Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 7 March 2023
Update version, previously published on : 11 June 1996

Ireland

Lough Corrib

Designation date	7 June 1996
Site number	846
Coordinates	53°26'49"N 09°14'45"W
Area	17 728,00 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

Lough Corrib is situated to the north of Galway city, in the west of Ireland. It is the second largest lake in Ireland, with an area of approximately 18,240 ha (the entire site is 20,556 ha). The lake can be divided into two parts: a relatively shallow basin, underlain by Carboniferous limestone, in the south, and a larger, deeper basin, underlain by more acidic granite, schists, shales and sandstones to the north. The surrounding lands to the south and east are mostly pastoral farmland, while bog and heath predominate to the west and north. The main inflowing rivers are the Black, Clare, Dooghta, Cregg, Owenriff and the channel from Lough Mask. The main outflowing river is the Corrib, which reaches the sea at Galway City.

Lough Corrib is one the best examples of a large lacustrine catchment system in Ireland and is of significant ecological importance for the diversity and range of inland wetland habitats and species that it supports. Lake habitats include open water (oligotrophic waters, oligotrophic to mesotrophic, hard oligo-mesotrophic waters) along with riparian freshwater marsh, fen, wet meadow and reedswamp. Freshwater animal and plant species include: Atlantic Salmon, Lamprey, Brown Trout, European Eel, White-clawed crayfish, Otter, several species of Stonewort and Slender Naiad. Freshwater pearl mussel is present in the associated Owenriff catchment. The Ramsar site is important for wintering birds, regularly supporting at least 18,000 waterbirds with several duck and wader species occurring in nationally important numbers. It is also important for breeding birds including several which are nationally threatened. The complex of wetland habitats provides important foraging, roosting, and nesting habitat for the diversity of animals which the site supports.

Lough Corrib has been designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) under the EU Habitats Directive. The SAC includes 15 Annex I habitats, six of which are priority habitats, and nine Annex II species. The lake is a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the EU Birds Directive and is designated for wintering duck, Hen Harrier (winter roost site) and for breeding gulls, terns and Common Scoter.

The Ramsar site is important for recreation and tourism and is a nationally important angling location. Key pressures on its ecological status include habitat loss and change, water quality deterioration and colonisation by invasive species.

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 Servic
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	2004
To year	2019

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)	Lough Corrib
Unofficial name (optional)	Loch Coirib

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?	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 boundary of Lough Corrib Ramsar site was delineated as the same boundary as the original Special Protection Area in 1995 (but the latter was subsequently enlarged). This site is contained within the boundaries of both the EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) Special Protection Area for Lough Corrib and the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) boundary for Lough Corrib SAC. Although the Ramsar site is smaller and focused on the open water habitats of Lough Corrib it is an integral part of the wider wetland complex that is SPA and SAC. Details of the SAC/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 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? West (NUTS 3)

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): 17728

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from GIS boundaries: 17724.451

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
Marine Ecoregions of the World (MEOW)	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	As the majority of the site also occurs over low lying carboniferous limestone, the site is an excellent example of an inland karst hydrological system that supplies the extensive surface wetlands associated with the site. The ecological character of the Lough Corrib Ramsar site plays a significant role in the natural functioning of the Loughs Carra/Mask and Corrib system. It plays a major role in the natural control and prevention of flooding within the western region. Lough Corrib is important for seasonal water retention for wetlands and has a major hydrological influence in the context of maintaining wetland and peatland systems within the Ramsar site and in the surrounding area.
Other ecosystem services provided	The site provides a range of additional ecosystem services: • Nationally important site for angling • Of considerable importance for biodiversity with many examples of important habitats and species within and/or an integral part of the wider wetland complex • Provides connectivity for between wetland, terrestrial, coastal and marine habitats and species (e.g. fish migration, foraging Lesser Horseshoe bat, movement of birds between Lough Corrib, Mask and Carra). • Source of freshwater for drinking • Site for the study of natural and semi natural habitats and the populations of threatened and invasive species.

