation objectives supporting document

**A140 Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria***

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Golden Plover in Dundalk Bay 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	Population trend assessment (Generalised Additive Modelling (GAM)) was undertaken using waterbird count data collected through the Irish Wetland Bird Survey and other surveys. See the the SPA conservation objectives supporting document for further details
Distribution	Number and range of areas used by waterbirds	No significant decrease in the numbers or range of areas used by waterbird species, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	As determined by regular low tide and other waterbird surveys. Waterbird distribution from the 2009/2010 waterbird survey programme is discussed in Section 5 of the SPA conservation objectives supporting document

**A141 Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola***

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Grey Plover in Dundalk Bay 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	Population trend assessment (Generalised Additive Modelling (GAM)) was undertaken using waterbird count data collected through the Irish Wetland Bird Survey and other surveys. See the the SPA conservation objectives supporting document for further details
Distribution	Number and range of areas used by waterbirds	No significant decrease in the numbers or range of areas used by waterbird species, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	As determined by regular low tide and other waterbird surveys. Waterbird distribution from the 2009/2010 waterbird survey programme is discussed in Section 5 of the SPA conservation objectives supporting document



**A142 Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus***

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Lapwing in Dundalk Bay 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	Population trend assessment (Generalised Additive Modelling (GAM)) was undertaken using waterbird count data collected through the Irish Wetland Bird Survey and other surveys. See the the SPA conservation objectives supporting document for further details
Distribution	Number and range of areas used by waterbirds	No significant decrease in the numbers or range of areas used by waterbird species, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	As determined by regular low tide and other waterbird surveys. Waterbird distribution from the 2009/2010 waterbird survey programme is discussed in Section 5 of the SPA conservation objectives supporting document

**A143 Knot *Calidris canutus***

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Knot in Dundalk Bay 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	Population trend assessment (Generalised Additive Modelling (GAM)) was undertaken using waterbird count data collected through the Irish Wetland Bird Survey and other surveys. See the the SPA conservation objectives supporting document for further details
Distribution	Number and range of areas used by waterbirds	No significant decrease in the numbers or range of areas used by waterbird species, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	As determined by regular low tide and other waterbird surveys. Waterbird distribution from the 2009/2010 waterbird survey programme is discussed in Section 5 of the SPA conservation objectives supporting document

**A149 Dunlin *Calidris alpina***

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Dunlin in Dundalk Bay 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	Population trend assessment (Generalised Additive Modelling (GAM)) was undertaken using waterbird count data collected through the Irish Wetland Bird Survey and other surveys. See the the SPA conservation objectives supporting document for further details
Distribution	Number and range of areas used by waterbirds	No significant decrease in the numbers or range of areas used by waterbird species, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	As determined by regular low tide and other waterbird surveys. Waterbird distribution from the 2009/2010 waterbird survey programme is discussed in Section 5 of the SPA conservation objectives supporting document

**A156 Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa***

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Black-tailed Godwit in Dundalk Bay 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	Population trend assessment (Generalised Additive Modelling (GAM)) was undertaken using waterbird count data collected through the Irish Wetland Bird Survey and other surveys. See the the SPA conservation objectives supporting document for further details
Distribution	Number and range of areas used by waterbirds	No significant decrease in the numbers or range of areas used by waterbird species, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	As determined by regular low tide and other waterbird surveys. Waterbird distribution from the 2009/2010 waterbird survey programme is discussed in Section 5 of the SPA conservation objectives supporting document

**A157 Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica***

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Bar-tailed Godwit in Dundalk Bay 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	Population trend assessment (Generalised Additive Modelling (GAM)) was undertaken using waterbird count data collected through the Irish Wetland Bird Survey and other surveys. See the the SPA conservation objectives supporting document for further details
Distribution	Number and range of areas used by waterbirds	No significant decrease in the numbers or range of areas used by waterbird species, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	As determined by regular low tide and other waterbird surveys. Waterbird distribution from the 2009/2010 waterbird survey programme is discussed in Section 5 of the SPA conservation objectives supporting document

