Ramsar Information Sheet

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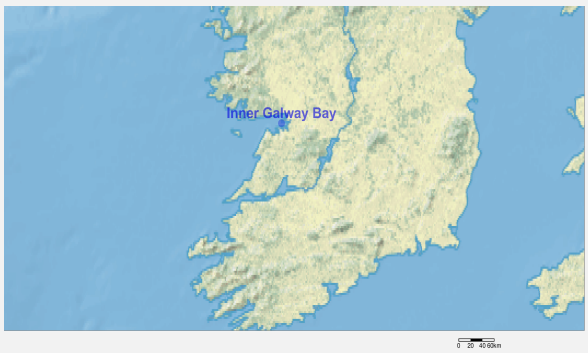
Ireland

Inner Galway Bay



Designation date	7 June 1996
Site number	838
Coordinates	53°12'N 09°02'20"W
Area	11 904,00 ha

Color codes

Fields back-shaded in light blue relate to data and information required only for RIS updates.

Note that some fields concerning aspects of Part 3, the Ecological Character Description of the RIS (tinted in purple), are not expected to be completed as part of a standard RIS, but are included for completeness so as to provide the requested consistency between the RIS and the format of a 'full' Ecological Character Description, as adopted in Resolution X.15 (2008). If a Contracting Party does have information available that is relevant to these fields (for example from a national format Ecological Character Description) it may, if it wishes to, include information in these additional fields.

1 - Summary

Summary

Inner Galway Bay is a very large, marine-dominated site situated on the west coast of Ireland. The inner bay is protected from exposure to Atlantic swells by the Aran Islands and Black Head. Subsidiary bays and inlets (e.g. Poulnaclough, Aughinish and Kinvarra Bays) add texture to the patterns of water movement and sediment deposition, which lends variety to the marine habitats and communities. The terraced Carboniferous (Viséan) limestone platform of the Burren sweeps down to the shore and into the sublittoral. The long shoreline is noted for its diversity, and comprises complex mixtures of bedrock shore, shingle beach, sandy beach and fringing salt marshes. Intertidal sand and mud flats occur around much of the shoreline, with the largest areas being found on the sheltered eastern coast between Oranmore Bay and Kinvarra Bay. A number of small islands and rocky islets in the Bay are included within the site.

This large coastal site is of immense conservation importance both for its diversity of habitats and for its bird populations. Galway Bay is a Special Area of Conservation and supports a number of habitats listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive, four of which have priority status (lagoon, Cladium fen, turlough and orchid-rich calcareous grassland). The examples of shallow bays, reefs, lagoons and saltmarshes found within this site are amongst the best in the country. The site supports an important Common Seal colony and a breeding Otter population (Annex II species), and six regular Annex I E.U. Birds Directive species. The site also has four Red Data Book plant species, plus a host of rare or scarce marine and lagoonal animal and plant species.

Inner Galway Bay is an SPA is of high ornithological importance with two wintering species having populations of international importance and a further sixteen wintering species having populations of national importance. The breeding colonies of Sandwich Tern, Common Tern and Cormorant are also of national importance. Also of note is that six of the regularly occurring species are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive, i.e. Black-throated Diver, Great Northern Diver, Golden Plover, Bartailed Godwit, Sandwich Tern and Common Tern. Part of the Inner Galway Bay SPA is a Wildfowl Sanctuary.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Responsible compiler

Institution/agency	National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
Postal address	National Parks and Wildlife Service, 90 North King Street, Smithfield, Dublin, Ireland D07 N7CV

National Ramsar Administrative Authority

Institution/agency	National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
Postal address	National Parks and Wildlife Service, 90 North King Street, Smithfield, Dublin, Ireland D07 N7CV

2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and information used to compile the RIS

From year	2000
To year	2019

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)	Inner Galway Bay

2.1.4 - Changes to the boundaries and area of the Site since its designation or earlier update

(Update) A. Changes to Site boundary	Yes ○ No ◉
(Update) B. Changes to Site area	the area has increased
(Update) The Site area has been calculated more accurately	☐
(Update) The Site has been delineated more accurately	☑
(Update) The Site area has increased because of a boundary extension	☐
(Update) The Site area has decreased because of a boundary restriction	☐
(Update) For secretariat only: This update is an extension	☐

2.1.5 - Changes to the ecological character of the Site

(Update) 6b i. Has the ecological character of the Ramsar Site (including applicable Criteria) changed since the previous RIS?	Not evaluated

2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image

<3 file(s) uploaded>

Former maps	0

Boundaries description

The Ramsar Site is presented on the Ordnance Survey of Ireland Discovery series maps. The legend for these maps can be found at Ordnance Survey Ireland; https://osi.ie

The site boundary of Inner Galway Bay Ramsar Site stretches across the open waters between Bearna on the north shore and the shore line of Black Head on the southern shore. The boundary encompasses the bays and inlets inland of Black Head and Bearna which lie within the inner reaches of Galway Bay.