☑ 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

☑ Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

Justification	The site supports an excellent diversity of habitats and species within the region (birds, plants, mammals, fish, habitats). There are significant and extensive inland wetland habitats and the most extensive beds of Stoneworts (Chara species) in Ireland. These stonewort beds are of importance in maintaining the biodiversity, structure and function of the site and provide a food source for waterbirds. 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 freshwater habitats at this support important populations of over wintering waterbirds. The freshwater habitats at this site largely remain ice free over the winter and provide a key feeding resource for wintering waterbirds. The open waters, sheltered bays and inlets also provide important roosting habitat. The site provides critical nesting and foraging habitat for Common Scoter and for breeding terns and gulls which nest on the islands. Breeding waders are also associated with this site, species such as Curlew, Redshank and Lapwing which have undergone dramatic declines in their breeding numbers nationally (Lauder and Lauder, 2020).

☑ Criterion 7 : Significant and representative fish

Justification

White-clawed Crayfish (Austropotamobius pallipes), listed on Annex II and V of the E.U. Habitats Directive; also listed on Appendix III of the Bern Convention. The species is well distributed throughout Lough Corrib and its in-flowing rivers over limestone. The White-clawed Crayfish is a globally threatened species and Ireland holds one of the largest surviving populations. It is the only freshwater crayfish species found in Ireland and is present in lakes, rivers and streams over much of the island. Throughout its European range, this species has been decimated by the impact of Crayfish Plague which spread to Europe with the introduction of North American species of crayfish. Until 2015, Ireland was considered free of the disease, however since then two confirmed cases of the disease have occurred (http://www.biodiversityireland.ie). Ireland remains the only European country without any established non-native crayfish species. The species is listed as Endangered globally by ICUN; the EU conservation status for the species is Unfavorable-Bad within Alpine. Atlantic, Continental and Mediterranean Regions

Lough Corrib is an important site for brown trout which spawn in the streams and rivers which enter the lake; the lake itself provides an important foraging resource. The Irish brown trout population is classified as Least Concern (Irish and IUCN Red Lists). Recent genetic research has shown distinct sub-populations of wild Irish brown trout, which spawn in specific in-flowing rivers or streams. Habitat loss, water quality issues , blockages etc. on key spawning streams could have a disproportionate impact on the unique population / sub-population structure in Lough Corrib and other major brown trout lakes in Ireland (Massa-Gallucci et al, 2010) . It is considered that brown trout stocks in Ireland must now be regarded as a “family of fishes” and not a single species. This is an important factor in determining conservation priorities (King et al, 2011).

☑ Criterion 8 : Fish spawning grounds, etc.

Justification

Atlantic Salmon (Salmo salar) use the lake and associated rivers as spawning grounds. The species is protected in the freshwater environment under Annex II and Annex V of the EU Habitats Directive; considered to be Vulnerable in Europe (IUCN).

The European Eel is Critically Endangered in Ireland (King et al, 2011). Historically the Corrib catchment was one of the most important eel fisheries in the western region of Ireland (Moriarty, 1999). King et al (2011) describe that recruitment into Irish catchments has declined dramatically. A dramatic pan - European decline in glass eel returning from the sea occurred in the early 1980s and glass eel numbers are now at <7% of pre 1980s averages. The European Eel is also critically endangered both with Europe and Globally (IUCN).

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

Phylum	Scientific name	Criterion 2	Criterion 3	Criterion 4	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	Other status	Justification
Plantae								
TRACHEOPHYTA / LILIOPSIDA	*Eriophorum gracile*	☑	☐	☐		☐	Flora (Protection) Order (FPO)	Flora Protection Order Species known from lake margins of this site.
TRACHEOPHYTA / LILIOPSIDA	*Najas flexilis*	☑	☐	☐	LC	☐	Flora (Protection) Order (FPO), Annex II species (Habitats Directive)	Rare species which occurs within the Ramsar site
TRACHEOPHYTA / LILIOPSIDA	*Spiranthes romanzoffiana*	☑	☐	☐	LC	☐	Flora Protection Order (1999) and listed in the Irish Red Data Book	Rare species known to occur from lakeshore habitats within the Ramsar site
TRACHEOPHYTA / MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Vicia orobus*	☑	☐	☐	LC	☐	Flora Protection Order (1999) and listed in the Irish Red Data Book	Rare species known to occur on lake islands within the Ramsar Site

