

National Parks and Wildlife Service

Conservation Objectives Series

Wexford Harbour and Sloba SPA 004076



***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

004076	Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA	
A004	Little Grebe <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	wintering
A005	Great Crested Grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	wintering
A017	Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	wintering
A028	Grey Heron <i>Ardea cinerea</i>	wintering
A037	Bewick's Swan <i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	wintering
A038	Whooper Swan <i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	wintering
A046	Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>	wintering
A048	Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	wintering
A050	Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i>	wintering
A052	Teal <i>Anas crecca</i>	wintering
A053	Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	wintering
A054	Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>	wintering
A062	Scaup <i>Aythya marila</i>	wintering
A067	Goldeneye <i>Bucephala clangula</i>	wintering
A069	Red-breasted Merganser <i>Mergus serrator</i>	wintering
A082	Hen Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i>	post-breeding/roost
A125	Coot <i>Fulica atra</i>	wintering
A130	Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</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
A144	Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</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
A183	Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus</i>	wintering
A195	Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i>	breeding
A395	Greenland White-fronted goose <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>	wintering
A999	Wetlands	

Please note that this SPA is adjacent to The Raven SPA 004019. 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: BirdLife International Seabird Ecology and Foraging Range Database

Year: 2012

Author: BirdLife International

Series: <http://seabird.wikispaces.com>

Title: Seabird Monitoring Programme (SMP) Database

Year: 2012

Author: JNCC

Series: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/smp/Default.aspx>

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

Title: Guidelines for Winter Roost Watching

Year: 2011

Author: O'Donoghue, B.G.

Series: Unpublished NPWS Guidance Note

Title: Seabird Populations of Britain and Ireland

Year: 2004

Author: Mitchell, P.I.; Newton, S.F.; Ratcliffe, N.; Dunn, T.E.

Series: Poyser, London

Title: Seabird monitoring handbook for Britain and Ireland: a compilation of methods for survey and monitoring of breeding seabirds.

Year: 1995

Author: Walsh, P.; Halley, D.J.; Harris, M.P.; del Nevo, A.; Sim, I.M.W.; Tasker, M.L.

Series: JNCC, Peterborough

Spatial data sources

Year: 2012

Title: NPWS SPA boundary data

GIS operations: SPA boundary polygons divided into two classifications (wetlands, terrestrial) based on line identified by expert judgement. Expert opinion used as necessary to resolve any issues arising

Used for: Wetlands and waterbirds (map 3)

Conservation objectives for: Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA [4076]

A004 Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Little Grebe in Wexford Harbour and Slobs 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

A005 Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Great Crested Grebe in Wexford Harbour and Slobs 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 Wexford Harbour and Slobs 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

A028 Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Grey Heron in Wexford Harbour and Slobs 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

A037 Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Bewick's Swan in Wexford Harbour and Slobs 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

A038 Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Whooper Swan in Wexford Harbour and Slobs 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

A046 Light-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Light-bellied Brent Goose in Wexford Harbour and Slobs 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

A048 Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Shelduck in Wexford Harbour and Slobs 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

A050 Wigeon *Anas penelope*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Wigeon in Wexford Harbour and Slobs 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

A052 Teal *Anas crecca*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Teal in Wexford Harbour and Slobs 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

A053 Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Mallard in Wexford Harbour and Slobs 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

A054 Pintail *Anas acuta*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Pintail in Wexford Harbour and Slobs 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

A062 Scaup *Aythya marila*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Scaup in Wexford Harbour and Slobs 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

A067 Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Goldeneye in Wexford Harbour and Slobs 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

A069 Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Red-breasted Merganser in Wexford Harbour and Slobs 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