The boundaries for this site were defined using the boundaries of Inner Galway Bay SPA. Inner Galway Bay Ramsar site and SPA is slightly smaller than and lies within Inner Galway Bay SAC which includes some additional wetland and terrestrial habitats. Details of the SAC and SPA can be found on the NPWS website at https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites.
Within this area a number of GIS data layers were used to define the Ramsar habitats within the site. These included:
• NPWS data (Site-Specific Conservation Objectives)
• CORINE (Co-Ordinated Information on the Environment) land cover data sets (2012).
• Bing Maps Aerial - © Harris Corp, Earthstar Geographics LLC © 2017 Intermap Earthstar Geographics SIO © 2017 Microsoft Corporation.
• Environmental Protection Agency of Ireland Rivers and Lakes layers data layers.
The mapped layers were subsequently inspected by a site visit to confirm the presence of the habitats. Habitat areas were subsequently estimated by reference to the available imagery and layers and should be considered representative but approximate.
Discrepancies between the original boundary for the Ramsar site and the current boundary are likely as a result of mapping projection anomalies.

2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie? Galway

b) What is the nearest town or population centre? Galway City

2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other countries? Yes ○ No ◉

b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the territory of another Contracting Party? Yes ○ No ◉

2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha): 11904

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from GIS boundaries: 13268.138

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
Marine Ecoregions of the World (MEOW)	Atlantic
EU biogeographic regionalization	Atlantic

Other biogeographic regionalisation scheme

British Isles, Palearctic (WWF Terrestrial Ecoregions), Northern British Isles (FEOW).

3 - Why is the Site important?

3.1 - Ramsar Criteria and their justification

☑ Criterion 1: Representative, rare or unique natural or near-natural wetland types

Hydrological services provided	The extensive shallow bay system of this Ramsar site supports a range of habitats which provide a number of key hydrological services. Mudflat and sand flat habitat is important for nutrient cycling, while saltmarsh, shingle and eel grass habitats are important in terms of erosion control and storm protection as they help to attenuate wave energy before it reaches terrestrial habitats. These habitats are also important for sediment cycling and stabilisation. Where nutrient and sediment input is not excessive, sheltered bays and inlets and the habitats which they support may be important for water filtration and carbon sequestration; they also have a role in climate regulation. Lagoon habitat which is also present at this site is important for water filtration, sediment and nutrient cycling, flood control and storm protection. Estuarine habitats are a small component of the site but are also important for these services. Together this extensive coastal system has the potential to provide a range of hydrological services.
Other ecosystem services provided	The subtidal and intertidal habitats are important as nursery grounds for fisheries (e.g, eelgrass beds, subtidal reefs). The site supports an aquaculture and fishing industry which is reliant on the intertidal mud and sandflat habitats and the shallow coastal and marine waters for shellfish and fish production. This site, which lies next to Galway city and to the extensive and unique area of limestone pavement called the Burren, is important for recreation; for both local residents and tourists.
Other reasons	Inner Galway Bay is designated as EU Natura 2000 site (Special Area of Conservation) as it contains representative and natural examples of marine habitats and natural wetland types within the Atlantic biogeographic region are listed on Annex I and II of the E.U. Habitats Directive, e.g. Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide, Coastal lagoons, Reefs. Combined these habitats provide an interconnected and interdependent mosaic of habitats. Inner Galway Bay is also designated under the EU Birds Directive (Special Protection Area), supporting important tern colonies, and internationally important concentrations of a range of non-breeding waterbirds.

☑ Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

Optional text box to provide further information	Rare (high conservation concern) wintering bird species are defined as: Regularly occurring species (occurring in at least 3 out of 10 seasons of monitoring or 30% of seasons; based on I-Webs data from 2006/07 to 2015/16) and that are: - Red Listed in Ireland's national Red List (Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (BoCCI) published by Colhoun and Cummins (2013) - Classified as VU in IUCN Global and/or European regional list - Listed in Annex I of the European Union Birds Directive Several species of high conservation concern at local, European and/or global level are part of the wintering waterbird assemblage at this site e.g. Goldeneye, Scaup, Great Northern Diver, Bar-tailed Godwit.

☑ Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

Justification: The assemblage of wintering birds including those of high (Red Listed in Ireland, Vulnerable in Europe and/or Globally) and medium (Amber Listed species in Ireland) conservation status contributes to biodiversity within the biogeographical region.

☑ Criterion 4 : Support during critical life cycle stage or in adverse conditions

Optional text box to provide further information: The site is of international importance as the extensive intertidal habitats support important populations of staging and over wintering waterbirds. The intertidal mud and sandflat habitats, together with the wider complex of saltmarsh, inshore and marine waters provide key foraging and resting habitat for over wintering and migratory waterbirds. The extensive intertidal habitats at this site remain ice free over the winter and provide a key feeding resource for important populations of staging and over wintering waterbirds. As well as providing a key foraging resource, the intertidal mud and sandflat habitats, together with saltmarsh and inshore waters provide important resting and roosting habitat for waterfowl and waders. The site also provides breeding habitat for two tern species, both listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive.

☑ Criterion 6 : >1% waterbird population

Optional text box to provide further information: Light-bellied Brent Goose winter at this site in numbers of international importance. There are eight populations of Brent Goose including three populations of the Light-bellied hrota subspecies. The Light-bellied Brent goose population that breeds in Canada's eastern Queen Elizabeth Islands, winters almost entirely in Ireland, with small numbers in Britain, France, the Channel Islands and Spain (Lewis et al, 2019).

