

Appendix B: Relevant European Sites

Table B1 Underpinning Conditions and Threats to Qualifying Interests of SACs (European sites within 15km of the site are shown in Figure 1).		
Site name and code	Reasons for designation¹ (*= Priority Habitat) (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives Generic Version 3.0 for cSACs and 4.0 for SPAs, unless otherwise stated)	
<i>Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)</i>		
Great Island Channel SAC (001058)	<p><u>Annex I Habitats:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] ▪ Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] 	Infilling of Intertidal mudflats, Pollution from upstream urbanisation, hard coastal developments. Disturbance from recreational activities at coast and offshore.
Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC (002170)	<p><u>Annex I Habitats:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Estuaries [1130] ▪ Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] ▪ Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] ▪ Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] ▪ Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] ▪ Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] ▪ Water courses of plain to montane levels with the 	Grazing, Sand & Gravel extraction - Removal of Beach materials, Walking horse riding - non motorised vehicles, outdoor sports & motorised vehicles, other leisure & tourism impacts, Trampling overuse, sea defences & coastal protection works. Erosion, Walking horse riding and non-motorised vehicles, Grazing, Undergrazing, Invasion by a species, , Camping/Caravans, Agricultural Improvement/Restructuring agricultural land holdings, Stock Feeding, , Paths Tracks & Cycling Routes, Golf Courses, Fertilisation.

¹ “Qualifying Interests” for cSACs and “Special Conservation Interests” for SPAs based on relevant Statutory Instruments for each SPA, and NPWS Conservation Objectives for cSACs downloaded from www.npws.ie in April 2014.

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	<p>Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] ▪ Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] ▪ <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles [91J0] <p><u>Annex II Species:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] ▪ <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092] ▪ <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095] ▪ <i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey) [1096] ▪ <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099] ▪ <i>Alosa fallax fallax</i> (Twait Shad) [1103] ▪ <i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106] ▪ <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355] ▪ <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (Killarney Fern) [1421] 	

Table B2 Underpinning Conditions and Threats to Qualifying Interests of Cork Harbour SPA

Site Name and Code	Qualifying Interests	Threats to Irish Wintering Populations (Except Common Tern) (Birdlife, 2012)
Cork Harbour SPA (4030)	<p><u>Over-wintering populations of international importance:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> <p><u>Over-wintering populations of national importance:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Crested Grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> • Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> • Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> • Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i> • Gadwall <i>Anas strepera</i> • Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> • Northern Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> • Northern Shoveller <i>Anas clypeata</i> • Red-breasted Merganser <i>Mergus serrator</i> • Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> • Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> • Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i> • Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> • Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> <p>Greenshank <i>Tringa nebularia</i></p>	<p><u>All species:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change altering breeding/wintering habitat and feeding resources • Habitat Loss (particularly reclamation of coastal areas) • Flood Alleviation measures leading to changes in tidal regime • Water Pollution • Coastal barrage construction • Human disturbance including construction, vehicles, walkers and dogs • Over-fishing • Soil erosion • Extreme weather events and cold temperatures • Hunting • Windfarm collisions • Avian Botulism <p><u>Species-specific:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thinning of egg shells due to chemical pollution (Common Tern); • Egg predation by rats, Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i> and foxes <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> (Common Tern); • Persecution by aquaculture industry (Cormorant & Grey Heron); • Over-fishing of Benthic shellfish (Oystercatcher).