Slender Naiad, Najas flexilis (Willd.) Rostk. & W.L.E. Schmidt is a small, annual, submerged macrophyte of freshwater lakes that is listed on Annexes II and IV of the Habitats Directive. In Ireland, the species is also protected under the Wildlife Acts (1976 and 2000), being listed on the Flora (Protection) Order (FPO), 2015 (Statutory Instrument No. 356 of 2015). It has been assessed as Near Threatened in Ireland and Vulnerable in the EU and Europe (IUCN). According to NPWS (2017) the species has been recorded on one occasion from one location in Upper Lough Corrib; the record was made by W. Krause and J.J. King in the north-western bay of the lake between the 7th and the 12th of July 1986 (Krause and King, 1994). Despite of a number of targeted surveys of the area the species has not been re-recorded since. This species is classed as Vulnerable because it has shown a massive decline (including Regional Extinction in Poland and Switzerland), is rare or scattered in most of the countries where it occurs and the reason for the decline has not been well established (IUCN).

Irish Lady's Tresses (Spiranthes romanzoffiana) has been recorded from a number of lake shore sites in the north-west of the site. Wood Bitter Vetch (Vicia orobus) has been seen recently on some of the lake islands. According to IUCN Spiranthes romanzoffiana is very local and extremely rare. In Britain the species is very scarce; in Scotland the population is estimated to hold 1,100 individuals. In Ireland most of the populations are small and scattered but some of the largest produce from 100 to 200 spikes. A continuing decline has been noted in the Irish populations. The species tends to vanish unpredictably and often very rapidly from known localities. The species is listed as Near Threatened in Europe (IUCN). Both of these species are protected under the Flora Protection Order (1999) and listed in the Irish Red Data Book.

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																	
ARTHROPODA / INSECTA	*Corynocera ambigua*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	Lough Corrib is the only known site in Ireland and Britain for Corynocera ambigua.	Rare species know from the site
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	*Lutra lutra*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				NT	☑	☐	Annex II Habitats Directive	Annex II listing
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	*Rhinolophus hipposideros*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Annex II Habitats Directive	Annex II listing
Fish, Mollusc and Crustacea																	
CHORDATA / ACTINOPTERYGII	*Anguilla anguilla*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑				CR	☐	☐	Critically endangered globally.	Critically endangered status, freshwater habitat for adult eel.
ARTHROPODA / MALACOSTRACA	*Astacus pallipes*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐				EN	☐	☐	Annex II Habitats Directive	Annex II listing
CHORDATA / CEPHALASPIDOMORPHI	*Lampetra planeri*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Annex II Habitats Directive	Annex II listing

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								
MOLLUSCA / BIVALVIA	*Margaritifera margaritifera*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				EN	☐	☐	Annex II Habitats Directive	Critically Endangered within Europe and Endangered globally
CHORDATA / CEPHALASPIDOMORPHI	*Petromyzon marinus*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Annex II Habitats Directive	Annex II listing
CHORDATA / ACTINOPTERYGII	*Salmo salar*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☑					☐	☐	Listed Annex II Habitats Directive	Listed Annex II Habitats Directive
CHORDATA / ACTINOPTERYGII	*Salmo trutta*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☑				LC	☐	☐	IUCN and Irish Red List (Least Concern)	Distinct subpopulations identified at this site.
Birds																	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Anas clypeata*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	5	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 crecca*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	99	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*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	187	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*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	18	2011-2015			☐	☐	Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	Part of wintering assemblage, maintaining biodiversity
CHORDATA / AVES	*Anser albifrons flavirostris*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	9	2011-2015			☐	☐	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	*Aythya ferina*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	543	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	*Aythya fuligula*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	2135	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	*Bucephala clangula*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	45	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*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	5	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	*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	Red-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	Breeding colony at this site.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Circus cyaneus*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Annex I Birds Directive	Annex I listing, winter roost associated with this site.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Cygnus cygnus*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	69	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*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	198	2011-2015		LC	☐	☐	Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	Part of wintering assemblage, maintaining biodiversity
CHORDATA / AVES	*Gallinago gallinago*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	5	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 immer*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	2	2011-2015		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, and National (BoCCI) and 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	*Melanitta nigra*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	131	2020		LC	☐	☐	Red-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	Most important breeding site for this species in Ireland
CHORDATA / AVES	*Numenius arquata*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	71	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, small population of breeding Curlew associated with the site.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Phalacrocorax carbo*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	43	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*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	1765	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*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	5	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*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Annex I species (Birds Directive)	Breeding population at this site
CHORDATA / AVES	*Sterna paradisaea*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Annex I species (Birds Directive)	Breeding population at this site
CHORDATA / AVES	*Tachybaptus ruficollis*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	27	2011-2015		LC	☐	☐	Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	Part of wintering assemblage, maintaining biodiversity
CHORDATA / AVES	*Tringa totanus*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	4	2011-2015		LC	☐	☐	Red-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	National (BoCCI) classification, part of wintering assemblage, small breeding population associated with this site.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Vanellus vanellus*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	725	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, small breeding population associated with this site.

