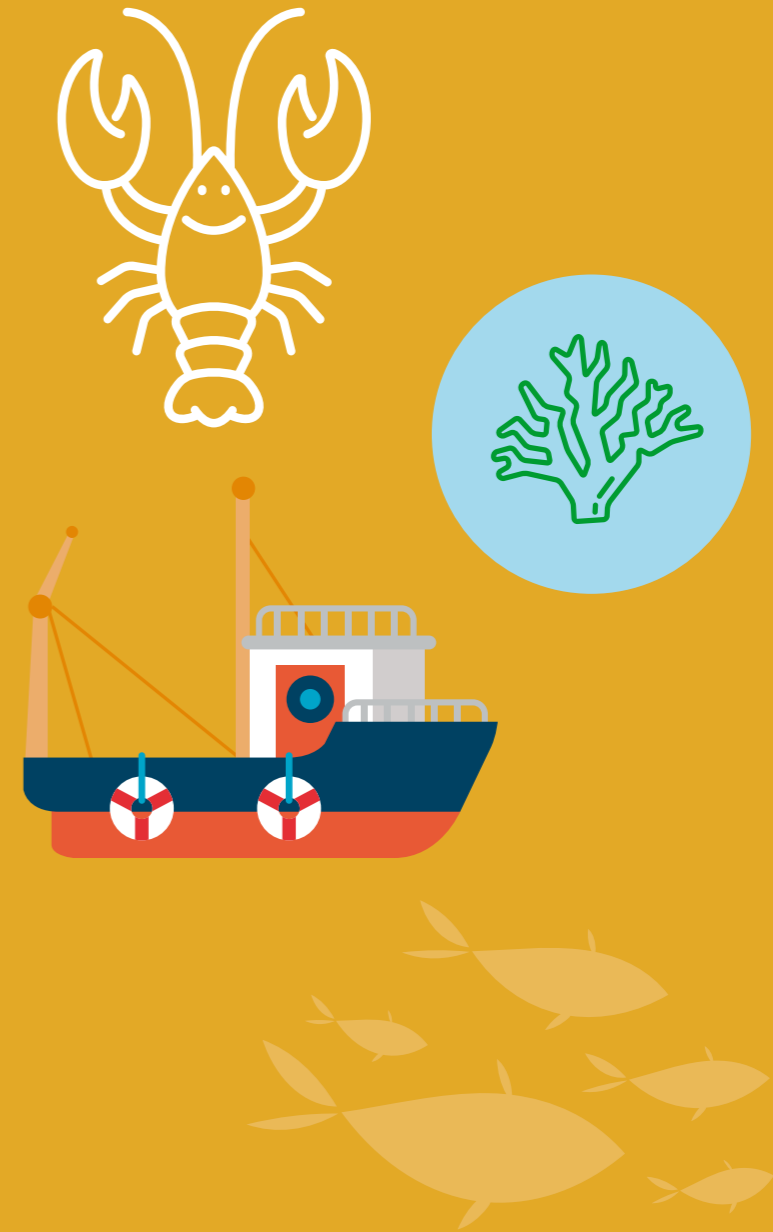


## SOE 8: Marine

**Reduce the human-induced pressures on the marine environment.**

### *ACTIONS – WHAT IS NEEDED?*

As an island nation with an extensive marine area, Ireland needs to ensure that robust governance and legal frameworks are in place to protect the marine environment.



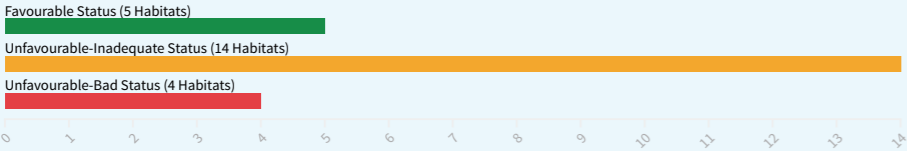
# Protect the marine environment

Ireland's marine waters are clean and reasonably healthy but not as biologically diverse and productive as they could be.

Ireland's marine waters are affected by several human-induced pressures including fishing, climate change and marine litter such as plastics.

The area covered by Marine Protected Areas needs to be expanded significantly to meet the international requirement to conserve 10 per cent of all coastal and marine areas, rising to 30 per cent in future targets under the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030. The expansion will promote the remediation of environmental damage and the protection of marine ecosystems and biodiversity.

