

AREA OF INTEREST

# East Coast

Fair Seas has identified 16 areas of interest for Marine Protected Area designation in their report 'Revitalising Our Seas'. This infographic presents some key facts and figures from one of these areas.

This area hosts the most important roseate tern colony in all of Europe and Ireland's most important little tern colony. One of only two cod spawning grounds in Irish waters occur along our east coast covering 65% of this 'Area of Interest', as well as being a rich area for Nephros (Dublin Bay Prawns). 37% of Ireland's harbour porpoise sightings occurred here.



Spatial Extent **4346 km<sup>2</sup>**  
Maritime Area **0.89%**



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## 5

**Redlisted Species**  
All five redlisted bird species are accounted for.



**1. Balearic shearwater**  
*Puffinus mauretanicus*



**Rockabill**  
The most important roseate tern colony in all of Europe exists on this small island each year.



**Kilcoole**  
Kilcoole in Wicklow has the most important little tern colony.

**2. Atlantic puffin**  
*Fratercula arctica*



**Lambay Island**  
Nesting site for guillemot and shag colonies. Also large colonies of kittiwake, razorbill, cormorant, puffin, fulmar and several gull species. One of the most diverse and abundant seabird sites in Ireland.

**33**  
Extremely Diverse:  
33 out of the 37 seabird species occur in this area.

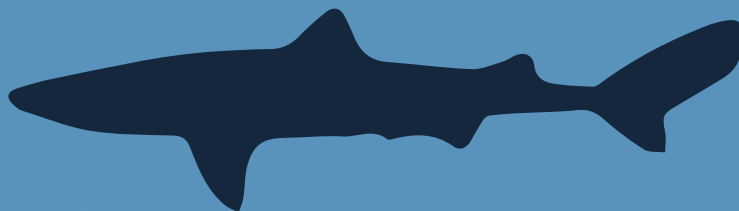


**3. Razorbill**  
*Alca torda*



**4. Kittiwake**  
*Rissa tridactyla*

**5. Leach's storm-petrel**  
*Hydrobates leucorhous*



**Spurdog**  
*Squalus acanthias*

**Thornback skate**  
*Raja clavata*

Spurdog and thornback ray numbers are very high to the east of Howth.



**Cod**  
*Gadus morhua*

Two cod spawning grounds occur in this area, covering 65% of the area.

**Native oyster**  
*Ostrea edulis*

Historical data shows that the east coast was once rich in native oyster reef.



**Harbour porpoise**  
*Phocoena phocoena*  
37% of all harbour porpoise sightings in this area.

At Fair Seas, we seek to protect, conserve and restore Ireland's unique marine environment. Our ambition is to see Ireland become a world leader in marine protection, giving our species, habitats and coastal communities the opportunity to thrive.

# FAIR SEAS

[www.fairseas.ie](http://www.fairseas.ie)