Inner Galway Bay is one of the most important wintering site for Great Northern Diver in Ireland and supports numbers of international importance (Lewis et al, 2019). Great Northern Diver that breed in North America, Greenland, Iceland and Bear Island spend winter in coastal North-West Europe (Lewis et al, 2019).

3.2 - Plant species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

<no data available>

3.3 - Animal species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
Others																	
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	*Lutra lutra*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				NT	☑	☐	Annex II (Habitats Directive)	Annex II listing
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	*Phoca vitulina*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Annex II (Habitats Directive)	Annex II listing
Birds																	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Anas acuta*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	17	2011-2015		LC	☐	☐	Red-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	National (BoCCI) classification, part of wintering assemblage
CHORDATA / AVES	*Anas clypeata*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	77	2011-2015			☐	☐	Red-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	National (BoCCI) classification, part of wintering assemblage

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
CHORDATA / AVES	*Anas crecca*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	999	2011-2015		LC	☐	☐	Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	Part of wintering assemblage, maintaining biodiversity
CHORDATA / AVES	*Anas penelope*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	1749	2011-2015			☐	☐	Red-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	National (BoCCI) classification, part of wintering assemblage
CHORDATA / AVES	*Anas strepera*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	9	2011-2015			☐	☐	Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	Part of wintering assemblage, maintaining biodiversity
CHORDATA / AVES	*Aythya fuligula*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	8	2011-2015		LC	☐	☐	Red-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	National (BoCCI) classification, part of wintering assemblage
CHORDATA / AVES	*Aythya marila*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	4	2011-2015		LC	☐	☐	Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013), and Vulnerable classification IUCN Europe region)	IUCN classifications, part of wintering assemblage
CHORDATA / AVES	*Branta bernicla hrota*	☐	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	1130	2011-2015	3.14		☐	☐	Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	Internationally important numbers of the Branta bernicla hrota population of Brent Goose, part of wintering assemblage.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Bucephala clangula*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	2	2011-2015		LC	☐	☐	Red-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	National (BoCCI) classification, part of wintering assemblage
CHORDATA / AVES	*Calidris alpina*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	1378	2011-2015		LC	☐	☐	Red-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	National (BoCCI) classification, part of wintering assemblage
CHORDATA / AVES	*Calidris canutus*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	29	2011-2015		NT	☐	☐	Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	Part of wintering assemblage, maintaining biodiversity
CHORDATA / AVES	*Clangula hyemalis*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	5	2011-2015		VU	☐	☐	Red-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013), and Vulnerable classification IUCN Global & Europe)	National (BoCCI) and IUCN classifications, part of wintering assemblage
CHORDATA / AVES	*Cygnus cygnus*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	6	2011-2015		LC	☐	☐	Listed on Annex I (Birds Directive), Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	Annex I listing, and National (BoCCI) classification, part of wintering assemblage
CHORDATA / AVES	*Cygnus olor*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	63	2011-2015		LC	☐	☐	Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	Part of wintering assemblage, maintaining biodiversity
CHORDATA / AVES	*Egretta garzetta*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	41	2011-2015		LC	☐	☐	Listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive.	Annex I listing, part of wintering assemblage
CHORDATA / AVES	*Gallinago gallinago*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	21	2011-2015		LC	☐	☐	Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	Part of wintering assemblage, maintaining biodiversity
CHORDATA / AVES	*Gavia arctica*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	5	2011-2015		LC	☐	☐	Listed on Annex I (Birds Directive), Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	Annex I listing, part of wintering assemblage
CHORDATA / AVES	*Gavia immer*	☑	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	154	2011-2015	3.08	LC	☐	☐	Listed on Annex I (Birds Directive), Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013), and Vulnerable classification IUCN Europe region)	Annex I listing, IUCN classifications, Internationally important numbers of the Great Northern Diver Gavia immer, winter at this site.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Gavia stellata*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	11	2011-2015		LC	☐	☐	Listed on Annex I (Birds Directive), Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	Annex I listing, part of wintering assemblage
CHORDATA / AVES	*Haematopus ostralegus*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	558	2011-2015		NT	☐	☐	Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013), and Vulnerable classification IUCN Europe region)	IUCN classifications, part of wintering assemblage

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
CHORDATA / AVES	*Limosa lapponica*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	467	2011-2015		NT	☐	☐	Listed on Annex I (Birds Directive), Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	Annex I listing, part of wintering assemblage
CHORDATA / AVES	*Limosa limosa islandica*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	524	2011-2015			☐	☐	Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013), and Vulnerable classification IUCN Europe region)	IUCN classifications, part of wintering assemblage.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Numenius arquata*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	604	2011-2015		NT	☐	☐	Red-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013), and Vulnerable classification IUCN Europe region)	National (BoCCI) and IUCN classifications, part of wintering assemblage
CHORDATA / AVES	*Phalacrocorax carbo*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	313	2011-2015		LC	☐	☐	Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	Part of wintering assemblage, maintaining biodiversity
CHORDATA / AVES	*Pluvialis apricaria*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	1122	2011-2015		LC	☐	☐	Listed on Annex I (Birds Directive), Red-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	Annex I listing, and National (BoCCI) classification, part of wintering assemblage
CHORDATA / AVES	*Podiceps cristatus*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	53	2011-2015		LC	☐	☐	Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	Part of wintering assemblage, maintaining biodiversity
CHORDATA / AVES	*Sterna hirundo*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	98	1995		LC	☐	☐	Listed on Annex I (Birds Directive), Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	Annex I listing, breeding site.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Tachybaptus ruficollis*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	85	2011-2015		LC	☐	☐	Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	Part of wintering assemblage, maintaining biodiversity
CHORDATA / AVES	*Tadorna tadorna*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	100	2011-2015		LC	☐	☐	Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	Part of wintering assemblage, maintaining biodiversity
CHORDATA / AVES	*Thalasseus sandvicensis*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	81	1995		LC	☐	☐	Listed on Annex I (Birds Directive), Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	Annex I listing, breeding site.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Tringa totanus*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	661	2011-2015		LC	☐	☐	Red-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	National (BoCCI) classification, part of wintering assemblage
CHORDATA / AVES	*Vanellus vanellus*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	1782	2011-2015		NT	☐	☐	Red-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013), and Vulnerable classification IUCN Europe region)	National (BoCCI) and IUCN classifications, part of wintering assemblage

