

RIVER BASIN MONITORING PLAN

# WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE 2<sup>ND</sup> CYCLE CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY

2015-2021

## Coastal Water Body – North Channel

31/05/2015



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	<b>Version Date:</b> 31/05/2015
<b>MONITORING &amp; ASSESSMENT TEAM</b>	

**NORTH CHANNEL**

Water body Information

- River Basin District: North Eastern
- Water body type: CW5
- Water body code : UKGBNI6NE030
- Water body characteristics: Euhaline, mesotidal, moderately exposed
- Water body area: 141.91 km<sup>2</sup>
- Heavily Modified Water Body: No
- 2021 Classification Objective: Good

<b>2015 CLASSIFICATION</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>PASS/FAIL 2021 OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>PASS</b>
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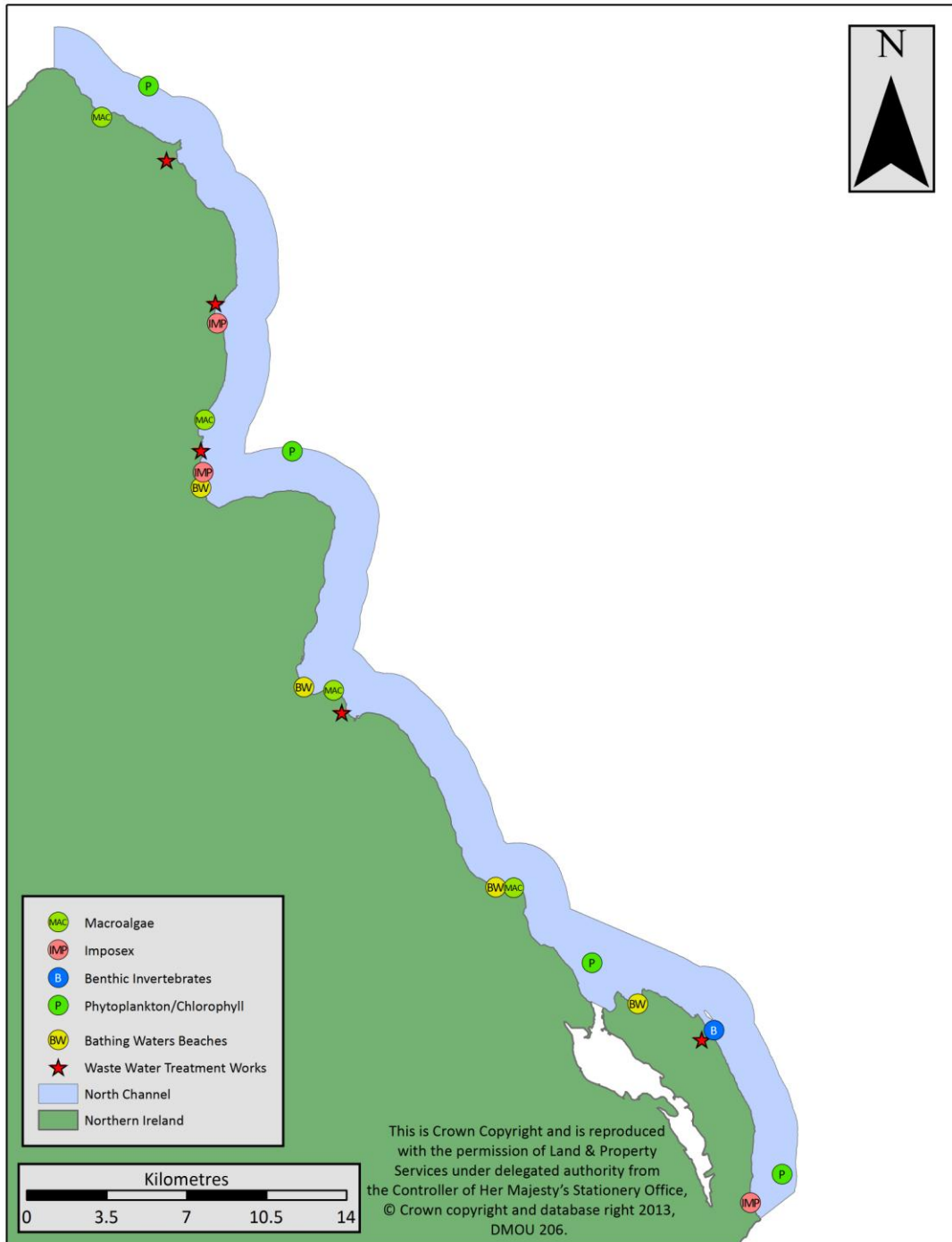


Figure 1: Waste water treatment pressures and monitoring points within North Channel (Coastal Water).

