



NATURA 2000 - STANDARD DATA FORM

For Special Protection Areas (SPA),
Proposed Sites for Community Importance (pSCI),
Sites of Community Importance (SCI) and
for Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

SITE IE0002159
SITENAME Mulroy Bay SAC

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type B	1.2 Site code IE0002159	Back to top
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1.3 Site name

Mulroy Bay SAC

1.4 First Compilation date 2001-08	1.5 Update date 2020-10
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1.6 Respondent:

Name/Organisation:	National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
Address:	90 King Street North, Dublin 7, D07 N7CV, Ireland
Email:	datadelivery@chg.gov.ie

Date site proposed as SCI:	2001-08
Date site confirmed as SCI:	No data
Date site designated as SAC:	2019-11
National legal reference of SAC designation:	607/2019

2. SITE LOCATION

2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

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Longitude

-7.7286

Latitude

55.1789

2.2 Area [ha]:

3495.134429

2.3 Marine area [%]

99.199

2.4 Sitelength [km]:

0.0

2.5 Administrative region code and name**NUTS level 2 code****Region Name**

IEZZ	Extra-Regio
IE01	Border, Midland and Western

2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Atlantic (%)

3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION[Back to top](#)**3.1 Habitat types present on the site and assessment for them**

Annex I Habitat types						Site assessment			
Code	PF	NP	Cover [ha]	Cave [number]	Data quality	A B C D	A B C		
						Representativity	Relative Surface	Conservation	Global
1140			119.93		M	A	B	A	A
1160			3169.661		M	A	C	A	A
1170			42.7891		M	A	C	A	A

- **PF:** for the habitat types that can have a non-priority as well as a priority form (6210, 7130, 9430) enter "X" in the column PF to indicate the priority form.
- **NP:** in case that a habitat type no longer exists in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Cover:** decimal values can be entered
- **Caves:** for habitat types 8310, 8330 (caves) enter the number of caves if estimated surface is not available.
- **Data quality:** G = 'Good' (e.g. based on surveys); M = 'Moderate' (e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation); P = 'Poor' (e.g. rough estimation)

3.2 Species referred to in Article 4 of Directive 2009/147/EC and listed in Annex II of Directive 92/43/EEC and site evaluation for them

Species	Population in the site	Site assessment
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I		Limaria hians																		X	
P		Lithothamnion corallioides																			X
P		Lithothamnion glaciale																			X
P		Odonthalia dentata																			X
I		Paracentrotus lividus																			X
I		Parerythropodium coralloides																			X
I		Raspailia aculeata																			X
I		Sarcodictyon roseum																			X
I		Stellata grubii																			X
P		Zostera marina																			X

- **Group:** A = Amphibians, B = Birds, F = Fish, Fu = Fungi, I = Invertebrates, L = Lichens, M = Mammals, P = Plants, R = Reptiles
- **CODE:** for Birds, Annex IV and V species the code as provided in the reference portal should be used in addition to the scientific name
- **S:** in case that the data on species are sensitive and therefore have to be blocked for any public access enter: yes
- **NP:** in case that a species is no longer present in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Unit:** i = individuals, p = pairs or other units according to the standard list of population units and codes in accordance with Article 12 and 17 reporting, (see [reference portal](#))
- **Cat.:** Abundance categories: C = common, R = rare, V = very rare, P = present
- **Motivation categories:** **IV, V:** Annex Species (Habitats Directive), **A:** National Red List data; **B:** Endemics; **C:** International Conventions; **D:** other reasons

4. SITE DESCRIPTION

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4.1 General site character

Habitat class	% Cover
N05	4.0
N09	1.0
N02	5.0
N01	90.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

Mulroy Bay is an extremely sheltered, narrow inlet situated in the north west of Ireland. It is approximately 20 km in length and 2 km wide at the mouth. The bay is the most convoluted of the marine inlets in north-west Ireland. It has three significant narrows only 100 - 150 m across, where the current is very strong (3 - 5 knots). Mulroy Bay is a glacial fiard. The Moross peninsula, which separates the North Water from the Broad Water, is a large glacial drumlin. Bedrock is principally metamorphic quartzite, limestone and schist and gneiss, with intrusive granite at the mouth. Some small islands are included in site.