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

Wintering bird species listed under 3.3 have been selected based on an assessment of Irish Wetland Bird Survey data from the period 2006/07 to 2015/16. Inner Galway Bay is a Special Protection Area (SPA) for birds, however not all species listed for the SPA may be listed under 3.3 (or vice versa) as the SPA designation is based on other data and criteria.

Inner Galway Bay is a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the E.U. Birds Directive, for the following species listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive and/or regularly occurring migratory species: Black-throated Diver, Great Northern Diver, Cormorant, Grey Heron, Light-bellied Brent Goose, Wigeon, Teal, Red breasted Merganser, Ringed Plover, Golden Plover, Lapwing, Dunlin, Bar-tailed Godwit, Curlew, Redshank, Turnstone, Black-headed Gull, Common Gull, Sandwich Tern and Common Tern. The E.U. Birds Directive pays particular attention to wetlands and, as these form part of this SPA, the site and its associated waterbirds are of special conservation interest for Wetland & Waterbirds

The NPWS Site Synopsis for the SPA describes that there are internationally important wintering populations of Great Northern Diver (88) and Light-Bellied Brent Goose (676) and nationally important wintering populations of an additional sixteen species i.e. Black-throated Diver (36), Cormorant (266), Grey Heron (102), Wigeon (1,168), Teal (700), Red-breasted Merganser (249), Ringed Plover (335), Golden Plover (2,030), Lapwing (3,969), Dunlin (2,155), Bar tailed Godwit (447), Curlew (697), Redshank (505), Turnstone (182), Black-headed Gull (1,941) and Common Gull (1,066) - all figures given are five year mean peaks for the seasons 1995/96 to 1999/2000. Of note is that the populations of Red-breasted Merganser and Ringed Plover represent 6.8% and 2.3% of the respective all-Ireland totals. The site has several important populations of breeding birds, most notably colonies of Sandwich Tern (81 pairs in 1995) and Common Tern (98 pairs in 1995 on Green Island and 46 pairs in 2001 on Mutton Island). A large Cormorant colony occurs on Deer Island - this had 200 pairs in 1985 and 300 pairs in 1989 (NPWS Site synopsis).

3.4 - Ecological communities whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Name of ecological community	Community qualifies under Criterion 2?	Description	Justification
Reefs [1170]	☑		Annex I (Habitats Directive)
Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]	☑		Annex I (Habitats Directive)
Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]	☑		Annex I (Habitats Directive)
Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]	☑		Annex I (Habitats Directive)
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	☑		Annex I (Habitats Directive)
Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]	☑		Annex I (Habitats Directive)
Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330]	☑		Annex I (Habitats Directive)
Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410]	☑		Annex I (Habitats Directive)
Coastal lagoons [1150]	☑		Annex I (Habitats Directive) Priority habitat
Zostera noltii community	☑	The site supports eelgrass	This habitat has a restricted distribution in Ireland. It is considered threatened on the Ospar list of threatened or declining habitats
Maerl dominated community	☑	The site supports areas of Maerl	This habitat is considered threatened on the Ospar list of threatened or declining habitats.
Mytilus edulis dominated community	☑	The site supports beds of both intertidal and subtidal Blue Mussel	M. edulis beds are included in the OSPAR (Annex V) list of threatened and declining species and habitats. ICES found sufficient evidence for the decline and threat of this habitat over the whole OSPAR area (ICES 2002).

Optional text box to provide further information

Inner Galway Bay Ramsar Site is part of the Galway Bay Complex SAC. The boundary of the SAC extends beyond the coastal habitats of the SPA and includes the following Annex I wetland habitats in: Turloughs [3180], Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210], Alkaline fens [7230]. While these habitats are not within the Ramsar site boundary they are an integral part of the Inner Galway Bay wetland complex.

