

Qualifying interests of the six Special Protection Areas (SPAs) on the South Wexford Coast


- Thirty-seven named species of wild birds, together with wetland and waterbirds in general, are the qualifying interests of the six Special Protection Areas (SPAs) on the South Wexford Coast.
- The twelve numbered bird groups (first column below) are: 1. Grebes. 2. Petrels. 3. Gannets. 4. Cormorants. 5. Swans. 6. Geese. 7. Ducks. 8. Rails. 9. Waders. 10. Gulls. 11. Terns. 12. Auks.
- The six initialled SPA sites from left to right are: BY (Bannow Bay). KI (Keeragh Islands). BW (Ballyteige Burrow). SI (Saltee Islands). TL (Tacumshin Lake). LIL (Lady's Island Lake).
- Qualifying interests are indicated thus ■.
- The Birds Directive (2009 amended version) is at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32009L0147&from=EN>.

No	English name	Taxonomic name	Code	BY	KI	BW	SI	TL	LIL
1	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	A004					■	
2	Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	A009				■		
3	Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	A016				■		
4	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	A017		■		■		
	Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	A018				■		
5	Bewick's Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>	A037					■	
	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	A038					■	
6	Light-bellied Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>	A046	■		■			
	Shelduck	<i>Tadorna</i>	A048	■		■			
7	Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	A050					■	
	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	A051					■	■
	Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	A052					■	
	Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	A054	■				■	
	Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	A056					■	
	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	A061					■	
8	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	A125					■	
9	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	A130	■					
	Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	A140	■		■		■	
	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	A141	■		■		■	
	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	A142	■		■		■	
	Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	A143	■					
	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	A149	■					
	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa</i>	A156	■		■		■	
	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	A157	■		■			
	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	A160	■					
Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	A162	■						
10	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	A179						■
	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	A183				■		
	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	A184				■		
	Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	A188				■		
11	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	A191						■
	Roseate Tern	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>	A192						■
	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	A193						■
	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	A194						■
12	Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	A199				■		
	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>	A200				■		
	Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	A204				■		
	Wetland and Waterbirds		A999	■		■		■	■


- SWC Promotions: promoting the natural heritage resource values of the South Wexford Coast •

Qualifying interests of the Seas off Wexford candidate SPA

On 11 January 2024, Minister for Heritage Malcolm Noonan T. D., in a government press release gave public notice that he was considering designating a large coastal area off Co Wexford (Site Code 004237 (<https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/spa/004237>)) a marine Special Protection Area (SPA) for 20 named species of wild birds (Source: <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/6837d-minister-noonan-announces-seas-off-wexford-irelands-largest-special-protection-area-for-seabirds/#:~:text=Speaking%20today%2C%20Minister%20Noonan%20said,and%20particularly%20for%20marine%20seabirds>). Public notice followed in the local press (*Wexford People*, issue dated 17 January 2024, page 8) and submissions were invited before 9 April 2024.



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage



NATURA 2000

GOVERNMENT NOTICE

FOR THE ATTENTION OF MARINE USERS OF THE SEAS OFF COUNTY WEXFORD

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien, T. D. is considering classifying, under Regulation 15 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011), the Seas off Wexford 004237, as indicated on the map below, as a candidate Special Protection Area (SPA) in accordance with Article 4 of Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds, known as "The Birds Directive".

The Minister has issued a Direction, under Regulation 28, in respect of certain activities (Activities Requiring Consent) which must not be undertaken within or close to the site without permission having first been obtained from the Minister. The proposed classification will be taken into account when assessing any future development proposals within or close to the site.

A map showing the area of the candidate SPA may be viewed in the offices of the following in the locality or is available on request from the email/address below:

- Teagasc • National Parks & Wildlife Service • Local Authority
- Garda Stations • Social Protection • County Libraries

Any person, with a sufficient interest in the area being considered for classification, can submit an observation to the Minister, which must be supported by scientifically-based ornithological criteria pursuant to the Birds Directive. Submissions must be received at the address below by **9th April 2024**.