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. Lough Corrib 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. Data for Common Scoter is from the NPWS Survey of Common Scoter (2020; Heffernan & Hunt, in press).

Lough Corrib is a designated Special Protection Area due to the presence of the following species listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive and/or regularly occurring migratory species: Gadwall, Shoveler, Pochard, Tufted Duck, Common Scoter, Hen Harrier, Coot, Golden Plover, Black-headed Gull, Common Gull, Common Tern, Arctic Tern, Greenland White-fronted Goose (see NPWS.ie for further detail). 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 lake has a population of Sea Lamprey (Petromyzon marinus), a scarce, though probably under-recorded species listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive. Brook Lamprey (Lampetra planeri), also listed on Annex II, occurs at a number of locations within the site.

Lesser Horseshoe Bat Rhinolophus hipposideros A summer roost of Lesser Horseshoe Bat, another Annex II species, occurs within the site - approximately 100 animals were recorded here in 1999. The foraging range for this bat extends out into Lough Corrib. According to IUCN the species is widespread, but there have been substantial range reductions along the northern edge of the species' distribution in Europe over the past 50 years, and declines are ongoing, albeit perhaps at a reduced rate. The species has gone extinct in the Netherlands, most of Belgium, and western Germany. It relies on continuing conservation initiatives.

Lough Corrib is considered one of the best sites in the country for Otter, due to the sheer size of the lake and associated rivers and streams, and also the generally high quality of the habitats (NPWS 2015a).

Lough Corrib is the only known site in Ireland and Britain for Corynocera ambigua. Outside of Ireland this chironomid is mostly confined to arctic-alpine areas

The Owenriff River which flows into Lough Corrib supports Freshwater Pearl Mussel (Margaritifera margaritifera).

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
Charophyte community	☑	The shallow, lime-rich waters of the southern basin of Lough Corrib support one of the most extensive beds of stoneworts in Ireland.	Chara beds are an important source of food for waterfowl.
3110 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae),	☑		Annex I habitat present
3130 Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or Isoeto-Nanojuncet	☑		Annex I habitat present
3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp.	☑		Annex I habitat present
7210 Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae*	☑		Annex I habitat present
6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae),	☑		Annex I habitat present
7230 Alkaline fens	☑		Annex I habitat present

Optional text box to provide further information

The Ramsar site includes all of the open water within the lake and extends along the lake shore where it is likely to include some of the wetland habitats listed above (e.g. fen, molinia meadow)
The Lough Corrib Ramsar site lies within a wider wetland and terrestrial complex which has been designated as an SAC (Habitats Directive). While the following habitats are not within the Ramsar site they are within the SAC and are an integral part of the wider complex of wetland and terrestrial habitats:
3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation
6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid
91D0 Bog woodland
91A0 Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles
7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion
7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration
7110 Active raised bogs*
7220 Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)*

