



Site Name: Long Bank SAC

Site Code: 002161

Long Bank and Holdens Bed are situated several kilometres to the east of Rosslare and Wexford Harbour on the south-east coast of Ireland.

The site is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive (* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes):

[1110] Sandbanks

Long Bank and Holdens Bed are at the southern end of a series of offshore sandbanks that run from Arklow to the south of Rosslare. Long Bank is approximately 12 km in length and, at its widest, is approximately 1.4 km in width, while Holdens Bed is approximately 3.7 km in length and 1.4 km wide. The two banks are separated by a channel and are separated from the Lucifer Bank to the east by an area of deeper water.

Offshore sandbanks are generally constructed of sediment that ranges from cobbles to coarse sand, and the sand is duned in large waves at least a meter in height and several meters in width. Where the current is strong the surface fauna is typically very sparsely scattered, with, for example, occasional starfish, crabs or hermit crabs. These banks, however, frequently have a distinctive meiofauna living within them and can be important feeding grounds for birds.

This site is of conservation importance for its submerged sandbanks, a habitat that is listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive.