



# Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 7 March 2023

Update version, previously published on : 11 June 1996

## Ireland

### Dungarvan Harbour



Designation date	7 June 1996
Site number	839
Coordinates	52°04'42"N 07°36'25"W
Area	1 074,00 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

Dungarvan Harbour is located in the south-west of Co. Waterford. It is a large east-facing C-shaped harbour, extending east as far as Ballynacourty Point in the north and Helvick Head in the south. A narrow north-south shingle spit (Cunnigar Spit), which almost divides the bay in two, provides very sheltered conditions for the inner part of the site. The bay is essentially the estuaries of three main rivers, the Brickey, the Colligan and the Glendine. The River Colligan, which runs south from the Comeragh Mountains, enters the north side of Dungarvan Bay at Dungarvan Town. The River Brickey enters the harbour in the west and the River Glendine enters in the northeast. As these three rivers are relatively small, freshwater input relative to the size of the site is low, resulting in a largely marine-influenced coastal bay.

Dungarvan Harbour Ramsar Site is comprised of extensive intertidal mud and sand flat habitat, pockets of saltmarsh habitat and open subtidal waters. The intertidal habitats are divided by the Cunnigar sand dune spit. The sheltered waters to the west of the spit support intertidal mud and muddy sands while the intertidal habitat to the east are exposed sand flats. An area of mixed sediment shore extends across sandflats on the northern side of the bay. The intertidal habitats of the site support a diverse macro-invertebrate fauna, and provide important foraging and roosting habitat for waterbirds including migratory populations which winter in Ireland.

Dungarvan Harbour is designated as a Special Protection Area owing to the presence of nationally and internationally important populations of migratory waterbirds and/or species listed on Annex I of E.U. Birds Directive. Under this designation the wetland habitat is also protected as a resource for the regularly-occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it. According to the I-WeBS data (2010-2015) internationally important populations of Light-bellied Brent Goose and Black-tailed Godwit and nationally important populations of numerous species occur at the site, including a number of species that are listed on Annex I of the Birds Directive e.g. Dunlin, Golden Plover and Bar-tailed Godwit.

Dungarvan Harbour has the largest area of oyster cultivation in Ireland.

## 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

To year

#### 2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)

Unofficial name (optional)

#### 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 No change to area

(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?

## 2.2 - Site location

### 2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image  
<2 file(s) uploaded>

Former maps

Boundaries description

The boundary of Dungarvan Bay Ramsar site was delineated as the same boundary as the original Special Protection Area in 1994 (but the latter was subsequently enlarged). The Ramsar site is now smaller than the current SPA and is focused on the intertidal habitats within the larger SPA. While smaller than the SPA, the Ramsar site is an integral part of the wider wetland complex which is an SPA. Details of the SPA can be viewed here: <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/spa/004032>.

Within the Ramsar site area a number of GIS data layers were used to define the Ramsar habitats. These included:

- 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.
- NPWS data layers: Saltmarsh habitats and Marine communities.

The mapped layers were 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.

The mapped area, as calculated from the GIS boundary, differs slightly from the official boundary of the Ramsar site. This is due to historic mapping issues generally as a result of differing mapping projections.

### 2.2.2 - General location

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

b) What is the nearest town or population centre?

### 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):

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

### 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

### 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

Dungarvan Harbour is an expansive coastal bay located on the south coast of Ireland. It supports extensive intertidal and coastal habitats which are important for storm protection (mitigation of flooding and coastal erosion). The coastal, intertidal and estuarine habitats and the communities (plant and invertebrate) which they support are important for nutrient cycling, carbon sequestration and sediment trapping. While the estuarine influence at this site is limited in extent, estuarine systems are important for the the cycling of carbon and nutrients and have a role in climate regulation.

Other ecosystem services provided

Dungarvan Harbour is important for food provisioning (oyster cultivation) recreation (e.g. open water swimming), tourism and scientific research (studies of wintering birds). The local community and relevant stakeholders from industry, business, tourism, recreation, nature and heritage have developed a partnership called Dungarvan Harbour Partnership to help protect water quality and biodiversity and initiate climate actions.

Other reasons

Dungarvan Harbour Ramsar Site contains representative and natural examples of marine habitats and natural wetland types within the Atlantic biogeographic region, i.e. estuaries, intertidal mudflats and sandflats and saltmarsh. The diversity of interconnected wetland habitats both within the Ramsar Site and within the wider coastal complex (i.e. permanent shallow marine waters, intertidal marshes, sand and shingle shores) make it a significant site for the maintenance of regional biodiversity.