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

4.1 - Ecological character

Covering 18,240 ha Lough Corrib is Ireland's second largest lake. The shoreline is extensive and complex surrounding the more open waters of the upper lake before narrowing within the middle section and opening out again at the basin area at the southern end. North of Lough Corrib lies Lough Carra and Lough Mask. The Corrib catchment includes both of these lakes together with an extensive network of river systems. Loughs Carra and Mask drain into Lough Corrib before entering the sea and Inner Galway bay through a small stretch of river which flows through Galway City. The bedrock geology is mixed with carboniferous limestone dominating the lower, middle and parts of the upper lake; sandstone and schist is also present in the upper lake. There are many inlets and bays and the lake supports numerous islands and islets; some islands are larger enough for habitation and many are grazed. The diversity of wetland and terrestrial habitats within and adjacent to the site make Lough Corrib a site of significant ecological importance. The lake supports one of the largest areas of wetland vegetation in the country, supporting representative and unique examples of natural and near - natural wetland types within the Atlantic biogeographic region. It is an important site for a range of wetland dependant mammal, fish and plant species many of which are rare or threatened within an Irish and/or European context. Lough Corrib is an important angling resource for brown trout and historically was important for Atlantic Salmon and European Eel, the latter being trapped commercially. As for many freshwater lakes the ecology of Lough Corrib has been impacted by a range of pressures including water quality deterioration, invasive species colonisation and land use change both along the lake shore and within the catchment. Data for the site shows a decline in the condition of the marl lake habitat of Lough Corrib (Roden et al, 2020), a decline in native fish stocks (Kelly et al., 2012) including the extinction of Arctic char (O' Grady et al., 1996) and a decline in breeding gull numbers (Kelly et al., 2012).

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

Inland wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
Fresh water > Lakes and pools >> O: Permanent freshwater lakes	Lakes	1	17725	Unique
Fresh water > Marshes on inorganic soils >> Ts: Seasonal/ intermittent freshwater marshes/ pools on inorganic soils	Fens and marsh	4		Representative

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Other noteworthy plant species

Phylum	Scientific name	Position in range / endemism / other
CHAROPHYTA/CHAROPHYCEAE	*Chara aspera*	
CHAROPHYTA/CHAROPHYCEAE	*Chara contraria*	
CHAROPHYTA/CHAROPHYCEAE	*Chara hispida*	

Invasive alien plant species

Phylum	Scientific name	Impacts	Changes at RIS update
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	*Lagarosiphon major*	Actual (major impacts)	increase

Optional text box to provide further information

The shallow, lime-rich waters of the southern basin of Lough Corrib support one of the most extensive beds of stoneworts (Charophytes) in Ireland, with species such as Chara aspera, C. hispida, C. delicatula, C. contraria and C. desmacantha mixed with submerged pondweeds (Potamogeton perfoliatus, P. gramineus and P. lucens), Shoreweed (Littorella uniflora) and Water Lobelia (Lobelia dortmanna). A recent report on the condition of Irish marl lakes found only a minority of Irish marl lakes are now in near-pristine condition and many, such as Lough Arrow, Lough Carra and even Lough Corrib, show serious evidence of declining ecological quality (Roden et al, 2020).

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	*Fulica atra*	2320	2011-2015		Occurs in nationally important numbers
CHORDATA/AVES	*Haliaeetus albicilla albicilla*				Scarce breeding species in Ireland
CHORDATA/AVES	*Larus canus*				Breeding population at this site

Invasive alien animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Impacts	Changes at RIS update
MOLLUSCA/BIVALVIA	*Dreissena polymorpha*	Actual (major impacts)	No change
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	*Mustela vison*	Actual (major impacts)	unknown
CHORDATA/ACTINOPTERYGII	*Rutilus rutilus*	Actual (major impacts)	No change

Optional text box to provide further information

The White-tailed eagle (Red Listed species in Ireland; Colhoun & Cummins, 2013) has been recorded foraging over Lough Corrib in recent years (Source: Dennis Moss). Historically a widespread breeding species, however the last wild pair bred in Mayo in 1912. It was re-introduced to Ireland in 2007 and has mixed success since.

American mink forage around the lake shore and swim out to the islands; they are likely to predate the eggs and adults of ground nesting birds. The consequences are serious given the already vulnerable populations of most ground nesting birds.

A feral population of Greylag Geese has increased on the lake in recent years; this is also likely to be affecting the ecology of the lake.

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): 5

- [ ] Entire river basin
- [ ] Upper part of river basin
- [ ] Middle part of river basin
- [ ] Lower part of river basin
- [x] 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.

Lough Corrib drains several sub catchments associated with the lake itself. It also drains Lough Mask and Lough Carra both of which have associated and extensive sub catchments. The Corrib then drains into a small stretch of estuarine waters before reaching the marine waters of Inner Galway Bay.