A082 Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Hen Harrier in Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Roost attendance: individual hen harriers	Number	No significant decline	Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA contains an important winter roost site for hen harriers. The five year mean peak recorded for this roost (based on the period 2005/06 - 2009/10) equates to five hen harriers. Measure based on standard survey methods (see O'Donoghue, 2011)
Suitable foraging habitat	hectares	No significant decline	Key prey items: broad diet encompassing birds and mammals. Key habitats: Wetlands, scrub, tillage, hedgerows. Estimated potential foraging area within the SPA is calculated from terrestrial areas plus aquatic (terrestrial) habitat 1889.5ha (see the conservation objectives supporting document (for waterbirds) for further information on wetland habitats). Adjacent areas outside of the SPA are also used by hen harrier during the non-breeding season albeit to an unknown extent
Roost site: condition	Area (hectares); structure	The roost site should be maintained in a suitable condition	A winter roost site occurs within Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA and is estimated to be 14.1ha in size
Disturbance at the roost site	Level of impact	Human activities should occur at levels that do not adversely affect the Hen Harrier winter roost population	Hen Harriers are sensitive to disturbance at roost sites during the non-breeding season

A125 Coot *Fulica atra*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Coot in Wexford Harbour and Slobs 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

A130 Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Oystercatcher in Wexford Harbour and Slobs 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

A140 Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Golden Plover in Wexford Harbour and Slobs 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 Wexford Harbour and Slobs 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

A142 Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Lapwing in Wexford Harbour and Slobs 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

A143 Knot *Calidris canutus*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Knot in Wexford Harbour and Slobs 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 Wexford Harbour and Slobs 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

A149 Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Dunlin in Wexford Harbour and Slobs 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

A156 Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Black-tailed Godwit in Wexford Harbour and Slobs 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

A157 Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Bar-tailed Godwit in Wexford Harbour and Slobs 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

A160 Curlew *Numenius arquata*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Curlew in Wexford Harbour and Slobs 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

A162 Redshank *Tringa totanus*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Redshank in Wexford Harbour and Slobs 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

A179 Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Black-headed Gull in Wexford Harbour and Slobs 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

A183 Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Lesser Black-backed Gull in Wexford Harbour and Slobs 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

Conservation objectives for: Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA [4076]

A195 Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Little Tern at Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Breeding population abundance: apparently occupied nests (AONs)	Number	No significant decline	Measure based on standard tern survey methods (see Walsh et al., 1995). Mitchell et al. (2004) provides summary population information for Wexford. The Seabird Monitoring Programme (SMP) also provides background data (JNCC, 2012)
Productivity rate: fledged young per breeding pair	Mean number	No significant decline	Measure based on standard tern survey methods (see Walsh et al., 1995)
Distribution: breeding colonies	Number; location; area (Hectares)	No significant decline	Little tern nest in well-camouflaged shallow scapes on sand and shingle beaches, spits or inshore islets (Mitchell et al., 2004). Due to the dynamic nature of Wexford Harbour, colony locations can vary from year to year
Prey biomass available	Kilogrammes	No significant decline	Key prey items: Mainly small, often juvenile, fish; invertebrates, especially crustaceans and insects. Key habitats: Very shallow water, advancing or receding tidelines, brackish lagoons and saltmarsh creeks, sand-banks close to the coast. Foraging range: Max 11 km, mean max 6.94 km, mean 4.14 km (BirdLife International Seabird Database (Birdlife International, 2012))
Barriers to connectivity	Number; location; shape; area (hectares)	No significant increase	Seabird species can make extensive use of the marine waters adjacent to their breeding colonies. Foraging range: Max 11 km, mean max 6.94 km, mean 4.14 km (BirdLife International Seabird Database (Birdlife International, 2012))
Disturbance at the breeding site	Level of impact	Human activities should occur at levels that do not adversely affect the breeding little tern population	Little tern nest in well-camouflaged shallow scapes on sand and shingle beaches, spits or inshore islets (Mitchell et al., 2004). Due to the dynamic nature of Wexford Harbour, colony locations can vary from year to year

A395 Greenland White-fronted goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Greenland White-fronted Goose in Wexford Harbour and Slobs 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 Wexford Harbour and Slobs 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 (see map 3) should be stable and not significantly less than the area of 4,241ha, other than that due to natural patterns of variation	The wetland habitat area was estimated as 4,241ha using OSi data and relevant orthophotographs. For further information see parts three and five of the conservation objectives supporting document