**A160 Curlew *Numenius arquata***

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Curlew in Dundalk Bay 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	Population trend assessment (Generalised Additive Modelling (GAM)) was undertaken using waterbird count data collected through the Irish Wetland Bird Survey and other surveys. See the the SPA conservation objectives supporting document for further details
Distribution	Number and range of areas used by waterbirds	No significant decrease in the numbers or range of areas used by waterbird species, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	As determined by regular low tide and other waterbird surveys. Waterbird distribution from the 2009/2010 waterbird survey programme is discussed in Section 5 of the SPA conservation objectives supporting document

**A162 Redshank *Tringa totanus***

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Redshank in Dundalk Bay 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	Population trend assessment (Generalised Additive Modelling (GAM)) was undertaken using waterbird count data collected through the Irish Wetland Bird Survey and other surveys. See the the SPA conservation objectives supporting document for further details
Distribution	Number and range of areas used by waterbirds	No significant decrease in the numbers or range of areas used by waterbird species, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	As determined by regular low tide and other waterbird surveys. Waterbird distribution from the 2009/2010 waterbird survey programme is discussed in Section 5 of the SPA conservation objectives supporting document

**A179 Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus***

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Black-headed Gull in Dundalk Bay 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	Population trend assessment using (Generalised Additive Modelling (GAM)) could not be undertaken for this species due to an incomplete dataset. A measure of population change was calculated using the 'generic threshold' method. See Section 4 for more details of the SPA conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Number and range of areas used by waterbirds	No significant decrease in the numbers or range of areas used by waterbird species, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	As determined by regular low tide and other waterbird surveys. Waterbird distribution from the 2009/2010 waterbird survey programme is discussed in Section 5 of the SPA conservation objectives supporting document



**A182 Common Gull *Larus canus***

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Common Gull in Dundalk Bay 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	Population trend assessment using (Generalised Additive Modelling (GAM)) could not be undertaken for this species due to an incomplete dataset. A measure of population change was calculated using the 'generic threshold' method. See Section 4 of the SPA conservation objectives supporting document for more details
Distribution	Number and range of areas used by waterbirds	No significant decrease in the numbers or range of areas used by waterbird species, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	As determined by regular low tide and other waterbird surveys. Waterbird distribution from the 2009/2010 waterbird survey programme is discussed in Section 5 of the SPA conservation objectives supporting document

**A184 Herring Gull *Larus argentatus***

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Herring Gull in Dundalk Bay SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