4.4.3 - Soil

- [x] Mineral

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

- [x] 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

Please provide further information on the soil (optional)

Lough Corrib lies at the junction of the carboniferous limestone of the Irish Central Plain with the hard siliceous rock of the Connacht uplands. The southern and eastern parts of the site are dominated by limestone while to the north and west the bedrock consists of granites, schist's, shale's and sandstones. The lake has numerous islands throughout with many of those in the upper lake basin comprised of glacial till (submerged drumlins). The shore of the lake is mainly karst limestone with a thin alkaline soil. In wetter areas, fen peat and raised bog peat has formed. Soils in the lands to the west of the lake are a mixture of peaty podzols and lithosols on higher ground and blanket peat on lower ground. The gently undulating limestone lands to the east and south are overlaid by a combination of shallow brown earths and rendzinas, with grey - brown podzolic's. The lake bed is mostly covered by deposits of precipitated, muddy marl.

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 precipitation	☐	No change
Water inputs from surface water	☐	No change
Water inputs from groundwater	☐	No change

Water destination

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
To downstream catchment	No change
Marine	No change
Feeds groundwater	No change

Stability of water regime

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Water levels largely stable	No change

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

Originally the entire flow from Mask to Corrib was underground, with water draining via vast sinkholes on the southeast side of Lough Mask to enormous springs in the village of Cong, at the north end of Lough Corrib. However, a canal constructed to provide a navigational link between the two lakes in the 1840s interfered with the natural subterranean flow system and the canal provides a flood conduit during and following high rainfall events.

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Sediment regime unknown ☑

4.4.6 - Water pH

Alkaline (pH>7.4) ☑

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

Unknown ☐

Please provide further information on pH (optional):

The lake is classified as alkaline (>100mg/l CaCO3) or hard water lake with pH ranging from 7.9-8.8.

4.4.7 - Water salinity

Fresh (<0.5 g/l) ☑

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

Unknown ☐

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Eutrophic ☑

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

Mesotrophic ☑

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

Oligotrophic ☑

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

Unknown ☐

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

Lake Waterbody WFD Status 2010-2015 deems the Upper Corrib as 'Good' and the Lower Corrib as 'Moderate'.(http://gis.epa.ie/Envision)

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:

Agriculture - there is significant grazing of sheep as well as calf production both on private land as well as on some large areas of commonage, particularly in the western and north - western lands which may be within or adjoin the site. In general, agriculture is not very intensive and many of the field systems within, and adjoining, the site are still quite small. However, reclamation of limestone pavement next to the lake to create grazing pasture has taken place.
There are a number of towns in the areas surrounding the site i.e. Oughterard, Moycullen and Cong. There is a lot dispersed habitation along the shoreline the site, many of these houses are used for normal residences. A number of islands within the Ramsar site are locations for holiday homes. There are significant numbers of holiday residences (second homes) in many areas around Lough Corrib. The lake and all of its catchment drains into the Lower Corrib River which flows through Galway City and into Inner Galway Bay Ramsar Site.

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Fresh water	Drinking water for humans and/or livestock	Medium

Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Maintenance of hydrological regimes	Storage and delivery of water as part of water supply systems for agriculture and industry	High
Erosion protection	Soil, sediment and nutrient retention	Low
Pollution control and detoxification	Water purification/waste treatment or dilution	Medium
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	Recreational hunting and fishing	High
Recreation and tourism	Nature observation and nature-based tourism	High
Recreation and tourism	Picnics, outings, touring	High
Recreation and tourism	Water sports and activities	High
Spiritual and inspirational	Spiritual and religious values	Medium
Spiritual and inspirational	Aesthetic and sense of place values	Medium
Spiritual and inspirational	Inspiration	Medium
Spiritual and inspirational	Cultural heritage (historical and archaeological)	Medium
Spiritual and inspirational	Contemporary cultural significance, including for arts and creative inspiration, and including existence values	Medium
Scientific and educational	Educational activities and opportunities	High
Scientific and educational	Important knowledge systems, importance for research (scientific reference area or site)	High
Scientific and educational	Long-term monitoring site	High
Scientific and educational	Major scientific study site	High