4.2 Quality and importance

Mulroy Bay has high conservation interest due to very important examples of large shallow inlets and bays, reefs and mudflats. It has a wide range of communities from exposed coast to ultra sheltered areas. The tide

swept communities of the main channel, and the sheltered and extremely sheltered communities in the Broad Water and North Water, are unusual in Ireland. Broad Water is hydrographically and biologically unusual, being isolated from the open sea and subject to a reduced tidal range. Several species are present which are at or near the northern limits of their range (*Dudresnaya verticillata*, *Aeolidiella alderi* and *Stolonica socialis*) or the southern limits of their range (*Odonthalia dentata*). The rich *Limaria* hians beds in the Moross Channel are unique in Ireland, and the low shore rapids at Broadwater are unusually species rich (81 species). Additional rare algal species (*Ascophyllum nodosum* var *mackii*, *Fucus ceranoides* var *ramosissima* and *Codium bursa*) have been found in the bay which were not found by BioMar. Additional rare faunal specimens include the scarce octocoral *Parerythropodium corallioides* and a species of parasitic copepod new to Britain and Ireland. A large intertidal area of mudflats and sandflats occurs around Island Roy and Carrickart. *Lutra lutra* occurs within the site. The site supports wintering waterfowl in low numbers.

4.3 Threats, pressures and activities with impacts on the site

The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site

Negative Impacts			
Rank	Threats and pressures [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
H	F01		i
H	F01.01		i
H	F01.01		i
M	H01.08		o

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
L	X		i

Rank: H = high, M = medium, L = low

Pollution: N = Nitrogen input, P = Phosphor/Phosphate input, A = Acid input/acidification,

T = toxic inorganic chemicals, O = toxic organic chemicals, X = Mixed pollutions

i = inside, o = outside, b = both

4.5 Documentation

Brennan, A.T. (1945). Notes on the distribution of certain marine algae on the west coast of Ireland. *Irish Naturalists' Journal*, 8: 252-254. Charlesworth, J.K. (1924). The glacial geology of the north-west of Ireland. *Proc. Roy. Ir Acad.* 36B 174-314. Fahy, E. (1983). Feeding ecology of feral rainbow trout *Salmo gairdneri* Richardson in Mulroy Bay, an Atlantic sea lough. *Irish Naturalists' Journal*, 21(3): 103-107. Gibb, D.C. (1957). The free-living forms of *Ascophyllum nodosum* (L.) le Jol. *Journal of Ecology* 45: 49-83. Holmes, J.M.C., and Gotto, R.V. (1987). Some ascidicolous copepods new to British and Irish waters. *Irish Naturalists' Journal*, 22(8): 340-343. Minchin, D. (1981). The scallop *Pecten maximus* in Mulroy Bay. *Fisheries Bulletin (Dublin)*, 1: 21pp. Minchin, D. (1988). Couch's goby, *Gobius couchi* (Teleostei: Gobiidae), from Irish waters. *Journal of Fish Biology* 33: 821-822. Minchin, D., Duggan, C.B and King, W. (1987). Possible effects of organotins on scallop recruitment. *Marine Pollution Bulletin* 18(11): 604-608. Morton, O. (1978). Some interesting records of algae from Ireland. *Irish Naturalists' Journal*, 19(7): 240-242. Parkes, H.M. (1958a). A general survey of the marine algae of Mulroy Bay, Co. Donegal (to be continued). *Irish Naturalists' Journal*, 12(12): 324-330. Parkes, H.M. (1958a). A general survey of the marine algae of Mulroy Bay, Co. Donegal II. *Irish Naturalists' Journal*, 12(12): 324-330. Picton, B.E. (1985). Anthozoans (Coelenterata: Anthozoa) new to Ireland and new records of some rarely recorded species. *Irish Naturalists' Journal*, 21(11): 484-488. Praeger, R.L. (1894). Fauna of Mulroy Bay, Donegal. *Irish Naturalist*. 3: 113-114. Sheard, J.W. (1968). The zonation of lichens on three rocky shores of Inishowen, Co. Donegal. *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy*, 66B: 101-112. Somerfield, P. (1985). A study of *Haminea navicula* (Da Costa) and its environment, the Wee Sea, County Donegal. *Mod. Theses, Zoology, Trinity College, Dublin*.

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

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6.2 Management Plan(s):

An actual management plan does exist:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No, but in preparation
<input type="checkbox"/>	

No

7. MAP OF THE SITES

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INSPIRE ID:

IE.NPWS.PS.NATURA2000.SAC.IE0002159

Map delivered as PDF in electronic format (optional)

Yes No

Reference(s) to the original map used for the digitalisation of the electronic boundaries (optional).