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 IWebs 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. Shoveler, Barnacle Goose, Red Knot.

The site supports an area of eelgrass (*Zostera noltii*). Eelgrass has a restricted distribution in Ireland and in the biogeographical area, it is considered threatened on the Oskar list of threatened or declining habitats and is an important food resource for waterbirds. Pockets of saltmarsh habitat, which has a restricted distribution within the biogeographical area is also present within the site.

Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

Justification

This site contains a range of coastal habitats which are representative of the biogeographical region. The diversity of interconnected wetland habitats (permanent shallow marine waters, intertidal mud and sand flats, estuarine waters, pockets of saltmarsh habitat) within the site make it a significant site for the maintenance of regional biodiversity.

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 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 and saltmarsh habitat, together with inshore waters provide important resting and roosting habitat for waterbirds.

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).

Black-tailed Godwit winter at this site in numbers of international importance. There are four populations of the Black-tailed Godwit in Western Eurasia and Africa and one of these, *Limosa limosa islandica*, breeds almost exclusively in Iceland and winters in Ireland, Britain, France, Portugal, Spain and Morocco (Lewis et al, 2019).

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

### 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 <sup>1)</sup>	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
<b>Birds</b>																	
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Anas acuta</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	2011-2015		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Red-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	National (BoCCI) classification, part of wintering assemblage
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6	2011-2015			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Red-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	National (BoCCI) classification, part of wintering assemblage
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Anas crecca</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	354	2011-2015		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	Part of wintering assemblage, maintaining biodiversity

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence <sup>1)</sup>	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Anas penelope</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	274	2011-2015			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Red-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	National (BoCCI) classification, part of wintering assemblage
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1298	2011-2015	3.2		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1% criteria and Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	Internationally important numbers of the Canadian population of Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> , part of wintering assemblage
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	2011-2015		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	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	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	2011-2015		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Red-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	National (BoCCI) classification, part of wintering assemblage
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1810	2011-2015		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Red-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	National (BoCCI) classification, part of wintering assemblage
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	481	2011-2015		NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	Part of wintering assemblage, maintaining biodiversity
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	2011-2015		VU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	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	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	2011-2015		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	Part of wintering assemblage, maintaining biodiversity
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9	2011-2015		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Listed on Annex I (Birds Directive),	Annex I Birds Directive listing, part of wintering assemblage.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	17	2011-2015		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	Part of wintering assemblage, maintaining biodiversity
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Gavia immer</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	12	2011-2015		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	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 classification, part of wintering assemblage.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	2011-2015		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	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	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	877	2011-2015		NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013), and Vulnerable classification IUCN Europe region)	IUCN classification, part of wintering assemblage.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1111	2011-2015		NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Listed on Annex I (Birds Directive), Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	Part of wintering assemblage, maintaining biodiversity
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	912	2011-2015	1.5		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	Internationally important numbers of the Icelandic population of Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> , part of wintering assemblage
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	571	2011-2015		NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	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	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	77	2011-2015		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	Part of wintering assemblage, maintaining biodiversity
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2717	2011-2015		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	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.

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence <sup>1)</sup>	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	68	2011-2015		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	Part of wintering assemblage, maintaining biodiversity
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7	2011-2015		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	Part of wintering assemblage, maintaining biodiversity
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	311	2011-2015		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	Part of wintering assemblage, maintaining biodiversity
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	885	2011-2015		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Red-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	National (BoCCI) classification, part of wintering assemblage.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1337	2011-2015		NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	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. Dungarvan Harbour is an 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.

Dungarvan Harbour is a designated Special Protection Area due to the presence of the following species listed on Annex I of EU Birds Directive and/or regularly occurring migratory species: Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*), Light - bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*), Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*), Red - breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*), Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*), Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*), Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*), Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*), Knot (*Calidris canutus*), Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*), Black - tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*), Bar - tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*), Curlew (*Numenius arquata*), Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) and Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*). Under the SPA designation the wetland habitat is also protected as a resource for the regularly-occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it.

I-WeBS data (from the period 2006/07 to 2015/16) lists internationally important populations of the Black-tailed Godwit and Light - bellied Brent Goose occurring at the site. Black-tailed godwit is deemed Vulnerable in Europe and Near threatened globally (IUCN), it has undergone rapid declines due to changes in agricultural practices. Light - bellied Brent Goose is Amber-listed in Ireland (Birdwatch.ie); the European population is Vulnerable as several important populations declined (IUCN). I-WeBS data lists nationally important populations of Great Crested Grebe, Shelduck, Red-breasted Merganser, Oystercatcher, Golden Plover, Grey Plover, Lapwing, Knot, Dunlin, Bar-tailed Godwit, Curlew, Redshank, Turnstone and the Teal (*Anas crecca*). All but two (Red-breasted Merganser, Turnstone) of these birds are listed as Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland. The Dunlin, Golden Plover and Bar-tailed Godwit are of particular note as these species are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive.

