

Site name: Rathlin O'Birne Island SAC 000181

County: Donegal

Site Specific Conservation Objective (SSCO) Ecological Attributes

Reefs (1170)

- 1 Habitat area
- 2 Distribution
- 3 Community structure

Site name: Rathlin O'Birne Island SAC 000181
Habitat/Species: (1170) Reefs
(SSCO): To maintain the favourable conservation condition of [1170] in SAC 000181

No.	Ecological Requirements (Attributes as per SSCO)	Pressure /Threat (EU Code 2025)	Pressure/ Threat Ranking	EU Conservation Measure Type (EU Code 2019-2024)	Measure Category	Conservation Measure	Delivery mechanism	Public Authority with statutory responsibility	Implementation timeframe	Integration with high level plans/policy:
1	1. Habitat, 2. Distribution, 3. Community structure	PG03 Professional and recreational marine fishing and shellfish harvesting activities causing physical loss and disturbance of seafloor habitats (e.g. bottom trawling, benthic dredging).	Low	MG01 Management of professional/commercial fishing, shellfish and seaweed harvesting (incl. restoration of habitats)	Statutory	Trawling activity, that is the operating of trawl or seine nets, by fishing vessels over 18 metres in length overall inside the six nautical mile zone and the baselines will be prohibited.	Policy Directive 1 of 2025	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)	2025+	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections
2	1. Habitat, 2. Distribution, 3. Community structure	PG01 Marine and shellfish harvesting activities causing physical loss and disturbance of seafloor habitats	Low	MG01 Management of professional/commercial fishing, shellfish and seaweed harvesting (incl. restoration of habitats)	Statutory	Regulation controlling potential damaging impacts of bottom trawling on Reefs, which are considered as vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs), this regulation prescribes fishing with bottom trawls only at, or above, a depth of 800 metres.	Regulation (EU) 2016/2336 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2016 establishing specific conditions for fishing for deep-sea stocks in the north-east Atlantic and provisions for fishing in international waters of the north-east At	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)	2016+	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections
3	1. Habitat, 2. Distribution, 3. Community structure	All/Other Relevant Threats and Pressures	N/A	MG01 Management of professional/commercial fishing, shellfish and seaweed harvesting (incl. restoration of habitats)	Administrative	Control of activities, if not covered by other regulations, which could negatively impact on this SAC.	European Union Habitats (Rathlin O'Birne Island Special Area of Conservation 000181) Regulations 2017	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)/National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)	2000+	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections
4	1. Habitat, 2. Distribution, 3. Community structure	All/Other Relevant Threats and Pressures	N/A	MF08 Manage changes in hydrological and coastal systems and regimes for construction and development (incl. restoration of habitats.	Statutory	Regulation controlling unconsented development at this site.	Maritime Area Planning Act 2021	Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment (DCEE)	2021+	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections
5	1. Habitat, 2. Distribution, 3. Community structure	All/Other Relevant Threats and Pressures	N/A	MJ01 Implement climate change mitigation measures, MJ02 Implement climate change adaptation measures	Administrative	A roadmap of actions to assist in the achievement of climate change objectives by no later than the end of the year 2050.	Ireland's Climate Action Plan	All Government Departments	2019+	Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021
6	1. Habitat, 2. Distribution, 3. Community structure	All/Other Relevant Threats and Pressures	N/A	MF08 Manage changes in hydrological and coastal systems and regimes for construction and development (incl. restoration of habitats.	Statutory	The development of Marine Planning Policy Statement.	Maritime Area Planning Act 2021	Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment (DCEE)	2021+	Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth
7	1. Habitat, 2. Distribution, 3. Community structure	All/Other Relevant Threats and Pressures	N/A	MF08 Manage changes in hydrological and coastal systems and regimes for construction and development (incl. restoration of habitats.	Administrative	Monitoring and reporting of relevant farm activity at the SAC. Direct inspections for DAFM Conditionality compliance or via other state Authorities (via Cross Reporting) to Integrated Controls Division in DAFM.	DAFM BISS Conditionality Farm inspection's - NPWS Conservation Ranger Site monitoring. (Cross Compliance)	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)	2022+	CAP Strategic Plan