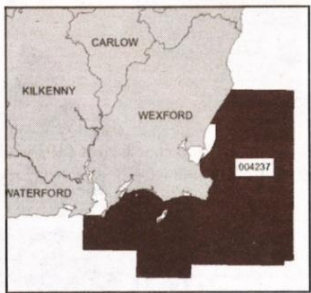
In the event that the process moves to the next stage, the Minister will issue a further public notification under Regulation 16. At that point, any person with a legal interest in the area proposed for classification can lodge an objection to the proposal and to the Ministerial Direction, which must be supported by scientifically-based ornithological criteria pursuant to the Birds Directive. Details of the procedures for lodging objections will be included in that notification.

The co-ordinates listed below identify the proposed boundaries of the Special Protection Area (Geographic Co-ordinate System: WGS84).

Further information can be requested by emailing sitedesignations@npws.gov.ie or by writing to Designations Unit, National Parks and Wildlife Service, 90 King Street North, Dublin 7, D07N7CV.

Seas off Wexford 004237 - Candidate Special Protection Area

	Latitude	Longitude
A	52° 32' 1" N	5° 52' 0" W
B	52° 0' 0" N	5° 54' 0" W
C	51° 58' 0" N	5° 54' 0" W
D	51° 58' 0" N	5° 57' 0" W
E	51° 57' 4" N	5° 57' 0" W
F	51° 57' 47" N	6° 27' 10" W
G	51° 55' 6" N	6° 27' 19" W
H	51° 55' 27" N	6° 44' 45" W
I	52° 0' 50" N	6° 44' 29" W
J	52° 1' 9" N	7° 1' 57" W



Qualifying Interests (20 species)

- Red-throated Diver** (*Gavia stellata*) [A001]
- Fulmar** (*Fulmarus glacialis*) [A009]
- Manx Shearwater** (*Puffinus puffinus*) [A013]
- Gannet** (*Morus bassanus*) [A016]
- Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) [A017]
- Shag** (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*) [A018]
- Common Scoter** (*Melanitta nigra*) [A065]
- Mediterranean Gull** (*Larus melanocephalus*) [A176]
- Black-headed Gull** (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) [A179]
- Lesser Black-backed Gull** (*Larus fuscus*) [A183]
- Herring Gull** (*Larus argentatus*) [A184]
- Kittiwake** (*Rissa tridactyla*) [A188]
- Sandwich Tern** (*Sterna sandvicensis*) [A191]
- Roseate Tern** (*Sterna dougallii*) [A192]
- Common Tern** (*Sterna hirundo*) [A193]
- Arctic Tern** (*Sterna paradisaea*) [A194]
- Little Tern** (*Sterna albifrons*) [A195]
- Guillemot** (*Uria aalge*) [A199]
- Razorbill** (*Alca torda*) [A200]
- Puffin** (*Fratercula arctica*) [A204]

The new candidate SPA (Site Code 004237) covered over 305,000 hectares of marine waters off the coast of Wexford extending from Rathmoylan Cove, south-west of Dunmore East in Co Waterford, across Waterford Harbour to Hook Head and along the shore, circumventing

existing SPAs, to Ballinoulart, south of Cahore Point in Co Wexford. From there, the boundary ran out to the 12-mile limit and extended south and west to a point south of Rathmoylan. The candidate SPA was the largest such area in the history of the State.

The new candidate SPA straddled both the boundary between the Irish Sea and the Celtic Sea, and its associated Celtic Sea Front, an important feeding, breeding and wintering area for seabirds.

Of the twenty named species that are qualifying interests of the Seas off Wexford candidate SPA, fifteen are already qualifying interests of the existing SPAs on the South Wexford Coast. The remaining five species are:- **Manx Shearwater** (breeds on the Saltee Islands), **Mediterranean Gull** (breeds at Lady's Island Lake), **Little Tern** (formerly bred), and the **Red-throated Diver** and **Common Scoter** that both winter in the coastal waters.

- SWC Promotions: promoting the natural heritage resource values of the South Wexford Coast •