

## Section 1

### Introduction

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Information about the environment in the Slyne, Erris and Donegal Basin areas of IOSEA1 (Figure 1.1) has been collated in order to characterise and assess of the sensitivities of those features that might be affected by the proposed draft plan, or which may influence the impacts resulting from such operations.

The description focuses on the offshore IOSEA1 area itself and adjacent areas that could potentially interact with the proposed exploration activities, but also places the information within a regional context. In recognition of concerns about possible impacts on coastal environments, consideration is also given to coastal sensitivities including human use and conservation features.

Whilst drawing on relevant up-to-date scientific information, the description was intended to be easily understood by a wide audience. The information in this annex was originally intended to be a part of the environmental report. However, owing to the quantity of technical information available, a summary version was prepared for inclusion in the environmental report in order to improve readability of that document and to facilitate decision making.

The references quoted within this document, together with the glossary and list of abbreviations, are given in the environmental report.

**Figure 1.1 IOSEA1 area of the Slyne, Erris and Donegal Basins**