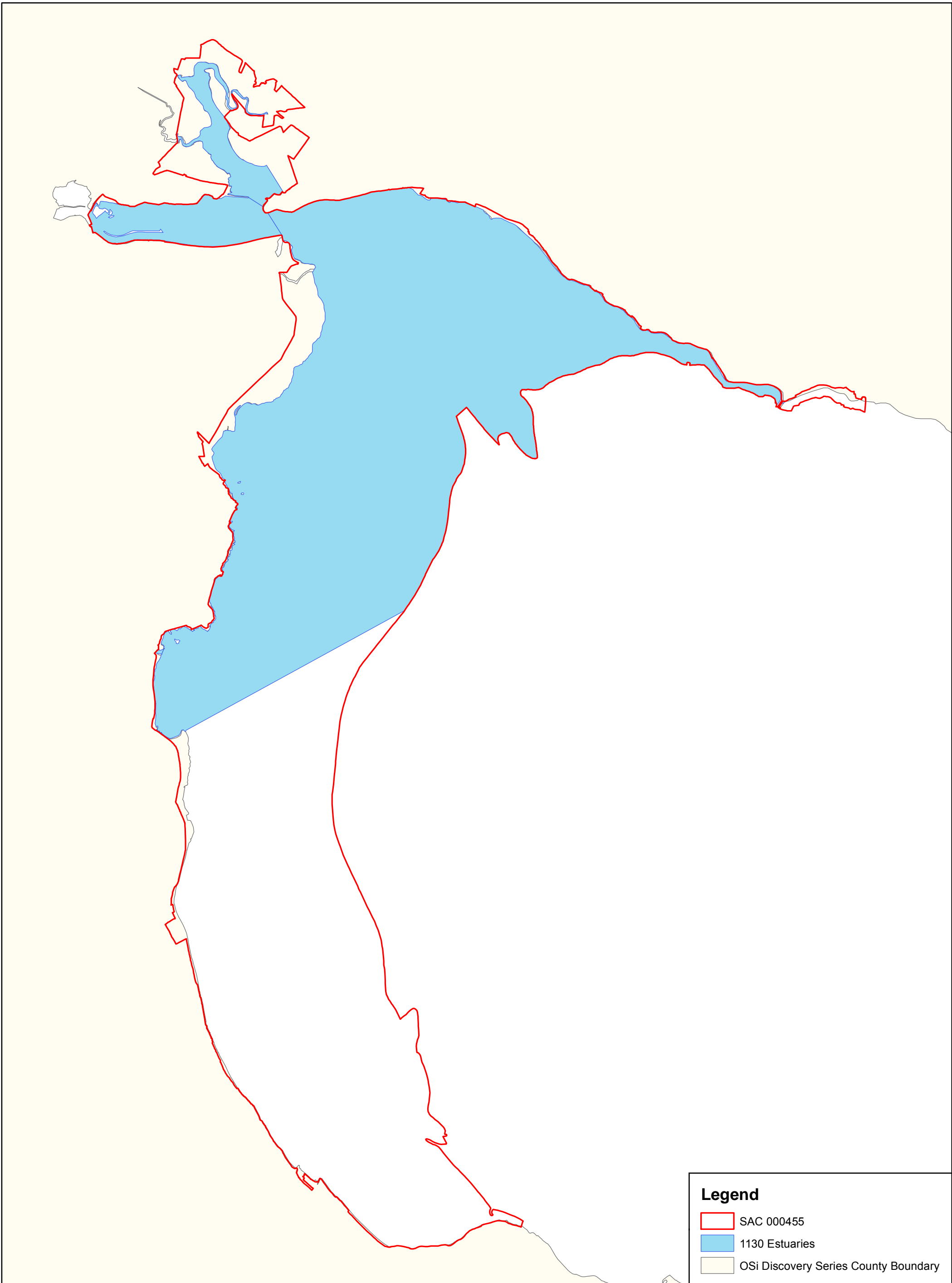
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trend assessment using (Generalised Additive Modelling (GAM)) could not be undertaken for this species due to an incomplete dataset. A measure of population change was calculated using the 'generic threshold' method. See Section 4 for more details of the SPA conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Number and range of areas used by waterbirds	No significant decrease in the numbers or range of areas used by waterbird species, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	As determined by regular low tide and other waterbird surveys. Waterbird distribution from the 2009/2010 waterbird survey programme is discussed in Section 5 of the SPA conservation objectives supporting document

**A999 Wetlands & Waterbirds**

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

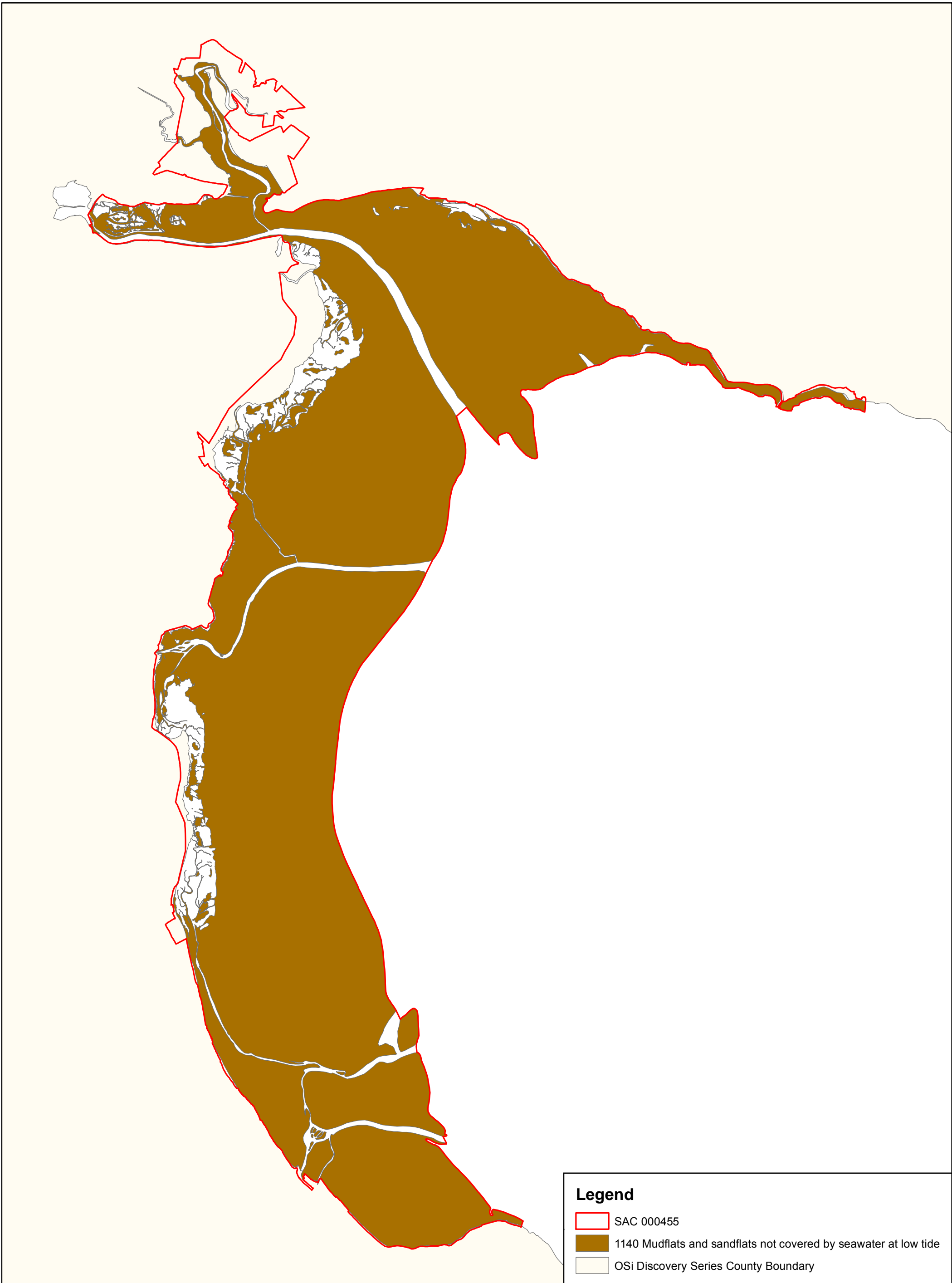
<b>Attribute</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Habitat area	Hectares	The permanent area occupied by the wetland habitat is stable and not significantly less than the areas of 8136, 4374 and 649 hectares respectively for subtidal, intertidal, and supratidal habitats, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation. See map 6	As defined by SPA boundary to MLWM; MLWM to MHW; and MHW to SPA boundary (the latter value is minus the area of Lurgangreen Fields)