Galway Bay South holds a very high number of littoral communities (12). They range from rocky terraces, to sandy beaches with rock or sand dunes behind. The intertidal sediments of Galway Bay support good examples of communities that are moderately exposed to wave action. A well-defined talitrid amphipod zone in the upper shore gives way to an intertidal, mid shore zone with sparse epifauna or infauna. On the lower, flat part of the shore, the tubes of the deposit-feeding terebellid worm, Lanice conchilega, are common on the surface. Nereid and cirratulid polychaete worms (Hediste diversicolor, Arenicola marina), small crustaceans and bivalves (Angulus tenuis, Cerastoderma edule and Macoma balthica) are present. The area has the country's only recorded example of the littoral community characterized by Fucus serratus with sponges, ascidians and red seaweeds on tide-swept lower eulittoral mixed substrata. This community has very high species richness (85 species), as do the sublittoral fringe communities on the Finavarra reef (88 species). The rare Purple Sea Urchin Paracentrotus lividus and the foliose red alga Phyllophora sicula are present at Finavarra, whereas the red alga Rhodymenia delicatula and the rare brown alga, Ascophyllum nodosum var. mackii, occur in Kinvarra and Muckinish Bays. Sublittorally, the area has a number of distinctive and important communities. Of particular note is that Ireland's only reported piddock (bivalve mollusc) bed thrives in the shallows of Aughinish Bay. The rare sponge, Mycale contarenii, is also found here. There is further interest in an extensive maerl bed of Phymatolithon calcareum which occurs in the strong tidal currents of Muckinish Bay. There is also maerl off Finavarra Point and in Kinvarra Bay (Lithothamnion corallioides, Lithophyllum dentatum and Lithophyllum fasciculatum). An oyster bed in Kinvarra Bay and seagrass (Zostera spp.) beds off Finavarra Point are also important features. Other significant habitats which occur include secondary maerl beds and communities strongly influenced by tidal streams.

Saltmarshes are frequent within this extensive coastal site, with both E.U. Habitats Directive types, 'Atlantic Salt Meadow' and 'Mediterranean Salt Meadow' well represented. Most of the saltmarshes are classified as the bay type, with the substrate being mud or mud/sand. There is one lagoon type and one estuary type. Lagoon saltmarshes are the rarest type found in Ireland. Shingle and stony beaches can be found throughout the site, with the best examples along the more exposed shores to the south and west of Galway city and to the north and east of Finavarra, Co. Clare. Soft coastal cliffs reaching heights in excess of 10m occur at Rusheen. An excellent range of lagoons of different types, sizes and salinities occurs within the site. This habitat is given priority status on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. One unusual type of lagoon, karstic rock lagoon, is particularly well represented.

4 - What is the Site like? (Ecological character description)

4.1 - Ecological character

Inner Galway Bay SAC is a large coastal site is of immense conservation importance. The site comprises the inner, shallow part of a large bay which is partially sheltered by the Aran Islands. The Burren karstic limestone fringes the southern sides and extends into the sublittoral. West of Galway city the bedrock geology is granite. There are numerous shallow and intertidal inlets on the eastern and southern sides, notably Muckinish, Aughinish and Kinvarra Bays. A number of small islands composed of glacial deposits are located along the eastern side. These include Eddy Island, Deer Island and Tawin Island. A diverse range of marine and coastal habitats, including several listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive, occur within the site, making the area of high scientific importance. The examples of shallow bays, reefs, lagoons and saltmarshes found within this site are amongst the best in the country. The site also has four Red Data Book plant species, plus a host of rare or scarce marine and lagoonal animal and plant species. Inner Galway Bay provides extensive good quality habitat for Common Seal. The seals use a range of haul-out sites distributed through the bay - these include inner Oranmore Bay, Rabbit Island, St. Brendan's Island, Tawin Island, Kinvarra Bay, Aughinish Bay and Ballyvaughan. It also provides optimum habitat for Otter. Further, Galway Bay is a very important ornithological site. The shallow waters provide excellent habitat for Great Northern Divers, Black-throated Divers, Scaup, Long-tailed Duck and Red-breasted Merganser. The intertidal areas and shoreline provides feeding and roosting habitat for wintering waterbirds such as Brent Goose, Golden Plover and Bar-tailed Godwit. Breeding birds are also of importance, with significant populations of Sandwich Terns and Common Terns. A large Cormorant colony occurs on Deer Island.

4.2 - What wetland type(s) are in the site?

Marine or coastal wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
A: Permanent shallow marine waters		1	1200	Representative
B: Marine subtidal aquatic beds (Underwater vegetation)	Eelgrass	0	12	Rare
E: Sand, shingle or pebble shores	Shingle shore	0	1	Representative
G: Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats		2	744	Representative
H: Intertidal marshes	Saltmarsh	3	290	Representative
J: Coastal brackish / saline lagoons	lagoon	4	76	Rare

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Other noteworthy plant species

Phylum	Scientific name	Position in range / endemism / other
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Atriplex portulacoides*	Locally rare
CHAROPHYTA/CHAROPHYCEAE	*Chara canescens*	Red Data charophyte in Ireland
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Crambe maritima*	Neat Threatened on Ireland's Red List
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Hyoscyamus niger*	Neat Threatened on Ireland's Red List
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	*Puccinellia distans distans*	Locally rare

Invasive alien plant species

Phylum	Scientific name	Impacts	Changes at RIS update
OCHROPHYTA/PHAEOPHYCEAE	*Sargassum muticum*	Potential	increase

Optional text box to provide further information

Henbane Hyoscyamus niger and Sea kale Crambe maritima are both recorded from this site. Both are ion Ireland's Red List of Vascular plants (Jackson et al, 2016) and classified as Near Threatened
Locally rare vascular plant species grow in saltmarsh areas within the site. These include Reflexed Saltmarsh-grass (Puccinellia distans) and Sea-purslane (Halimione portulacoides), which are both relatively rare in the western half of the country

