



Marine Notice No. 80 of 2023

Notice to all Shipowners, Fishing Vessel Owners, Agents, Shipmasters, Skippers, Fishers, Yachtsmen and Seafarers

North-West Irish Sea Proposed Classification as Special Protection Area

1. Notice

The Department of Transport has been advised by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage of the planned classification of the **North-West Irish Sea 0004236** as a Special Protection Area (SPA). Please see coordinates provided for this proposed SPA in the table below. A map of the proposed area can be found in Appendix 1 to this Marine Notice. Further information on this proposal can also be found on the [NPWS website](#).

Latitude	Longitude
53° 50' 53" N	005° 43' 38" W
53° 47' 54" N	005° 30' 27" W
53° 19' 43" N	005° 32' 45" W

2. Activities Requiring Consent

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage has issued a Direction in respect of certain activities (Activities Requiring Consent) which must not be undertaken within the site without permission having first been obtained from the Minister. The list of these activities relating to this SPA can be found in Appendix 2 to this document.

3. Observations and Objections

Observations in relation to the classification of the site may be submitted by interested parties and must be supported by scientifically based ornithological criteria and can be emailed to sitedesignations@npws.gov.ie or sent to:

- Designations Unit,
National Parks and Wildlife Service,
90 King Street North,
Dublin 7
D07 N7CV

Any objections to the classification of the site as a SPA or the Ministerial Direction may be lodged with the NPWS. Details for the objection process can be found in Appendix 3 to this document.

Enquiries regarding the contents of this Marine Notice, or any other relevant matters, should be directed to NPWS at contact details outlined above.

The closing date for receipt of any observations or objections is **19 February 2024**.

Note: Marine Notices are issued purely for maritime safety and navigation reasons and should not be construed as conferring rights or granting permissions.

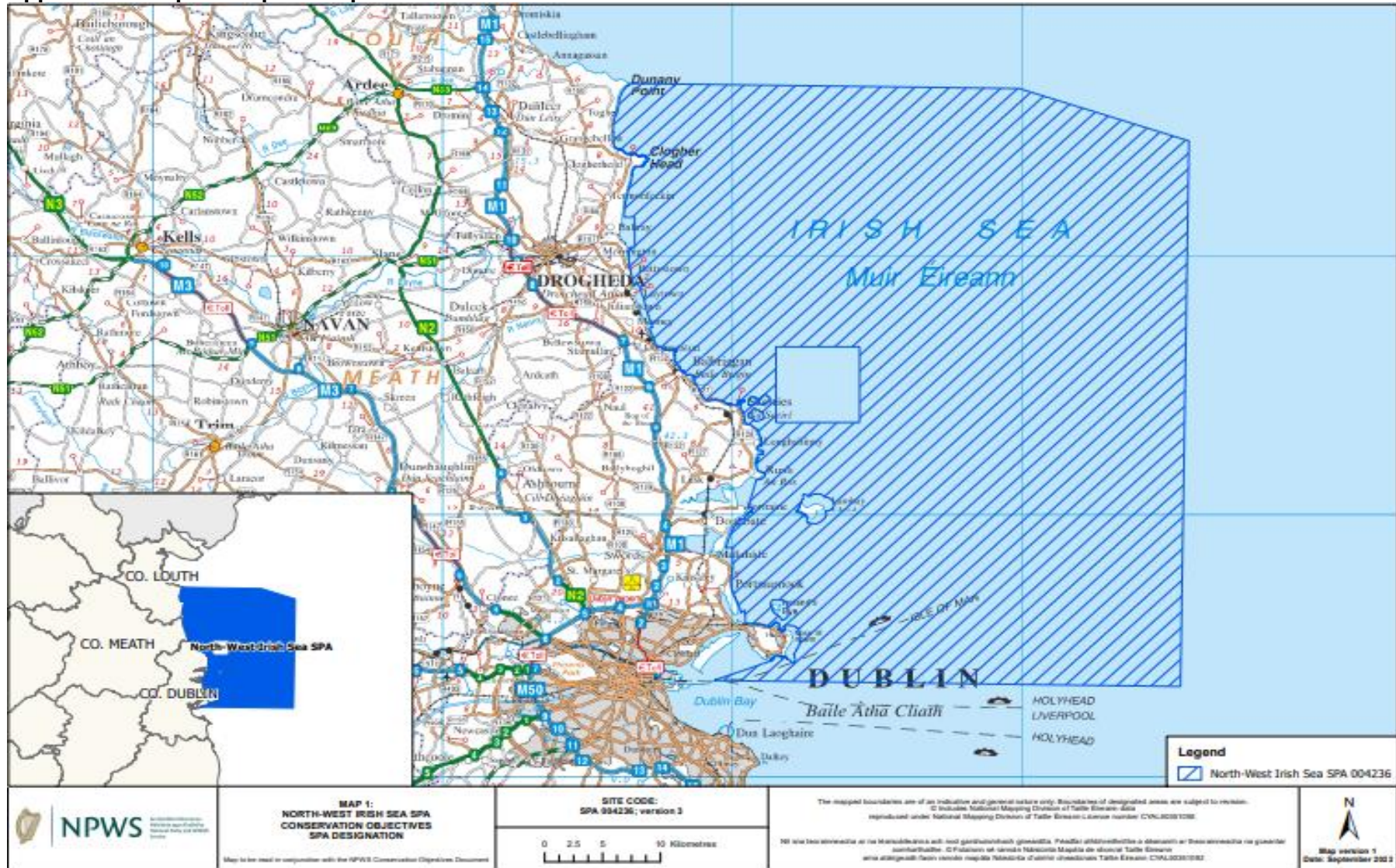
Irish Maritime Administration,
Department of Transport,
Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, D02 TR60, Ireland.

06/12/2023

Encl: Appendix 1: Map of Proposed Special Protection Area 004236
Appendix 2: Activities Requiring Consent (ARCs)
Appendix 3: Objections Process

For any technical assistance in relation to this Marine Notice, please contact:
The Marine Survey Office, email: MSO@transport.gov.ie.
For general enquiries, please contact the Maritime Safety Policy Division, email:
MaritimeSafetyPolicyDivision@transport.gov.ie.
Written enquiries concerning Marine Notices should be addressed to:
Dept. of Transport, Maritime Safety Policy Division, Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, D02 TR60, Ireland.
email: MarineNotices@transport.gov.ie or visit us at: www.gov.ie/transport.

Appendix 1: Map of Proposed Special Protection Area 004236



Appendix 2: Activities Requiring Consent (ARCs)

ARC 01	Reclamation, including infilling.
ARC 03	Blasting, drilling, dredging or otherwise removing or disturbing fossils, rock, minerals, mud, sand, gravel or other sediment.
ARC 06	Introduction, or re-introduction, of plants or animals not found in the area. [Consent is not required for the planting of crops on established reseeded grassland or cultivated land.]
ARC 08	Undertaking scientific research involving the collection and removal of biological material.
ARC 30	Any activity intended to disturb birds, including by mechanical, air, gas, wind powered or audible means.
ARC 31	Developing or consenting to the development or operation of commercial recreational/visitor facilities or organised recreational activities.
ARC 35	Undertaking active acoustic surveys in the marine environment.

Appendix 3: Objections Process

Any person who feels that their interests may be affected by the classification of the site as a SPA may lodge an objection. Any objections, which must be on scientifically based ornithological criteria, must be lodged within three months of the date of this notification. Therefore, the final date for receipt of an objection to this proposal is **Monday, 19 February 2024**. The objection should include a map showing the location of the property/area in question and should be accompanied by a declaration made by the person objecting stating that the person -

- a) has or is entitled to an interest in or over the area comprising the site or
- b) has or is entitled to an interest in or over an area outside the site whose interest may potentially be affected by the proposal.

The declaration must state the nature of the interest.

Stage 1 - Internal Review

Stage 1 (internal review) is conducted by the National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS). Any objections must be made by email to objections@npws.gov.ie or by writing to the address below. All objections must be clearly headed **Objection - 004236**.

- Objections Section - Designations Unit
National Parks and Wildlife Service
90 King Street North
Dublin 7
D07 N7CV

Most objections are dealt with at internal review stage. Adjustments to boundaries can only be made on scientific grounds.

Stage 2 - Referral of Objection to Advisory Board

This option is available only where an objection is unsuccessful at the internal review stage. The appellant will be informed of the outcome of the internal review and will be given the option of appealing the outcome to the Designated Areas Appeals Advisory Board. The Board is comprised of an independent chairperson and equal representation of interested parties, groups and conservationists. In deciding Stage 2 objections, the Minister will be advised by this Board.

The Board must confine itself to consideration of the scientific arguments only relating to the specific area. In this regard, a scientific report from a suitably qualified expert is required. Some grant assistance is available towards an appellant's costs for the expert engaged in the production of a scientific report. A list which details some independent experts who can provide assistance in drawing up the scientific evidence on which it is intended to base the appeal will be provided. An appellant is free to engage the services of an expert other than those listed on the panel.