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Table 1: Parameters for which classification systems are available and have been used in this round of classification. Some biological assessment tools are not suitable for all water bodies due to habitat type.

Ecological Quality Element			
Main Element	Sub-Element	Applied	Comment
<b>Phytoplankton</b>	Biomass	✓	
	Elevated Taxa Count Index	☒	
<b>Macroalgae (Seaweeds)</b>	Opportunistic Macroalgae	☒	
	Reduced Species List	✓	
<b>Angiosperms</b>	Seagrass	☒	
	Saltmarsh	☒	
<b>Benthic Invertebrates</b>	Infaunal Quality Index	✓	
	Imposex	✓	
<b>Physico-chemical (Water)</b>	-Dissolved Oxygen	✓	
	-Nutrients	✓	
	Specific Pollutants (Annex VIII substances)	☒	
<b>Hydromorphological Quality Elements</b>	SEPA Rapid Designation	✓	
	TraC MIMAS	✓	
Chemical Status			
<b>Priority Hazardous Substances</b>	Annex X substances	☒	

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Table 2: Sampling frequency for each quality element

*Monitoring Level: Surveillance*

Quality Elements		Data years contributing to classification	No. of sites/samples
<b>Biological</b>			
Phytoplankton		2009-2010	4 sites 19 samples
Macroalgae	Reduced Species List	2011	4 sites 4 surveys
Benthic Invertebrates	Infaunal Quality Index	2010-2013	1 site 12 samples
	Imposex	2010-2013	3
<b>Physico-chemical</b>			
Nutrients		2010-2012, 2014	19 samples
Dissolved Oxygen (DO)		2010, 2012, 2014	25 samples
Other polluting substances (Annex VIII)		ND	
<b>Hydromorphology</b>		2007	
<b>Water chemistry</b>			
(Annex X)		ND	

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Biological Quality Elements											
Flora					Fauna						
Phytoplankton	H	Macroalgae	H		Benthos	G	Fish	Biological Quality	G		
Physico-chemical Elements											
General conditions											
Oxygen (DO)	H	Nutrients (DIN)	H						Status	H	
Specific pollutants (Annex VIII)											
NO DATA								Status			
Hydromorphological Quality Elements											
								Status	G		
Chemical Status											
Priority hazardous substances (Annex X)											
NO DATA								Status	Good		
									Fail		
High Impact Invasive Species											
None recorded								Status	H		
Established											
Impacting											

Ecological Status	
	High
G	Good
	Moderate
	Poor
	Bad

Surface Water Status	
	High
G	Good
	Moderate
	Poor
	Bad

Figure 2: Overall classification of North Channel (Coastal Water)

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## ANNEX A: Classification of Biological Quality Elements

### QE: Phytoplankton

<b>QE Phytoplankton assessment (+ data confidence):</b>	<b>HIGH (85.9%)</b>	
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#### Classification metrics:

1. Chlorophyll biomass index (90%ile)
2. Elevated taxa count index: Not applied, insufficient data.
3. Seasonal succession: Not applied, insufficient data.

#### 1. Chlorophyll Biomass Index

**Data store:** <M:\Projects 14\Phycology 2014\MM14-14 Phytoplankton and Chlorophyll\classification 15\Coastal data\NORTH CHANNEL 2015 Copy.XLS>

<M:\Projects 14\Phycology 2014\MM14-14 Phytoplankton and Chlorophyll\classification 15\Coastal data\North Channel 90th Percentile.xls>

**Data Availability (spot & continuous samples):** spot (2009-2010) NIEA

#### Thresholds:

Water Ref. Area		Status				
		High	Good	Moderate	Poor	Bad
North/Irish Sea	Chl $\mu\text{g l}^{-1}$	<5	5-10	10-15	15-20	>20
	EQR	0 -1.0	1.0-0.8	0.8-0.6	0.6-0.4	0.4-0.2

#### Results:

90%ile	Status	EQR	Data Years	No. of Sites	No. of Samples	Data Confidence
0.92	<b>HIGH</b>	0.96	2009-2010	4	19	86.5%

**Data confidence: High 85.9%**

Data analysed for Confidence of Classification using <M:\Projects 14\Phycology 2014\MM14-14 Phytoplankton and Chlorophyll\classification 15\2015CW Phytoplankton CoC tool v10 7 UKTAG.xls>

Low temporal trend as the site was only sampled in 2009 and 2010.  
Waterbody classification based on chlorophyll biomass only.

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**QE: Macroalgae**

<b>QE macroalgal assessment (+ data confidence):</b>	<b>HIGH (99.8%)</b>	
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**Classification tools:**

Reduced species list (RSL),  
Macroalgal Blooming Tool – not applicable  
Angiosperms – Tool not applicable

**1. Reduced Species list**

- Data Availability (classification): 2011, 4 sites
- Data Store: [M:\Projects 14\Phycology 2014\MM14-12 Intertidal Rocky Shore\FSL-RSL Classification update 2015 \(09-14\)\Datasheet.xls](M:\Projects 14\Phycology 2014\MM14-12 Intertidal Rocky Shore\FSL-RSL Classification update 2015 (09-14)\Datasheet.xls)

**Boundaries:**

Parameters	Quality Status	Bad	Poor	Moderate	Good	High
	Sub-metric quality status	0.0 – 0.2	0.21 – 0.4	0.41 – 0.6	0.61 – 0.8	0.81 – 1.0
Species richness (adj. for shore)		0 – 3	3 – 10	10 – 20	20 – 34	34 – 68
Proportion of Chlorophyta (% G)		80 – 100	45 – 80	30 – 45	20 – 30	0 – 20
Proportion of Rhodophyta (% R)		0 – 10	10 – 25	25 – 35	35 – 45	45 – 100
Ecological Status Group ratio (ESG)		0.0 – 0.2	0.2 – 0.4	0.4 – 0.6	0.6 – 0.8	0.8 – 1.2
Proportion of opportunists (% opp)		50 – 100	35 – 50	25 – 35	15 – 25	0 – 15

**Results:**

Shore	Sub-Metric EQR							RSL EQR	Status
	Shore desc.	Sp. richness	Adj. Sp. Richness	% G	% R	ESG	% Opp		
Murlough Bay 2011	16	54	50.22	16.67	53.70	1.08	11.11	0.851	HIGH
Port Vinegar 2011	18	60	48.00	15.00	50.00	1.14	10.00	0.864	HIGH
Ballygally Point 2011	12	55	66.55	14.55	50.91	1.04	10.91	0.870	HIGH
Straidkelly Point 2011	15	49	49.00	18.37	44.90	1.04	12.24	0.827	HIGH
<b>Mean</b>								<b>0.853 ±0.019</b>	<b>HIGH</b>



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### Macroalgae (cont'd)

#### Confidence of Classification: High (99.8%)

- Data analysed for Confidence of Class using [M:\Projects 14\Phycology 2014\MM14-12 Intertidal Rocky Shore\PIRATES\\_v04 - Class update 2015 \(09-14\) for UKTAG.xls](#)
- Standard Deviation ( $\pm$ ) is included with the mean EQR.
- Data QA (expert team).
- WFD specific data (reduced species list completed; full species list carried out on 1 site).
- Four shores (good spatial coverage) over one year (poor temporal trend assessment).

**Alien taxa: None found**

**QE: Angiosperms – Tool not applicable**

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**QE: Benthic Invertebrates**

<b>QE benthic invertebrate assessment (+ Data confidence):</b>	<b>GOOD (L)</b>	
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Classification tools: 1. Infaunal Quality Index (IQI)  
2. Imposex tool (VDSI)

1. *IQI (UKTAG v01 20140228)*

**Water body IQI assessment: Good (Low)**

**WFD surveillance monitoring:**

- **Data store:** [..\North Channel water body\North Channel Water Body 08-13 fauna data 1 mm.xlsx](#)
- **Benthic invertebrates Database** UNICORN (NMMT)
- **Supporting Parameters Set** Water Quality Data
- **Digital images** AMAP Project folder
- **Data Availability (classification):** 3 reps, 1 site, 4 years, Day Grab, 1 mm sieve, n=12.
- **Boundaries (Intercalibrated NEAGIG):**

Class	Bad	Poor	Moderate	Good	High
<b>IQI</b>	>0.0 ≤0.24	≥0.24 <0.44	≥0.44 <0.64	≥0.64 <0.75	≥0.75

**Results**

Year	Survey	Station	n	Annual Mean	Annual ± S.D	Status
2010	FEPA (3)	SDCS	3	0.75	0.05	High
2011	FEPA (3)	SDCS	3	0.71	0.03	Good
2012	FEPA (3)	SDCS	3	0.75	0.03	High
2013	FEPA (3)	SDCS	3	0.77	0.06	High
2014	FEPA (3)	SDCS	-	-	-	-
2015	FEPA (3)	SDCS	-	-	-	-
<b>Overall 6 year waterbody means</b>			<b>4.7</b>	<b>0.74 (0.70*)</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>Good</b>

**Data confidence: Low**

- Sample analysis QA'd through NMBAQC (Good)
- Database QA'd (Good)
- No specific WFD data (3single points with reps)

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## 2. VDSI (*Nucella lapillus*)

Waterbody VDSI assessment:

**High (H)**

- **Data store:** [..\\..\\BIOEFFECTS\\Imposex\\Imposex 2013\\Report\\IMPOSEX MASTER DATA SHEET TEMPLATE.xls](#)
- **Data availability:** 2004/2007/2010/2013 NI survey

**Boundaries:**

Class	Good	High
VDSI	≥0.3 to <4.0	<0.3
EQR	≥0.34 to <0.95	≥0.95

**Results:**

Year	Shore	VDSI	EQR	Status
2013	Cloughfin Port	0.00	1.00	High
2013	Cushendun	0.00	1.00	High
2013	Redbay	0.07	0.99	High
	<b>Mean</b>	<b>0.02</b>		<b>High</b>

**Data confidence:**

**High**

- Sample analysis QA through QUASIMEME (High)
- ≥3 sites (High)

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## ANNEX B: Classification of physico-chemical Quality Elements: General

### QE: Dissolved Oxygen

<b>Dissolved oxygen (+ data confidence):</b>	<b>HIGH (100%)</b>	
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Classification tools: Comparison of 5% ile against reference standards

- Data Availability: 2010, 2012, 2014
- Data Store: [..\DO Classification 2012\Shortcut to DO FIELD VALUES 2006 -2010.lnk](#)
- Data Availability (spot & continuous samples): Spot

### Thresholds:

WFD Status	Marine 5%ile	Objectives
HIGH	≥5.7 mg/L	All life stages of salmonids and transitional fish
GOOD	≥4.0 <5.7 mg/L	Presence of salmonids and transitional fish
MODERATE	≥2.4 <4.0 mg/L	Most life stages of non-salmonid adults
POOR	≥1.6 <2.4 mg/L	Presence of non-salmonids, poor survival of salmonids
BAD	<1.6 mg/L	No salmonids present, marginal survival of resident species

### Results:

5% ile DO (mg/L)	Status	Data years	Data Quality	No. of daily averages	Data Coverage (proportion of possible months with data*)
8.06	HIGH	2010,2012, 2014	**	25	23.3%

\* Proportion of possible months for which data are available

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**QE: Nutrients – N regulation**

<b>QE N regulation assessment (+ Data confidence):</b>	<b>HIGH (100%)</b>	
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- **Data store:** [..\Coastal WB inc AFBI 15.xls](#)
- **Data Availability:** 2010 to 2012/2014  
DIN & salinity (Nov to Feb)
- **Data Source (spot & continuous samples):** spot and continuous

**Thresholds:**

Area	Salinity range	DIN (uM) Winter mean H	DIN (uM) Winter mean G	DIN (uM) Winter mean M
Coastal (at salinity 32)	30-34.5	<12	12-18	18+

**Results:**

Mean Winter DIN (uM) (Avg DIN)*	Winter DIN Daily average (n)	No. of samples (n)	No. of sites	Data Years	Data Quality	Status
7.54		19		2010-2011, 2012/2014	Database not yet QA'd	HIGH

\*Average DIN used as  $r^2$  value of regression model is less than 0.75

**Data confidence source:** [..\CofCDINth.xlsx](#)

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**ANNEX C: Classification of physico-chemical quality elements: Specific Pollutants (Annex VIII)**


<b>Specific pollutants assessment (+data confidence)</b>	<b>NO DATA</b>	
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Classification tools: Comparison with EQS levels.

Data availability: No Data

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#### ANNEX D: Hydromorphological quality elements

<b>Overall hydromorphology assessment</b>	<b>gH</b>	
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Classification tools:

1. TRaC Hydromorphology metrics
2. MIMAS

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### ANNEX E: Chemical Status – Annex X Chemicals

<b>Priority hazardous substances (+data confidence)</b>	<b>NO DATA</b>	
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**Classification tools:** Comparison with EQS levels.

Annex X: Overall Compliance	No Data
Annex X: Pass/Fail	No Data



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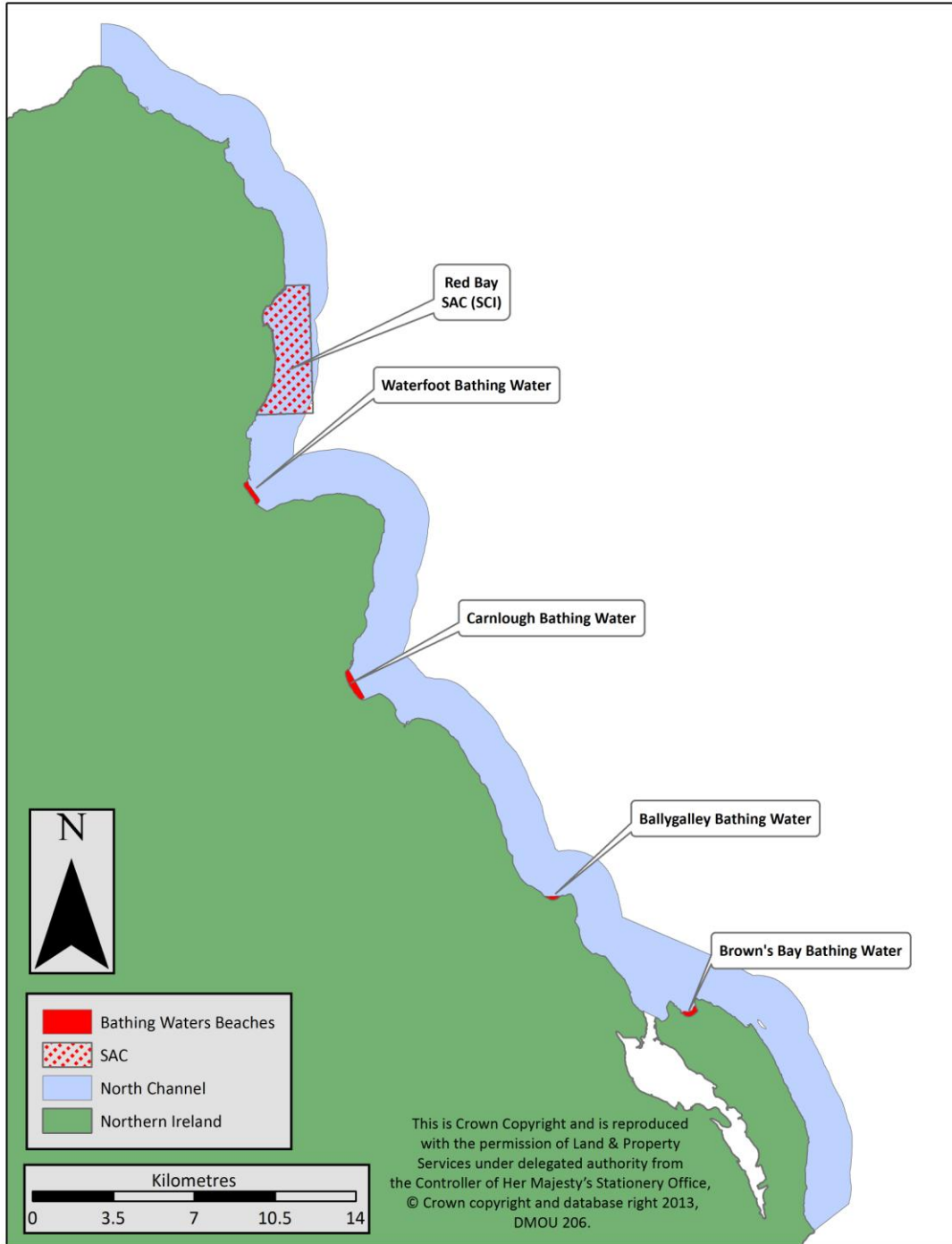
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ANNEX F: Protected Areas



Protected areas within North Channel (Coastal Waters).

