

Galway Harbour

Biodiversity Action Plan





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1.

INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared by Galway Harbour Company ('GHC') to set out the measures that have been adopted to demonstrate that appropriate regard has been had to the objectives and targets in Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan ('NBAP'). This is required under Section 5 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000 (Part VA).

The objectives of the NBAP that were found to be most relevant to GHC in the development of this plan include the following:

- NBAP Objective Two: Meet Urgent Conservation and Restoration Needs.
- NBAP Objective Three: Secure Nature's Contribution to People.
- NBAP Objective Four: Enhance the Evidence Base for Action on Biodiversity.

2.

BIODIVERSITY OBJECTIVES

Table 2.1 GHC Biodiversity Objectives

NBAP Objective and Outcome	GHC Objective
Objective Two: Meet Urgent Conservation and Restoration Needs	
Outcome 2A: The protection of existing designated areas and species is strengthened and conservation and restoration within the existing protected area network are enhanced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ GHC will aim to avoid adverse effects on any European Site occurring as a result of its ongoing operations and will, where possible, aim to protect and enhance such sites where they occur within or adjacent to their landholding. ➤ In the development of the proposed New Port, where adverse effects on the Galway Bay Complex SAC and Inner Galway Bay SPA cannot be avoided, any such effects will be fully compensated for.
<p>Outcome 2B: Biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider countryside are conserved and restored.</p> <p>Outcome 2F: A National Restoration Plan is in place to contribute to the ambition of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and global restoration targets.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ GHC will aim to protect existing biodiversity and ecosystem services within and adjacent to its landholding, where possible, as a first principle. ➤ GHC will aim to enhance the existing biodiversity and create new habitats for flora and fauna, where possible, within its landholding. ➤ GHC will aim to maintain and enhance ecological connectivity throughout its landholding and the surrounding area. ➤ GHC will take cognisance of the EU 2030 targets with a particular focus on the areas of urban greening and green/blue infrastructure.
Outcome 2E: Biodiversity and ecosystem services in the marine and freshwater environment are conserved and restored.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ GHC will aim conserve and protect all marine waters in all operations.

<p>Outcome 2H: Invasive alien species (IAS) are controlled and managed on an all island basis to reduce the harmful impact they have on biodiversity and measures are undertaken to tackle the introduction and spread of new IAS to the environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ GHC will aim to eradicate all invasive alien species on their landholding and will ensure that they are not responsible for their spread either within or outside their landholding. ➤ GHC will aim to prevent the incursion of invasive species into their property or onto the island of Ireland through the port.
Objective Three: Secure Nature's Contribution to People	
<p>Outcome 3A: Ireland's natural heritage and biocultural diversity is recognised, valued, enhanced and promoted in policy and practice.</p> <p>Outcome 3C: Planning and development will facilitate and secure biodiversity's contributions to people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ GHC will promote and publicise, where appropriate, any biodiversity enhancement or habitat creation initiatives undertaken.
Objective Four: Enhance the Evidence Base for Action on Biodiversity	
<p>Outcome 4B: Data relevant to biodiversity and ecosystems, including conservation needs, is widely accessible and standardised.</p> <p>Outcome 4C: Long-term monitoring programmes are in place to guide conservation and restoration goals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Where GHC are required to undertake biodiversity monitoring in respect of any operations or developments on the site, GHC will aim to ensure that data will be recorded and stored in a standardised manner and will be made accessible where appropriate.