The best example of all karstic lagoons in the country, Lough Murree, is found at this site. The flora of the habitat is rich and diverse, reflecting the range of salinities in the different lagoons. It is typically
brackish, with two species of Tasselweed (Ruppia spp.), two Red Data charophytes Chara canescens and Lamprothamnion papulosum, and Chaetomorpha linum, an alga (all lagoonal specialists). The fauna of the lagoon is also rich, diverse and lagoonal. At least 10 lagoonal specialist species were recorded in 1996 and 1998 from the combined habitat of all the lagoons, which is one of the highest number for any lagoonal habitat in the country. Many of the species appear to be rare. The lagoons within this site are excellent examples of the habitat type and of high conservation importance.

The rare brown alga, Ascophyllum nodosum var. mackii, occur in Kinvarra and Muckinish Bays.

4.3.2 - Animal species

Other noteworthy animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Pop. size	Period of pop. est.	% occurrence	Position in range /endemism/other
CHORDATA/AVES	*Ardea cinerea*	140			Occurs in nationally important numbers
CHORDATA/AVES	*Arenaria interpres*	261			Occurs in nationally important numbers
CHORDATA/AVES	*Charadrius hiaticula*	284			Occurs in nationally important numbers
CHORDATA/AVES	*Mergus serrator*	200			Occurs in nationally important numbers
PORIFERA/DEMOSPONGIAE	*Mycale contarenii*				Nationally rare
ECHINODERMATA/ECHINOIDEA	*Paracentrotus lividus*				Nationally rare
CHORDATA/AVES	*Pluvialis squatarola*	109			Occurs in nationally important numbers
CHORDATA/AVES	*Tringa nebularia*	44			Occurs in nationally important numbers

Optional text box to provide further information

Ireland's only reported piddock (bivalve mollusc) bed thrives in the shallows of Aughinish Bay. The rare sponge, Mycale contarenii, is also found here.

4.4 - Physical components

4.4.1 - Climate

Climatic region	Subregion
C: Moist Mid-Latitude climate with mild winters	Cfb: Marine west coast (Mild with no dry season, warm summer)

4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres): 0

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres): 2

Entire river basin ☐

Upper part of river basin ☐

Middle part of river basin ☐

Lower part of river basin ☐

More than one river basin ☐

Not in river basin ☐

Coastal ☑

4.4.3 - Soil

Mineral ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ○ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ◉

Organic ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○

No available information ☑

Are soil types subject to change as a result of changing hydrological conditions (e.g., increased salinity or acidification)? Yes ○ No ◉

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Usually permanent water present	

Source of water that maintains character of the site

Presence?	Predominant water source	Changes at RIS update
Water inputs from surface water	☐	unknown
Water inputs from groundwater	☐	unknown
Marine water	☑	unknown

Water destination

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Marine	unknown

Stability of water regime

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Water levels fluctuating (including tidal)	unknown

Please add any comments on the water regime and its determinants (if relevant). Use this box to explain sites with complex hydrology:

A number of streams and rivers drain into the Galway Bay. The main rivers are the Corrib, the Kilcolgan, Kilchreest and the Clarinbridge. The catchment for these watercourses which drain into Galway Bay is predominantly underlain by karstified limestone, including the northern part of the Burren in County Clare, and the groundwater and surface water systems in the area are closely interlinked.

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Significant erosion of sediments occurs on the site ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ○ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ◉

Significant accretion or deposition of sediments occurs on the site ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ○ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ◉

Significant transportation of sediments occurs on or through the site ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ○ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ◉

Sediment regime is highly variable, either seasonally or inter-annually ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ○ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ◉

Sediment regime unknown ☐

Please provide further information on sediment (optional):

Saltmarshes occur within the site, accretion and erosion are natural elements of Saltmarsh systems. The saltmarsh habitats including elements of erosion and accretion are described for a number of sites within this complex by McCrory & Lyle, 2009.

4.4.6 - Water pH

Alkaline (pH>7.4) ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○

Unknown ☐

4.4.7 - Water salinity

Euhaline/Eusaline (30-40 g/l) ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○

Unknown ☐

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Unknown ☑

Please provide further information on dissolved or suspended nutrients (optional):

Inner Galway Bay Ramsar site is assessed under the Water Framework Directive in the Galway Bay South East Catchment Report (EPA, 2021). For the 20 transitional waterbodies assessed, three (15%) are At Risk, 14 (70%) are in Review and three (15%) are Not At Risk. Murree Lough, Kinvarra Bay & Bridge Lough, Knockakilleen are the transitional waterbodies At Risk in Cycle 3. For the seven coastal waterbodies assessed one (11%) is At Risk, five (56%) are in Review and three (33%) are Not At Risk. Rincarna Pools North is the coastal waterbody At Risk in Cycle 3.
For transitional waterbodies the significant issues for waterbodies assessed as At Risk (EPA, 2021) are are unknown impacts (2 waterbodies) and nutrient pollution (1 waterbody). Unknown issues are impacting the only At Risk coastal waterbody (Rincarna Pools North) in the catchment.