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The following Protected Areas are situated either wholly or partly within the North Channel water body:

**Natura 2000 sites (Habitats Directive and Birds Directive):**

Site Name	2014 Condition Status	Designated Water Dependant habitat/species	Feature(s) not meeting objective	Reason for not meeting objective
Red Bay SCI	Favourable	Sandbanks slightly covered by seawater at all times which are composed of maerl, sub-fossil maerl, coarse sands, gravels and cobbles.	None	n/a

**Bathing Waters Directive Beaches:**

Beach	2011-2014 Revised Bathing Waters Classification
Waterfoot	Good
Camlough	Sufficient
Ballygally	Good
Brown's Bay	Good

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### ANNEX G: High Impact Invasive Species

QE High Impact Invasive Species assessment	<b>HIGH</b>
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#### Ecoregion 17 Marine High Impact Invasive Species List

Phylum	Species	P	E	I	Record
Chordata	<i>Didemnum</i> spp.				
Chordata	<i>Styela clava</i>				
Crustacea	<i>Eriocheir sinensis</i>				
Mollusca	<i>Crassostrea gigas</i>				
Mollusca	<i>Crepidula fornicata</i>				
Phaeophyceae	<i>Sargassum muticum</i>				
Angiosperms	<i>Spartina anglica</i>				

P= Present; E= Established; I= Impacting

NB Established populations of high impact species automatically downgrade overall surface water classification from 'high' to 'good'.

Record should be inputted as follows. PO= personal observation outside of surveys; W= WFD survey; M= museum / institute records.

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## GLOSSARY

<b>AFBI</b>	Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (under contract to NIEA)
<b>AMBI</b>	AZTI Marine Biotic Index
<b>Annex X</b>	Annex 10 Priority Hazardous Substances
<b>Annex VIII</b>	Annex 8 Specific Pollutants
<b>Article 5</b>	Characterisation, typology, pressures and impacts analysis
<b>ASSI</b>	Area of Special Scientific Interest
<b>DIN</b>	Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen
<b>DO</b>	Dissolved Oxygen
<b>EQR</b>	Ecological Quality Ratio
<b>EQS</b>	Ecological Quality Status
<b>EUNIS</b>	European Nature Information System
<b>FSL</b>	Full Species List
<b>GEP</b>	Good Ecological Potential
<b>gH</b>	Good/High
<b>H/G/M/P/B</b>	High/Good/Moderate/Poor/Bad (Classification Status)
<b>H/ML</b>	High/Medium/Low (Confidence)
<b>HMWB</b>	Heavily Modified Water Body
<b>IQI</b>	Infaunal Quality Index
<b>IRBD</b>	International River Basin District
<b>LOD</b>	Limit of Detection
<b>MBT</b>	Macroalgal Blooming Tool
<b>MEP</b>	Moderate Ecological Potential
<b>NB</b>	Neagh Bann
<b>ND</b>	No data
<b>NE</b>	North Eastern
<b>NEAGIG</b>	North Eastern Atlantic Geographical Intercalibration Group
<b>NIEA</b>	Northern Ireland Environment Agency
<b>N-regs</b>	Nitrogen Regulation
<b>NVZ</b>	Nitrate Vulnerable Zone
<b>NW</b>	North Western
<b>Physico-chem</b>	Physical and chemical monitoring
<b>RSL</b>	Reduced Species List
<b>SAC</b>	Special Area of Conservation
<b>SEPA</b>	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
<b>SPA</b>	Special Protected Area
<b>TNA</b>	Tool Not Applicable
<b>TraC MImAS</b>	Transitional and Coastal Morphology Impact Assessment System
<b>TUD</b>	Tool Under Development
<b>UKAS</b>	United Kingdom Accreditation Service
<b>UKTAG</b>	United Kingdom Technical Advisory Group for Water Framework Directive
<b>UNICORN</b>	Database for marine organisms.
<b>UWWTD</b>	Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)
<b>VDSI</b>	Vas Deferens Sequence Index
<b>WFD</b>	Water Framework Directive

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