

11 JUL. 1989

Wetlands designated, pursuant to Article 2(5) of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, by Ireland, to be included in the list of Wetlands of International Importance, established under the terms of the Convention.

des. 10.07.89
FIE 015

Tralee Bay Nature Reserve, Co. Kerry shown outlined in red on map attached is hereby designated by Ireland for inclusion in the list of Wetlands of International Importance under Article 2.5 of the Convention. The site is State-owned foreshore. This will bring to 15 the total number of sites designated by Ireland.

Tralee Bay, Co. Kerry comprising 754 hectares, is situated on the north side of the Dingle Peninsula, west of the town of Tralee, Co. Kerry. It comprises extensive intertidal mudflats which lie on the southern side of the inner part of the bay between Derrymore Island (an extensive recurve sand/gravel spit with dunes and saltmarsh) and east to Annagh Island, near the mouth of the River Lee and ship canal west of Tralee and Blennerville. Also included are a number of tidal channels, creeks and runnels which intersect these tidal flats. The flats are composed of very fine sediments in the more sheltered and higher parts of the intertidal zone, grading to sandier substrates near the tip of Derrymore Island. The area is fringed with saltmarsh along most of the southern shore and the eastern side of Derrymore Island, and bordered by a deep water channel to the north.

The mudflats and Derrymore Island have been designated as Internationally important on ecological (botanical and ornithological) and geomorphological grounds. Tralee Bay is also internationally important for migratory waterfowl. The wintering population of Pale-bellied Brent Geese Branta bernicla hrota is of International Importance (Salmon and Moser 1985), while those of Wigeon, Pintail and Teal are of National importance.