4.4.9 - Features of the surrounding area which may affect the Site

Please describe whether, and if so how, the landscape and ecological characteristics in the area surrounding the Ramsar Site differ from the site itself: i) broadly similar ○ ii) significantly different ◉

Surrounding area has greater urbanisation or development ☑

Surrounding area has higher human population density ☑

Surrounding area has more intensive agricultural use ☑

Surrounding area has significantly different land cover or habitat types ☑

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Food for humans	Sustenance for humans (e.g., fish, molluscs, grains)	Medium

Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Erosion protection	Soil, sediment and nutrient retention	Medium
Pollution control and detoxification	Water purification/waste treatment or dilution	Medium
Climate regulation	Regulation of greenhouse gases, temperature, precipitation and other climactic processes	Low

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Recreational hunting and fishing	Medium
Spiritual and inspirational	Aesthetic and sense of place values	High
Scientific and educational	Long-term monitoring site	Medium

Supporting Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Biodiversity	Supports a variety of all life forms including plants, animals and microorganizms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems of which they form a part	High
Soil formation	Sediment retention	Medium
Nutrient cycling	Storage, recycling, processing and acquisition of nutrients	Medium

Within the site: 1000s

Outside the site: 1000s

Have studies or assessments been made of the economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by this Ramsar Site? Yes ○ No ○ Unknown ◉

4.5.2 - Social and cultural values

i) the site provides a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland ☐

ii) the site has exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland ☐

iii) the ecological character of the wetland depends on its interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples ☐

iv) relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland ☐

<no data available>

4.6 - Ecological processes

<no data available>

5 - How is the Site managed? (Conservation and management)

5.1 - Land tenure and responsibilities (Managers)

5.1.1 - Land tenure/ownership

Public ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
National/Federal government	☑	☐

Private ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Other types of private/individual owner(s)	☑	☐

Provide further information on the land tenure / ownership regime (optional):

All of the foreshore of Ireland is deemed owned by the State, unless a valid alternative title is provided. The foreshore of Ireland is classed as the land and seabed between the high water of ordinary or medium tides (shown HWM on Ordnance Survey maps) and the twelve-mile limit (12 nautical miles equals approximately 22.24 kilometers). Foreshore also covers tidal areas of rivers particularly estuaries (Housing.gov.ie).

5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any agency or organization responsible for managing the site:

National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS), Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
Galway County Council.
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment.
Marine Institute.

Provide the name and/or title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland:

Maurice Eakin

Postal address:

National Parks and Wildlife Service,
90 North King Street,
Smithfield, Dublin,
Ireland
D07 N7CV

E-mail address:

maurice.eakin@housing.gov.ie

5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

5.2.1 - Factors (actual or likely) adversely affecting the Site's ecological character

Human settlements (non agricultural)

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Commercial and industrial areas	Medium impact	Medium impact	☑	No change	☑	No change
Housing and urban areas	Medium impact	Medium impact	☑	No change	☑	No change

Agriculture and aquaculture

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Livestock farming and ranching	Medium impact	Medium impact	☑	No change	☑	No change
Marine and freshwater aquaculture	Medium impact	Medium impact	☑	No change	☑	No change

Transportation and service corridors

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Roads and railroads	Medium impact	Medium impact	☑	No change	☑	No change

Biological resource use

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	Low impact	Medium impact	☑	No change	☑	No change

Human intrusions and disturbance

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Recreational and tourism activities	Low impact	Low impact	☑	No change	☑	No change

Invasive and other problematic species and genes

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Invasive non-native/ alien species	unknown impact	unknown impact	☑	increase	☑	increase

Pollution

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Agricultural and forestry effluents	Low impact	Low impact	☑	No change	☑	No change
Industrial and military effluents	Low impact	Low impact	☑	No change	☑	No change

Climate change and severe weather

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Storms and flooding	Low impact	Medium impact	☑	No change	☐	No change

Please describe any other threats (optional):

Fishing and aquaculture are the main commercial activities within the site. A concern is that sewage effluent and detritus of the aquaculture industry could be deleterious to benthic communities. Reef and sediment communities are vulnerable to disturbance or compaction from tractors accessing oyster trestles. The Paracentrotus lividus populations have been shown to be vulnerable to over-fishing. Extraction of maerl in Galway Bay is a threat. Owing to the proximity of Galway city, shoreline and terrestrial habitats are under pressure from urban expansion and recreational activities. Eutrophication is probably affecting some of the lagoons and is a continued threat. Drainage is a general threat to the turlough and fen habitats. Bird populations may be disturbed by aquaculture activities.

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

Regional (international) legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
EU Natura 2000	Galway Bay Complex SAC 000268	https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/000268	whole
EU Natura 2000	Inner Galway Bay SPA 004031	https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/spa/004031	whole

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Wildfowl Sanctuary	Lough Rusheen	https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/wildfowl-sanctuaries	partly

Non-statutory designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Important Bird Area	Inner Galway Bay	http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/inner-galway-bay-iba - ireland	whole

5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

Ia Strict Nature Reserve ☐

Ib Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection ☐

II National Park: protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation ☐

III Natural Monument: protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features ☐

IV Habitat/Species Management Area: protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention ☑

V Protected Landscape/Seascape: protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation ☐

VI Managed Resource Protected Area: protected area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems ☐