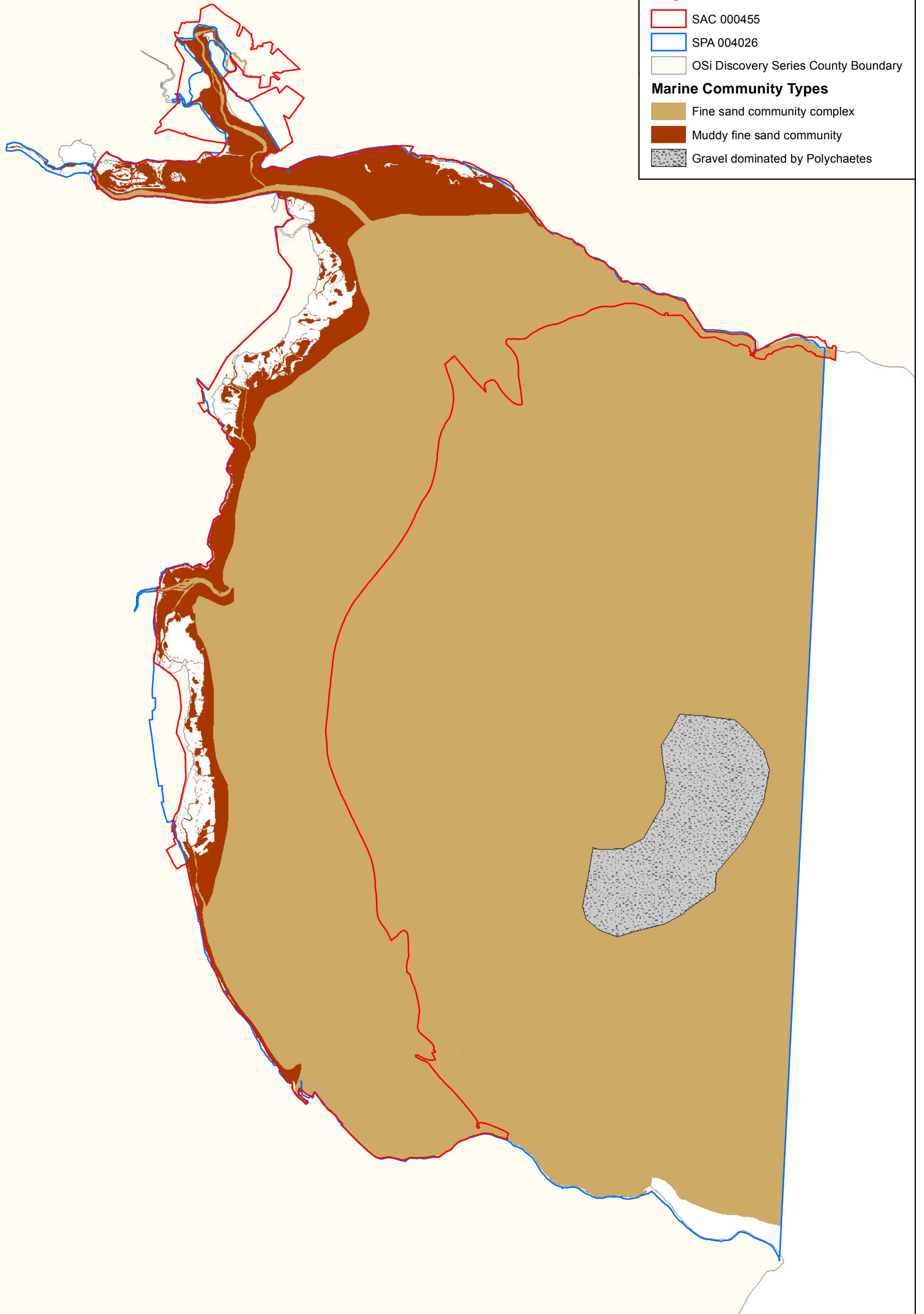
**Legend**

- SAC 000455
- 1130 Estuaries
- OSi Discovery Series County Boundary



**Legend**

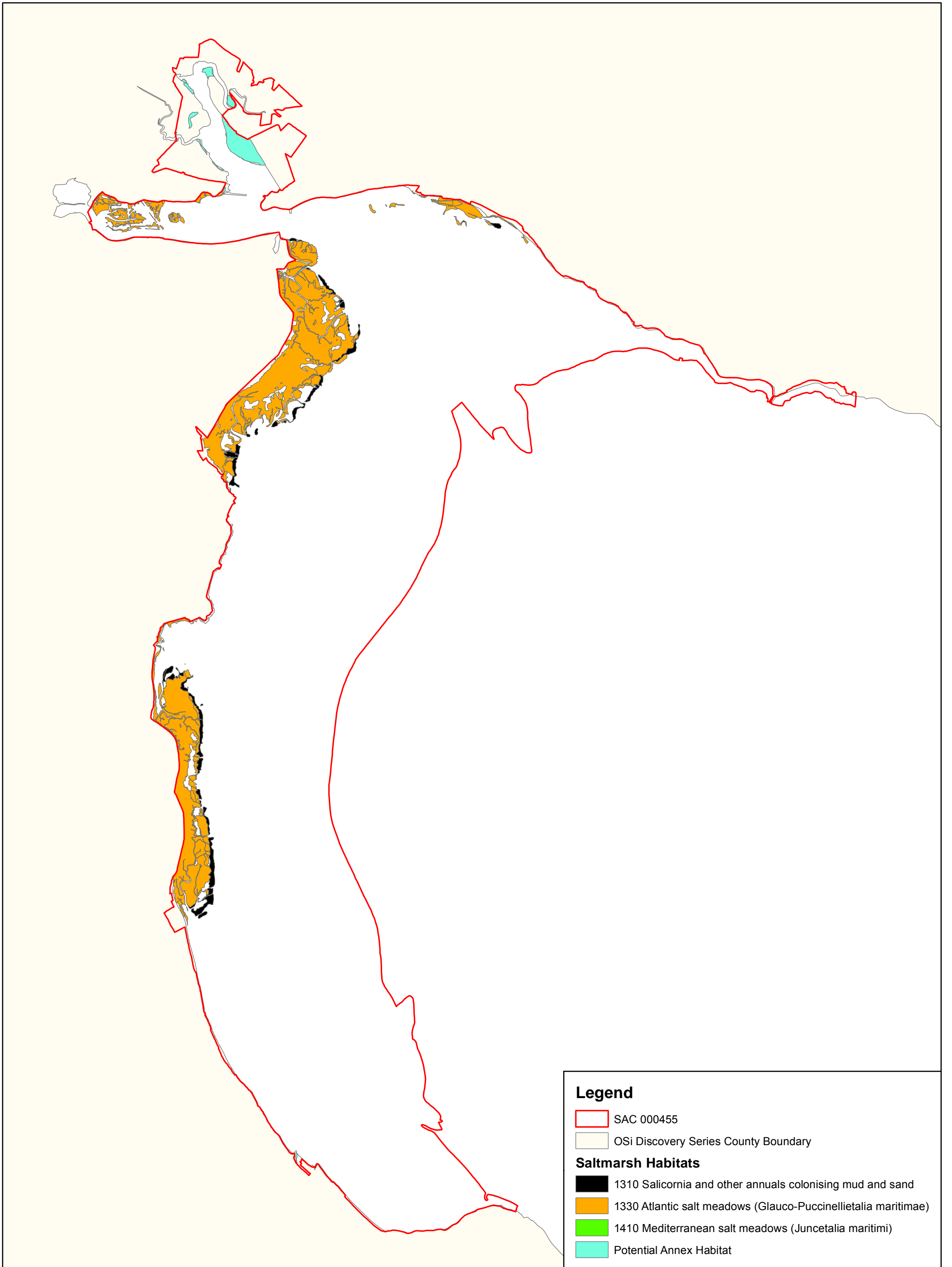
- SAC 000455
- 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide
- OSi Discovery Series County Boundary



**Legend**

- SAC 000455
  - SPA 004026
  - OSi Discovery Series County Boundary
- Marine Community Types**
- Fine sand community complex
  - Muddy fine sand community
  - Gravel dominated by Polychaetes