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
Soil formation	Accumulation of organic matter	Medium
Nutrient cycling	Storage, recycling, processing and acquisition of nutrients	Medium
Nutrient cycling	Carbon storage/sequestration	Medium

Outside the site: 10 000s

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)	☑	☑

Other

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Commoners/customary rights	☑	☐

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

Within the Ramsar site: the water body of the lake is owned by the state. There are a large number of islands within the lake, many of which are under private ownership, while others are owned by the state. Areas of wet grassland/seasonally flooded meadow are also within the site and these are generally under private ownership. The surrounding area is largely under multiple private ownership. However the state – through some of its agencies including Coillte has tenure over portions of the surrounding and/or adjacent land.

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.
Mayo County Council.
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment.
Inland Fisheries Ireland

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	Medium impact	High impact	☑	increase	☑	No change

Water regulation

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Water abstraction	unknown 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
Wood and pulp plantations	Medium impact		☐	No change	☑	unknown
Livestock farming and ranching	Medium impact		☐	No change	☑	unknown

Energy production and mining

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Mining and quarrying	unknown impact		☐	unknown	☑	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	unknown 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	unknown impact	unknown impact	☑	No change	☐	No change
Hunting and collecting terrestrial animals	High impact	Low 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	High impact	☑	No change	☑	No change

Natural system modifications

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Dams and water management/use	Medium impact		☑	No change	☑	No change
Vegetation clearance/ land conversion	Medium impact	High impact	☑	increase	☑	unknown

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	High impact	High impact	☑	increase	☐	No change

Pollution

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Household sewage, urban waste water	High impact	Low impact	☐	No change	☑	No change
Agricultural and forestry effluents	Low impact	Medium impact	☐	No change	☑	unknown

Please describe any other threats (optional):

Threats listed above are taken from NPWS (2015a, 2015c).
Zebra mussel (Dreissena polymorpha) is present in the site and is noteworthy because it is an invasive alien species that has the capacity to cause significant ecological impacts. Zebra mussels have become well established and are ubiquitous.
Lagarosiphon major (curly-leaved water-weed) an invasive plant species, is a native of southern Africa, where its biomass can interfere with commercial navigation and water-based recreation. In those areas where Lagarosiphon is well established in Lough Corrib, preliminary studies have revealed that it has a significant negative impact on indigenous macrophyte communities. It is anticipated that the impact on natural indigenous fish communities in the lake will also be significant as the habitat conditions created by dense Lagarosiphon stands are not those preferred by wild brown trout. By contrast, this habitat structure will probably favour the proliferation of coarse fish, perch and pike in Lough Corrib. Central Board Fisheries (2007).
Roach – roach is a non - native invasive fish species and was detected in the lake in the 1980's. It has since become well established and is now abundant in many parts of the lake. This has had uncertain impacts on the lake ecology
The site is affected by - human induced changes in hydraulic conditions and infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits.
Peat extraction in adjacent habitats is a threat to the site.

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	Lough Corrib SAC Site Code 000297.	https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/000297	whole
EU Natura 2000	Lough Corrib SPA Site Code 004042	https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/spa/004042	whole

Non-statutory designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Important Bird Area	Lough Corrib	http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/lough-corrib-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
Hydrology management/restoration	Implemented
Land conversion controls	Implemented

Species

Measures	Status
Threatened/rare species management programmes	Implemented

Human Activities

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

Other:

The Lough Corrib Ramsar site lies within the Lough Corrib SAC (000297) and Lough Corrib SPA (004042). Under European and national legislation, Ireland must maintain or restore at favourable conservation status areas designated as Special 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 for the SPA and SAC have been set and are listed at NPWS.ie.

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 ◉

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? No, but restoration is needed

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Water regime monitoring	Implemented
Water quality	Implemented
Animal community	Implemented
Animal species (please specify)	Implemented
Birds	Implemented
Plant community	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 6years.
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.

There are extensive management arrangements in place with respect to the exploitation of fish populations within the site. Management includes periodic fish species population assessments, restocking, restrictions and control on fishing through temporal restrictions and fishing gear controls. Fishing for salmon and sea trout requires a state license and is subject to bag limits, carcass tagging, catch reporting and size limits for sea trout.

