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 **IE0002330**

SITENAME North-west Porcupine Bank SAC

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

| 1.1 Type | 1.2 Site code | Back to top |
|----------|---------------|-------------|
| В | IE0002330 | |

1.3 Site name

North-west Porcupine Bank SAC

| 1.4 First Compilation date | 1.5 Update date |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| 2006-05 | 2021-10 |

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

1.7 Site indication and designation / classification dates

| Date site classified as SPA: | 0000-00 |
|--|----------|
| National legal reference of SPA designation | No data |
| Date site proposed as SCI: | 2006-06 |
| Date site confirmed as SCI: | No data |
| Date site designated as SAC: | 2016-02 |
| National legal reference of SAC designation: | 108/2016 |

2. SITE LOCATION

2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

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Longitude-14.20973884

53.63171722

2.2 Area [ha]: 2.3 Marine area [%]

71629.7

2.4 Sitelength [km]:

0.0

2.5 Administrative region code and name

| NUTS level 2 code | Region Name |
|-------------------|-------------|
| IEZZ | Extra-Regio |

2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Atlantic (%)

3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

3.1 Habitat types present on the site and assessment for them

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| 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 |
| 11708 | | | 20857.0 | | М | Α | С | В | В |

- **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 | | | | Popula | Population in the site | | | | | Site assessment | | | | |
|---------|------|-----------------|---|--------|------------------------|-------------|-----|--|------|-----------------|---------------|------|------|------|
| G | Code | Scientific Name | S | NP | Т | T Size Unit | | | Cat. | D. qual. | A B C D A B C | | | |
| | | | | | | Min | Max | | | | Pop. | Con. | lso. | Glo. |

- Group: A = Amphibians, B = Birds, F = Fish, I = Invertebrates, M = Mammals, P = Plants, R = Reptiles
- 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)
- Type: p = permanent, r = reproducing, c = concentration, w = wintering (for plant and non-migratory species use permanent)
- **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 <u>reference portal</u>)
- Abundance categories (Cat.): C = common, R = rare, V = very rare, P = present to fill if data are deficient (DD) or in addition to population size information
- 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); VP = 'Very poor' (use this category only, if not even a rough estimation of the population size can be made, in this case the fields for population size can remain empty, but the field "Abundance categories" has to be filled in)

3.3 Other important species of flora and fauna (optional)

| Species | | | | Population in the site | | | | Motivation | | | | | | |
|---------|------|-----------------|---|------------------------|------|-----|--|------------|-------|---|------------------|---|---|---|
| Group | CODE | Scientific Name | S | NP | Size | | | Cat. | Speci | | Other categories | | | |
| | | | | | Min | Max | | C R V P | IV | V | Α | В | С | D |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| I | Lophelia pertusa | | | Р | | | X |
|---|-------------------|--|--|---|--|--|---|
| I | Madrepora oculata | | | Р | | | 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 <u>reference portal</u>)
- 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

4.1 General site character

| Habitat class | % Cover |
|---------------------|---------|
| N01 | 100.0 |
| Total Habitat Cover | 100 |

Other Site Characteristics

In the north-east Atlantic, major sedimentary mound areas exist that are several million years old. These carbonate mounds form isolated or clustered seabed elevations that may measure up to 350 m high and, in Ireland, significant clusters have been documented fringing the upper slopes of the Rockall Trough and Porcupine Seabight. Almost all host coral reef patches. The designated area is located on the north-western edge of the Porcupine Bank as it slopes into the south-eastern Rockall Trough approximately 235 km west of Clare Island off the Co. Mayo coastline. Its centrepoint is 14º 12' 00" W, 53º 39' 36" N. The area has not been mapped in detail using seismic data; however, multibeam data collected by the Geological Survey of Ireland indicates the area to be of high relief and at least 35 carbonate mounds have been identified to date at depths of between 400 and 1000 m. The mounds tend to be relatively discrete and occur where there is a strong current regime, either as isolated features or associated with scarps or other topographical highs. They range from 100 to 300 m in width and may reach 200 m in height. In this area, Madrepora oculata and Lophelia pertusa are the main reef-forming coral species.

4.2 Quality and importance

Research conducted to date has shown extensive areas of live coral including Lophelia pertusa and Madrepora oculata associated with, and adjacent to, high relief areas. As this site encompasses high relief areas, it is therefore likely to have coral reefs throughout. The Caracole Cruise of 2001 conducted two dives using the IFREMER Remotely Operated Vehicle Victor 600 and showed extensive areas of live coral at depths of between 662 and 842 m. Deepwater fishes such as the False Boarfish Neocytus helgae and Blue Ling Molva dypterygia were observed in the area. In addition, good densities of coral have been recorded from eleven cores retrieved from the east and west of the designated area.

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 | | Pollution (optional) [code] | inside/outside [i o b] | | | | | |
| Н | F02.02.02 | | i | | | | | |
| L | G05 | | i | | | | | |

| Positive Impacts | | | | | | | |
|------------------|-------------|------------|----------|--|--|--|--|
| | Activities, | Pollution | inside | | | | |
| Rank | management | (optional) | /outside | | | | |
| | [code] | [code] | [i o b] | | | | |
| L | G05 | | 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

4.4 Ownership (optional)

4.5 Documentation

De Mol, B. (2002). Development of Coral Banks in Porcupine Seabight (SW Ireland). A Multidisciplinary Approach. Unpublished Ph.D. thesis. University of Ghent. 363 pp.Klages, M., Thiede, J. and Foucher, J.-P. (eds) (2004). The expedition ARKTIS XIX/3 of the Research Vessel Polarstern in 2003. Reports of Legs 3a, 3b and 3c. Ber. Polarforsch. Meeresforsch ISSN 1618-3193. 289 pp.Long, D., Roberts, J.M. and Gillespie, E.J. (1999). Occurrences of Lophelia pertusa on the Atlantic Margin. BGS Technical Report WB/99/24, British Geological Survey, Edinburgh.Data usedCaracole - Victor ROV survey, 2001ARKXIX3a - VICTOR ROV survey, 2003

| 5.1 Designation types | at national and regional level: | Back to top |
|---|---|-------------|
| 5.2 Relation of the de | scribed site with other sites: | |
| 5.3 Site designation (| optional) | |
| 6. SITE MANAGEM | IENT | |
| 6.1 Body(ies) respons | ible for the site management: | Back to top |
| 6.2 Management Plan An actual management pl | | |
| Yes No, but in prepa No | ration | |
| 6.3 Conservation mea | sures (optional) | |
| 7. MAP OF THE SI | TES | |
| | | Back to top |
| INSPIRE ID: | IE.NPWS.PS.NATURA2000.SAC.IE0002330 | |
| Map delivered as PDF Yes X No | in electronic format (optional) | |
| Reference(s) to the or | iginal map used for the digitalisation of the electronic boundaries (optional). | |
| | | |

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)