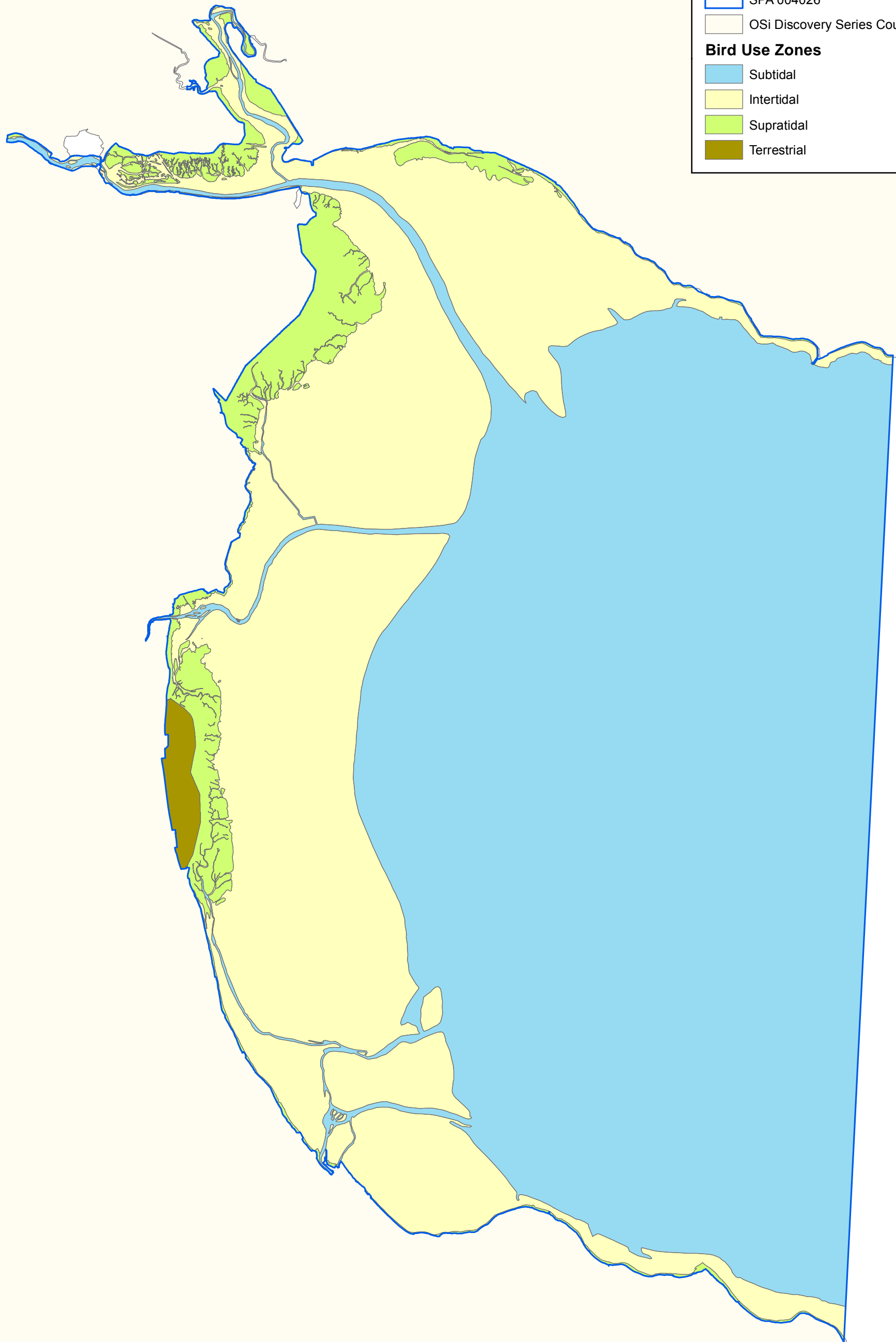
**Legend**

- SAC 000455
- OSi Discovery Series County Boundary

**Saltmarsh Habitats**

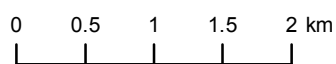
- 1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand
- 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima*)
- 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*)
- Potential Annex Habitat





**Legend**

- SPA 004026
- OSi Discovery Series County Boundary
- Bird Use Zones**
- Subtidal
- Intertidal
- Supratidal
- Terrestrial





***An Roinn***  
***Ealaíon, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta***  

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***Department of***  
***Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht***

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