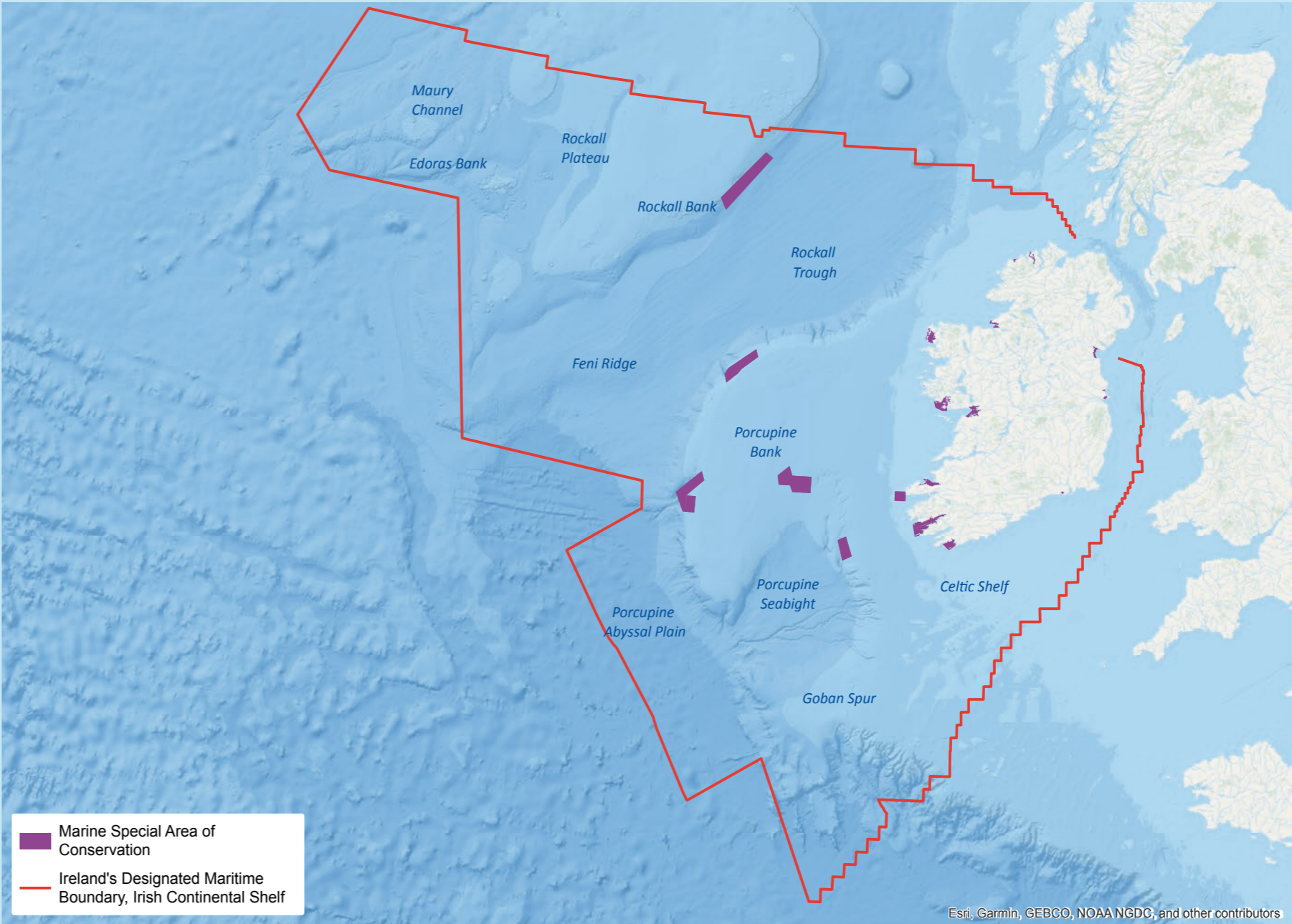
## Coastal or Marine Habitat Status



Ireland's 2019 Habitats Directive Article 17 report compiled by the NPWS found only five of Ireland's 23 marine or coastal habitats are at favourable status. The causes of unfavourable status for Ireland's marine or coastal habitats are:

- persistent eutrophication issues
- loss of species
- human-induced impacts and
- the presence of invasive species.

The red boundary is the currently designated Irish Continental Shelf. The designated marine special areas of conservation are shown in purple.



Sources  
 Ireland's Environment: An Integrated Assessment 2020.  
 Marine Institute, 2008 Real map of Ireland. <https://www.marine.ie/Home/site-area/irelands-marine-resource/real-map-ireland>  
 NPWS (National Parks and Wildlife Service), 2019. The Status of Protected EU Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 1: Summary Overview. NPWS, Dublin.  
 Geographic data © Ordnance Survey Ireland. All rights reserved. Licence number 2019/OSI\_NMA\_074.