

## Coastal Designations

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## SPA Update

- 131 sites designated (80 Coastal)
- 810 km<sup>2</sup> of marine area designated
- 65 of these sites have sites been re-notified
  - This is because of changes in the legislation (Article 6 of the Habitats Directive)



## Coastal policy

- Coastal policy comes from legislation:
  - National
  - EU
  - International



## SPA Update

- EU decision that SPAs should be equivalent to Important Bird Areas (IBAs)
- 140 - 150 is the total anticipated number of sites
- Take account of under-representation of sites for some species
- Some species had no sites designated for them e.g. Chough.



## Special Protection Areas (SPA)

- SPAs areas designated under the Birds Directive
- Areas are designated to protect
  - Birds listed on Annex 1 of the Directive
  - any area / habitat used by birds, e.g.
    - feeding areas
    - breeding areas
    - roosting sites



## SPA Update

Re-notification has allowed NPWS to:

- update the selection criteria
- review the qualifying interests
- use updated data
- give recognition to important wetlands and wetland systems



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## Outstanding Bird Issue

- Offshore SPAs
  - requires a considerable amount of survey effort in a very large area
  - birds are most likely following a food resource
- Sites will have to be designated by 2012



## Annex I Coastal Habitats

- Sea cliffs
- Sand dunes
- Salt marshes
- Machair\*
- Strandline vegetation



## Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

- SAC are designated under the Habitats Directive
- Sites are designated for habitats listed in Annex I
- Sites are designated for species listed in Annex II
- Species in Annex IV require strict protection



## Annex II Species

### Mammals

*Phoca vitulina*  
*Halichoerus grypus*  
*Tursiops truncatus*  
*Phocoena phocoena*  
*Lutra lutra*

Common seal  
 Grey seal  
 Bottle-nosed dolphin  
 Porpoise  
 Otter

### Fish\*

*Alosa alosa*  
*Alosa fallax fallax*  
*Lampetra fluviatilis*  
*Petromyzon marinus*

Allis shad  
 Twaité shad  
 Lampren or river lamprey  
 Sea lamprey



## Annex 1 Marine Habitats

- Lagoons \*
- Reefs (rocky outcrops and biogenic reefs)
- Mudflats & Sandbanks Not Covered by Seawater at Low Tide
- Large Shallow Inlets and Bays
- Sandbanks Which Are Slightly Covered by Seawater at All Times
- Submerged or partly submerged Seacaves
- Estuaries
- Structures made by leaking gases



## ANNEX IV

### Animal and Plant Species of community Interest in need of Strict Protection

Species occurring in Ireland

### Mammals

*Tursiops truncatus*  
*Phocoena phocoena*

Bottle-nosed dolphin  
 Porpoise

All other cetaceans



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## Annex V

Animal and plant species of Community interest whose taking in the wild and exploitation may be subject to management measures

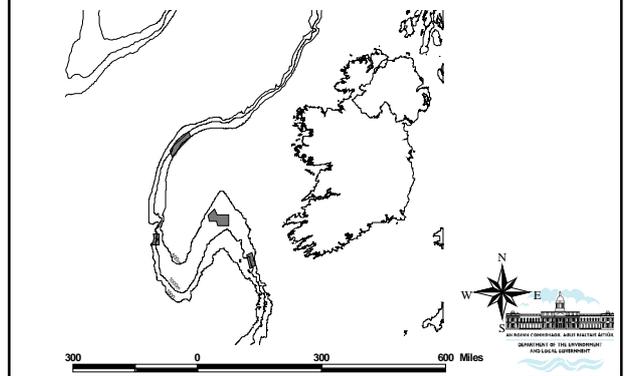
*Lampetra fluviatilis* Lampren or river lamprey

*Lithothamnium corallioides* Maerl

*Phymatolithum calcareum* Maerl



## Off Shore SACs

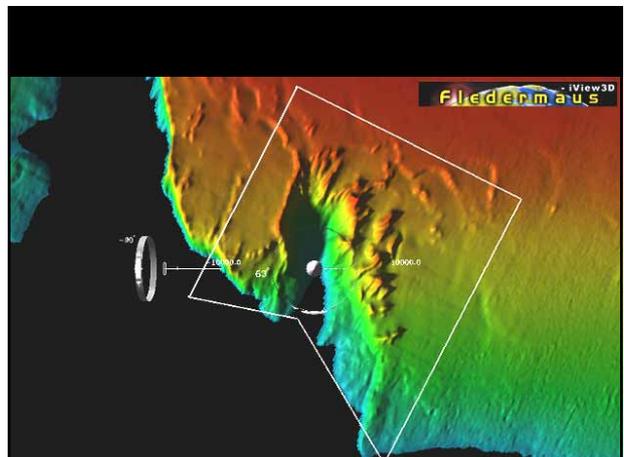
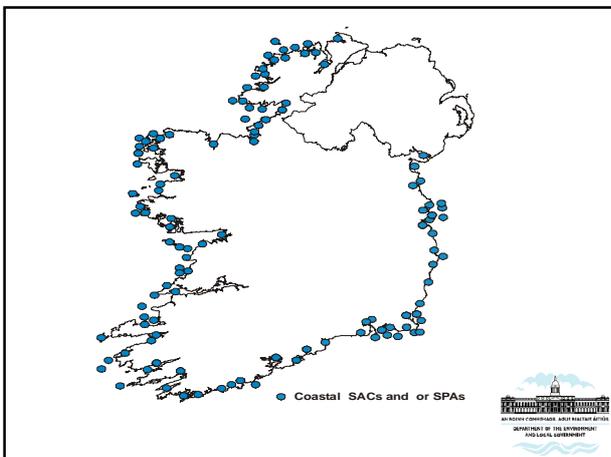
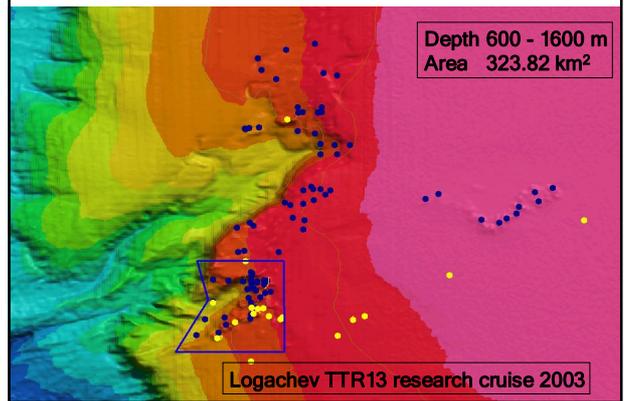


## Marine and coastal SAC Designations

- Nationally 420 advertised cSACs with 114 selected for marine and coastal criteria
- Total coastal marine area designated is 3,386 km<sup>2</sup>
- Total 4 offshore area (4 sites) 2,542km<sup>2</sup>



## South-West Porcupine SAC



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## Do we have the Tools and Resources

Need to:

- develop guidelines on what level of human induced change is acceptable in designated areas.
- improved legislation
- greater enforcement of legislation e.g. planning and licensing – resource limited
- designate MPAs that are non extractive



## Ecosystem approach

- Under an ecosystem approach examination of impacts on
  - impacts of discards
  - impacts on food chains both upwards and downwards
  - impacts on sea bed - where appropriate

All aspects need to be considered.



## Ecosystem Approach

- Frequently used term but not defined!
- Generally assumed to mean examining impacts on the ecosystem as a whole and not individual at sectoral impacts



## Ecosystem Approach Mussel farming

- The following impacts should be looked at
  - impacts of mussels on the composition of the plankton in the area
  - impacts of removing large amounts of food now not available to other species
  - impacts on the seabed
    - change in substratum and associated species
    - increase in number of predators



## Ecosystem Approach an example

- Fisheries has traditionally looked at the impacts on single stocks
- Under an ecosystem approach examination of impacts on
  - single stocks
  - stock interactions
  - impacts on non target species



## Sustainable development - is it possible?

- First what is sustainable development
  - economic sustainability?
  - or
  - ecologically sustainability?

We should be striving for ecological sustainability



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## Ecological vs. Economic Sustainability

- We need to know the ecological consequences
- An ecological system once seriously disturbed may recover but it will not return to the same state when the pressure is removed



Thank you



## Ecological vs. Economic Sustainability

- We have to find a balance
- We have to decide how much change we can accept
- Every development should have an environmental risk assessment
- Cumulative impacts across all sectors on the environment must be considered



## Is ecological sustainable development possible?

YES and NO

NO - if economic development is not limited.

YES - if we are

- prepared to look at the ecological impacts of developments in their widest sense i.e cumulative and cross sectoral and
- limit the negative ecological impacts



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