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Legal protection

Measures	Status
Legal protection	Implemented

Habitat

Measures	Status
Catchment management initiatives/controls	Implemented
Land conversion controls	Implemented

Species

Measures	Status
Threatened/rare species management programmes	Implemented

Human Activities

Measures	Status
Regulation/management of wastes	Implemented
Regulation/management of recreational activities	Partially implemented
Fisheries management/regulation	Implemented
Harvest controls/poaching enforcement	Implemented
Research	Implemented

Other:

The Inner Galway Bay Ramsar site lies within the Galway Bay Complex SAC (000268) and Inner Galway Bay SPA (004031). Under European and national legislation, Ireland must maintain at favourable conservation status areas designated as Scientific Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites. Conservation objectives have been set for the Inner Galway Bay SAC and SPA and can be accessed on npws.ie (or specifically at: https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/spa/004031 and https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/000268.

Legislation in the Republic of Ireland affords protection to bird species outside of designated sites e.g. all wild bird species are afforded protection by The Wildlife Act 1976. Waterfowl shooting is under license only, managed by the National Parks & Wildlife Service.

5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? No

Has a management effectiveness assessment been undertaken for the site? Yes ○ No ◉

If the site is a formal transboundary site as indicated in section Data and location > Site location, are there shared management planning processes with another Contracting Party? Yes ○ No ◉

URL of site-related webpage (if relevant): https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? No need identified

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Water regime monitoring	Implemented
Water quality	Implemented
Plant community	Implemented
Plant species	Implemented
Animal community	Implemented
Birds	Implemented

A requirement of the Water Framework Directive is that benthic macro-invertebrates must be sampled from coastal and transitional waters at least twice within a river basin cycle (6 years) in order to classify these water bodies. The site is sampled and monitored under this programme.
As a EU Natura 2000 site, it is required under Article 12 and 17 of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives respectively, that the status and trends of the conservation objectives within the site are monitored and reported on every 6 years.
The site is monitored under the I-WEBS scheme.
The site is regularly inspected by the National Parks and Wildlife Service Conservation Rangers for the area.

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

Colhoun, K. and Cummins, S. 2013. Birds of conservation concern in Ireland 2014-2019. Irish Birds 9: 523-544.
EPA (2021) 3rd Cycle Draft Galway Bay South East Catchment Report (HA 29). Catchment Science & Management Unit Environmental Protection Agency
McCorry, M. & Ryle, T. (2009). Saltmarsh Monitoring Project 2007-2008. Volume 2. Unpublished report to the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin.
NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Galway Bay Complex SAC 000268., Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Galway Bay Complex SAC 000268. Supporting document - coastal habitats. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Galway Bay Complex SAC 000268. Supporting document - marine habitats. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Galway Bay Complex SAC 000268. Supporting document - turloughs. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Galway Bay Complex SAC 000268. Supporting document - lagoon habitats. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
NPWS (2015) Site Synopsis Galway Bay Complex SAC. Site Code: 000268.
NPWS (2019) Site Synopsis Galway Bay SPA. Site Code: 004031.
NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Inner Galway Bay SPA 004031. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
Marnell, F., Looney, D. & Lawton, C. (2019) Ireland Red List No. 12: Terrestrial Mammals. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of the Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Dublin, Ireland
Wyse Jackson, M., FitzPatrick, Ú., Cole, E., Jebb, M., McFerran, D., Sheehy Skeffington, M. & Wright, M. (2016) Ireland Red List No. 10: Vascular Plants. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Dublin, Ireland.
Lewis, L. J., Burke, B., Fitzgerald, N., Tierney, T. D. & Kelly, S. (2019) Irish Wetland Bird Survey: Waterbird Status and Distribution 2009/10-2015/16. Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 106. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Ireland
McCorry, M. & Ryle, T. (2009). Saltmarsh Monitoring Project 2007-2008. Unpublished report to the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin.
IUCN 2017. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2017-2. http://www.iucnredlist.org>. Downloaded on 14 October 2017.
BirdwatchIreland.ie
http://www.ramsar.org
http://eunis.eea.europa.eu
The Irish Wetland Bird Survey (I-WeBS).

6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

i. taxonomic lists of plant and animal species occurring in the site (see section 4.3)
<no file available>

ii. a detailed Ecological Character Description (ECD) (in a national format)
<no file available>

iii. a description of the site in a national or regional wetland inventory
<no file available>

iv. relevant Article 3.2 reports
<no file available>

v. site management plan
<no file available>

vi. other published literature
<no file available>

<no data available>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:


Cormorant at Inner Galway Bay (*Rebecca Teasdale, 24-02-2021*)


View of Inner Galway Bay (*Rebecca Teasdale, 24-02-2021*)


Flight over Inner Galway Bay (*Raymond Stephens , 20-01-2014*)


Flight over Inner Galway Bay (*Raymond Stephens , 20-01-2014*)


Flight over Inner Galway Bay (*Raymond Stephens , 20-01-2014*)


Flight over Inner Galway Bay (*Raymond Stephens , 20-01-2014*)


Flight over Inner Galway Bay (*Raymond Stephens , 20-01-2014*)


Flight over Inner Galway Bay (*Raymond Stephens , 20-01-2014*)


Flight over Inner Galway Bay (*Raymond Stephens , 20-01-2014*)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation 1996-06-07