Management of the aquatic resource also covers the abstraction of water from the site. All development must take place within the context of the Galway County Development Plan and under specific requirements of all relevant European, national and local development planning regulations. Applications for development within the site are also reviewed by NPWS in the context of the conservation objectives that have been set according to each designation for the site.

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

Cummins, S., Lauder, C., Lauder, A. & Tierney, T. D. (2019) The Status of Ireland's Breeding Seabirds: Birds Directive Article 12 Reporting 2013 – 2018. Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 114. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Ireland
Kelly, F.L., Connor, L., Morrissey, E., Wogerbauer, C., Matson, R., Feeney, R. and Rocks, K. 2012. Water Framework Directive Fish Stock Survey of Lough Corrib, June 2011. Inland Fisheries Ireland, Swords Business Campus, Swords, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Lauder, A. & Lauder, C. (2020) Identification of breeding waterbird hotspots in Ireland. Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 129. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Ireland.
Massa-Gallucci, A, Coscia, I., O'Grady, M., Kelly-Quinn, M., Mariani, S. 2010. Patterns of genetic structuring in a brown trout (Salmo trutta L.) metapopulation. Conservation Genetics. 11. 1689-169
Morrissey, E., Meade, R., Matson, R., McCarthy, E. and Kelly, F.L. 2020. Lagarosiphon major Research on Lough Corrib. Interim Report 2018-2019.
NPWS (2017) Conservation objectives supporting document Najas flexilis (Willd.) Rostk. & W.L.E. Schmidt - Lough Corrib SAC (site code 000297). Version 1 April 2017.
O'Grady, M.F., Gargan, P., Byrne, C., Igoe, F. and O'Neill, J. 1996. A Fish Stock Survey Report for Loughs Corrib, Mask and Carra and Future Management Options for this Fishery Resource. Central Fisheries Board. Internal report.
Central Board Fisheries (2007). Lagarosiphon major – An Aggressive Invasive Species in Lough Corrib.
Kingston, N. (2012) Checklist of protected & rare species in Ireland. Unpublished National Parks & Wildlife Service Report.
King, J.L., Marnell, F., Kingston, N., Rosell, R., Boylan, P., Caffrey, J.M., FitzPatrick, Ú., Gargan, P.G., Kelly, F.L., O'Grady, M.F., Poole, R., Roche, W.K. & Cassidy, D. (2011) Ireland Red List No. 5: Amphibian
NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives: Lough Corrib SAC 000297. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.
NPWS (2015b) Site Synopsis: Lough Corrib SAC 000297. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
NPWS (2016) Conservation objectives for Lough Corrib SPA [004042]. Generic Version 5.0. Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs
NPWS (2014) Site Synopsis: Lough Corrib SPA [004042]. Generic Version 5.0. Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs
IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2007: e.T19518A8950866. Downloaded on 11 November 2017
Roden, C., Murphy, P. & Ryan, J. (2020) Benthic vegetation in Irish marl lakes: monitoring habitat 3140 condition 2011 to 2018. Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 124. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Ireland.
BirdwatchIreland.ie
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:


Lough Corrib (*National Parks and Wildlife Service, May 2013*)


Lough Corrib (*National Parks and Wildlife Service, May 2013*)


Lough Corrib (*National Parks and Wildlife Service, May 2013*)


Lough Corrib (*National Parks and Wildlife Service, May 2013*)


Lough Corrib (*National Parks and Wildlife Service, May 2013*)


Doorus, Logh Corrib (*Jackie Hunt, 15-07-2021*)


Extensive open waters on Lough Corrib (*Jackie Hunt, 15-07-2021*)


Female Scoter on Lough Corrib (*Jackie Hunt, 15-07-2021*)


Wooded Islands on Lough Corrib (*Jackie Hunt, 15-07-2021*)


Wooded Islands on Lough Corrib (*Jackie Hunt, 15-07-2021*)


Small rocky islands on Lough Corrib (*Jackie Hunt, 15-07-2021*)


Anglers on Lough Corrib (*Jackie Hunt, 15-07-2021*)

Black headed Gull colony in Lower Lough Corrib (*Jackie Hunt, 15-07-2021*)

Female scoter with brood Oughterard Bay , Lough Corrib (*Jackie Hunt, 15-07-2021*)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation 1996-06-07