The Bar-tailed Godwit population is stable in Europe but declining globally (Near threatened); Red-breasted Merganser is Near Threatened within Europe and has undergone moderately rapid declines; the Oystercatcher is Vulnerable in Europe and Near threatened globally as the species is undergoing rapid population declines across the European part of its extremely large global range, the overall population trend is decreasing; the Lapwing is Near Threatened within Europe and Vulnerable globally, and is suspected to be decreasing at a moderately rapid rate; the Knot is deemed to be Near Threatened globally; the Bar-tailed Godwit population is stable in Europe but declining and Near threatened globally (IUCN).

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



RIS for Site no. 839, Dungarvan Harbour, Ireland

Name of ecological community	Community qualifies under Criterion 2?	Description	Justification
[1140] Tidal Mudflats and Sandflats	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Extensive within the site	Annex I (EU Habitats Directive)
Zostera noltii community	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The site supports a small area of eelgrass	This habitat has a restricted distribution in Ireland. It is considered threatened on the Oskar list of threatened or declining habitats. Important food resource for waterbirds. Restricted distribution in the biogeographical area
Saltmarsh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pockets of saltmarsh are present where the rivers enter the site.	This community has a restricted distribution within the biogeographical range.

[Optional text box to provide further information](#)

Even though this site is not a Special Area of Conservation marine intertidal and subtidal habitats within the site were monitored in 2016 as part of programme of monitoring of marine Annex I habitats under Article 17 of the EU Habitats Directive.

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

### 4.1 - Ecological character

The site is characterised by the estuaries of three rivers and an extensive area of mudflats and sandflats. A narrow north-south shingle spit (Cunnigar Spit), which almost divides the bay in two, provides very sheltered conditions for the inner part of the site. A community of Eel grass (*Zostera noltii*) occurs in the sheltered inner section of the bay. This community once occurred on the more exposed seaward side of the spit but now appears to be absent. Commercial Oyster farming currently occurs along the entire seaward face of the Cunnigar Spit and this has severely impacted the structure and function of this section of the site. Pockets of saltmarsh fringe sections of the site, particularly at the locations where the three rivers enter the site.

### 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				
B: Marine subtidal aquatic beds (Underwater vegetation)				
E: Sand, shingle or pebble shores				
F: Estuarine waters	Estuarine waters	3	46	Representative
G: Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats	Intertidal mud, sand, or salt flat	1	1026.5	Representative
H: Intertidal marshes	Intertidal Marshes	4	1.5	Representative

### 4.3 - Biological components

#### 4.3.1 - Plant species

Other noteworthy plant species

Phylum	Scientific name	Position in range / endemism / other
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Crambe maritima</i>	

Optional text box to provide further information

Sea kale (*Crambe maritima*) occurs at this site. This vascular plant is associated with shingle habitat which lies outside of the Ramsar site boundary, but is an integral part of this coastal wetland complex. Sea Kale is listed as Near Threatened in Ireland due to a decline in area of occupancy; future population reduction is anticipated (Wyse-Jackson et al, 2016).

#### 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	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	207	2011-2015		Occurs in nationally important numbers
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	100	2011-2015		Occurs in nationally important numbers
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	49	2011-2015		Occurs in nationally important numbers
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	213	2011-2015		Occurs in nationally important numbers

### 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)

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres)

- 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

Please name the river basin or basins. If the site lies in a sub-basin, please also name the larger river basin. For a coastal/marine site, please name the sea or ocean.

Irish Sea

#### 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	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change
Marine water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change

##### Water destination

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Marine	No change

##### Stability of water regime

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Water levels fluctuating (including tidal)	No change

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

Three rivers flow into Dungarvan Harbour - the Colligan River, which runs south from the Comeragh Mountains, enters the bay by Dungarvan town, the River Brickey, which flows into the harbour from the west, and the Glendine River which enters from the north. The absence of a large river entering the site means that the bay is essentially a marine habitat, although it dries out at low tide to give extensive mud and sand flats.

#### 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

Sediment regime unknown

Please provide further information on sediment (optional):

Small areas of saltmarsh occur within the site, although more extensive areas occur just outside the margins of site. Accretion and erosion are natural elements of Saltmarsh systems (NPWS, 2013).

