



# 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 IE0002283  
SITENAME Rutland Island and Sound SAC

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## 1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

<b>1.1 Type</b> B	<b>1.2 Site code</b> IE0002283	<a href="#">Back to top</a>
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### 1.3 Site name

Rutland Island and Sound SAC

<b>1.4 First Compilation date</b> 2001-09	<b>1.5 Update date</b> 2018-09
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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

<b>Date site proposed as SCI:</b>	2001-09
<b>Date site confirmed as SCI:</b>	No data
<b>Date site designated as SAC:</b>	No data
<b>National legal reference of SAC designation:</b>	No data

## 2. SITE LOCATION

2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

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**Longitude**  
-8.459244075

**Latitude**  
54.96443982

**2.2 Area [ha]:**  
3865.604954

**2.3 Marine area [%]**  
93.75

**2.4 Sitelength [km]:**  
0.0

### 2.5 Administrative region code and name

**NUTS level 2 code**      **Region Name**

IE01	Border, Midland and Western
IEZZ	Extra-Regio

### 2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Atlantic ( %)

## 3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

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### 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
1150			4.8535		M	B	C	B	B
1160			3618.9747		M	A	B	B	B
1170			706.973		M	A	C	A	B
1210			34.18		M	B	C	B	C
2110			34.18		M	B	C	B	C
2120			34.18		M	B	C	B	B
2130			34.18		M	B	C	B	B
2190			34.18		M	C	C	B	C

- **PF:** for the habitat types that can have a non-priority as well as a priority form (6210, 7130, 9430) enter



P		<a href="#">Phymatolithon calcareum</a>													X
I		<a href="#">Stolonica socialis</a>													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	3.0
N07	1.0
N04	2.0
N02	6.0
N01	87.0
N09	1.0
<b>Total Habitat Cover</b>	<b>100</b>

### Other Site Characteristics

Rutland Channel is a complex area of islands and small rocky outcrops. Aranmore Island provides shelter from the prevailing south-west winds. The communities on the northern and eastern coasts are moderately exposed or sheltered from wave action. Other islands such as Rutland Island provide areas of further shelter and conditions are very or extremely sheltered from wave action and subject to moderate tidal streams. Bedrock is mainly metamorphic quartzite with intrusions of igneous granite and other rocks rich in silica on the south coast of Aranmore Island. Rutland Island has substantial areas of dunes, with highly calcareous sands over granite bedrock. Small areas of marsh vegetation also occur. Sally's Lough is a saline lake lagoon with a narrow tidal inlet that is apparently artificial.

### 4.2 Quality and importance

The Rutland Channel area between the mainland and Aranmore Island offers a complex of unusual shallow reef and sediment communities in which species richness is high and a number of notable species occur. There are maerl beds at the more open coast sites on the south of Rutland Island, as well as seagrass beds which host the rare hydroid *Laomedea angulata*. Littoral reef communities are representative of communities that occur on rock in sheltered locations on the north-west seaboard of Ireland. Species richness in the sublittoral fringe is unusually high, as it is in many of the sublittoral reef communities, where anthozoan, nudibranch, bryozoan and ascidian species of conservation importance occur, most notably *Stolonica socialis* which in Ireland is recorded only on the south-east and north-west coasts. An important dune system with a good diversity of dune types occurs on Rutland Island, with fixed dunes, shifting marram dunes, embryonic dunes and some humid dune slacks represented. Annual driftline vegetation is also well represented. While the saline lake lagoon within the site is of a type that is relatively common on the Atlantic coast of Ireland, it is a particularly good example in relatively natural surroundings. The fauna is moderately rich and includes four lagoonal specialists and at least three apparently rare species. An apparently rare alga, *Cladophora battersii*, occurs in abundance. The site supports an important population of *Phoca vitulina*.

### 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]
M	D03.02		i
H	J02.02		i
M	A04		i
L	G01.01		i

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

Cronin, M., Duck, C., Ó Cadhla, O., Nairn, R., Strong, D. and O'Keeffe, C. (2004). Harbour seal population assessment in the Republic of Ireland: August 2003. Irish Wildlife Manuals No. 11. National Parks & Wildlife Service, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government., 7 Ely Place, Dublin 2, Ireland. 34 pp.

Cronin, M., Duck, C., Ó Cadhla, O., Nairn, R., Strong, D. and O'Keeffe, C. (2007). An assessment of harbour seal population size and distribution in the Republic of Ireland during the 2003 moult season. J. Zool. Lond. 273 Issue 2: 131-139.

Good, J.A. (1999). Irish Coastal Lagoon Survey. Vol V. Unpublished Report, Dúchas the Heritage Service, Dublin.

Harrington, R. (1990). 1989 survey of breeding herds of common seal *Phoca vitulina* with reference to previous surveys. Report to the National Parks & Wildlife Service. 10pp.

Healy, B. (1999). A Survey of Irish Coastal Lagoons. Vol I Background, Description and Summary. Unpublished Report, Dúchas the Heritage Service, Dublin.

Lockley, R. M. (1966). The distribution of grey and common seals on the coasts of Ireland. Irish Nat. J. 15: 136-143.

Lyons, D.O. (2004). Summary of National Parks & Wildlife Service surveys for common (harbour) seals (*Phoca vitulina*) and grey seals (*Halichoerus grypus*), 1978 to 2003. Irish Wildlife Manuals No. 13. National Parks & Wildlife Service, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 7 Ely Place, Dublin 2, Ireland. 67pp.

Oliver, G.A. (1999). Irish Coastal Lagoon Survey. 1998. Vol. IV. Aquatic Fauna. Unpublished Report, Dúchas the Heritage Service, Dublin.

McConnell, K. (1991). Dive Ireland - Aranmore Island. SubSea. Ireland's Diving Magazine. 66: Winter 10-12.

Picton, B.E and Costello M.J. (eds.) (1997). BioMar Biotope Viewer: a Guide to Marine Habitats, Fauna and Flora of Britain and Ireland (Ver. 2.0) Environmental Sciences Unit, Trinity College, Dublin. (Compact Disc).

Roden, C. (1999). Irish Coastal Lagoon Survey, 1998. Vol III, Flora. Unpublished Report, Dúchas the Heritage Service, Dublin.

Summers, C.F., Warner, P.J., Nairn, R.G.W., Curry, M.G. & Flynn, J. (1980). An assessment of the status of the common seal *Phoca vitulina vitulina* in Ireland. Biol. Conserv. 17: 115-123.

Warner, P.J. (1983). An assessment of the breeding populations of common seals (*Phoca vitulina vitulina* L.) in the Republic of Ireland during 1979. Ir. Nat. J. 21: 24-26.

Warner, P.J. (1984). Report on the census of common seals (*Phoca vitulina vitulina*) in the Republic of Ireland during 1984. Unpublished report to the Forestry & Wildlife Service.

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No

## 7. MAP OF THE SITES

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INSPIRE ID:

IE.NPWS.PS.NATURA2000.SAC.IE0002283

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).