#### 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

Please provide further information on salinity (optional):

Three rivers run into the site and the site includes the tidal sections of the River Brickey, however as these three rivers are relatively small, freshwater input relative to the size of the site is low, resulting in a largely marine-influenced site.

#### 4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Unknown

#### 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

Please describe other ways in which the surrounding area is different:

The land bordering the site is dominated by improved agricultural grassland with pockets of woodland and scrub. The large urban town of Dungarvan dominates the north-western section of the site.

### 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)	Low
Wetland non-food products	Other	High

##### Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Erosion protection	Soil, sediment and nutrient retention	Low
Pollution control and detoxification	Water purification/waste treatment or dilution	Low
Climate regulation	Local climate regulation/buffering of change	Low
Climate regulation	Regulation of greenhouse gases, temperature, precipitation and other climactic processes	Low
Hazard reduction	Flood control, flood storage	Medium
Hazard reduction	Coastal shoreline and river bank stabilization and storm protection	Medium

##### Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Picnics, outings, touring	Medium
Recreation and tourism	Nature observation and nature-based tourism	Medium
Recreation and tourism	Water sports and activities	Medium
Scientific and educational	Important knowledge systems, importance for research (scientific reference area or site)	Medium
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 microorganisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems of which they form a part	Medium
Soil formation	Sediment retention	Low
Soil formation	Accumulation of organic matter	Low
Nutrient cycling	Storage, recycling, processing and acquisition of nutrients	Low
Nutrient cycling	Carbon storage/sequestration	Low

Within the site:

Outside the site:

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Private ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Other types of private/individual owner(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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.  
 Waterford 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
Housing and urban areas	High impact	unknown impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change
Tourism and recreation areas	Medium impact	unknown impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	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	unknown impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change
Marine and freshwater aquaculture	High impact	unknown impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	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	High impact		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	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	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

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	Dungarvan Harbour Special Protection Area. Site Code:004032	<a href="https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/spa/004032">https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/spa/004032</a>	whole

Non-statutory designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Important Bird Area	Dungarvan Harbour	<a href="http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/dungarvan-harbour-iba-ireland">http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/dungarvan-harbour-iba-ireland</a>	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	Implemented
Fisheries management/regulation	Implemented
Harvest controls/poaching enforcement	Implemented
Research	Implemented

Other:

The Dungarvan Harbour Ramsar site lies within the Dungarvan SPA (004032). Under European and national legislation, Ireland must maintain at favourable conservation status sites designated as 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 for this SPA are listed below (further detail can be accessed at <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/spa/004032>):

- To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA; and Wetlands [A999].

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.

Dungarvan Harbour is routinely surveyed as part of I-WeBS which provides comprehensive counts of the bird species using the site.

### 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

### 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
Birds	Implemented
Animal community	Implemented

Even though this site is not a Special Area of Conservation marine intertidal and subtidal habitats within the site were monitored in 2016 as part of programme of monitoring of marine Annex I habitats under Article 17 of the EU Habitats Directive.

The site is monitored by the National parks and Wildlife Service Conservation Rangers for the area on a regular basis.

Regular bird counts are undertaken under the I-WeBS scheme.



## 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.

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

NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives: Dungarvan Harbour SPA 004032. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2015) Dungarvan Harbour SPA 004032 Natura 2000 Form. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2014) Site Synopsis for Dungarvan Harbour SPA 004032. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2011) Conservation objectives supporting document for Dungarvan Harbour SPA 004032. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Gittings, T. & O'Donoghue, P.D. (2012). The effects of intertidal oyster culture on the spatial distribution of waterbirds. Report prepared for the Marine Institute. Atkins, Cork

IUCN 2014. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2014.2. . Downloaded on June 2017.

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. BirdwatchIreland.ie  
<http://wpe.wetlands.org>  
<http://irishwetlands.ie>  
[http:// www.ramsar.org](http://www.ramsar.org)  
<http://eunis.eea.europa.eu>  
 The Irish Wetland Bird Survey (IWeBS).

#### 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:



Dungarvan Harbour ( NPWS, 06-06-2017 )



Dungarvan Harbour ( NPWS, 06-06-2017 )



Dungarvan Harbour ( NPWS, 06-06-2017 )



Dungarvan Harbour ( NPWS, 06-06-2017 )



Dungarvan Harbour ( NPWS, 06-06-2017 )



Dungarvan Harbour ( NPWS, 06-06-2017 )

#### 6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation