

Dublin Bay Biosphere – some facts and figures

Dublin Bay Biosphere Reserve encompasses over 300 km² of marine and terrestrial habitat. It includes North Bull Island, which has been a UNESCO Biosphere since 1981, and ecologically significant habitats such as the Tolka and Baldoyle Estuaries, Howth Head, Dalkey Island, Killiney Hill and Booterstown Marsh. The Biosphere supports a variety of plants and wildlife including an internationally significant population of Brent geese that overwinters on North Bull Island. Further information is available on www.dublinbaybiosphere.ie.

Ireland's only other UNESCO Reserve is in Killarney National Park.

How will the new partnership promote the Bay?

Dublin Bay Partnership will promote and protect the Bay through:

- **Conservation** – the protection of the Biosphere through habitat management and monitoring
- **Learning** – third level colleges, research institutes and the schools sector will be facilitated and encouraged to study the habitat and Dublin Bay Partnership will share this knowledge with the wider public
- **Development** – the Partnership will develop links with communities and businesses to promote sustainable development in Dublin Bay

What is a UNESCO Biosphere?

- It's a special designation awarded by UNESCO but managed in partnership with local communities, NGOs, local and national governments
- Biospheres are recognised for their biological diversity but are managed to promote a balanced relationship between people and nature
- There is a global network of 651 Biosphere Reserves in 120 countries.

Why is Dublin Bay a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve?

- North Bull Island was designated in 1981 because of its rare and internationally important habitats and wildlife
- The extension of the Biosphere to Dublin Bay in 2015 reflects the Bay's environmental, leisure, cultural and tourism significance. Leisure activities include walking, swimming, bird watching, boating/sailing, kite and wind surfing

What are the key areas in Dublin Bay Biosphere:

- North Bull Island
- Howth Head
- Killiney Hill
- The Tolka and Baldoyle Estuaries
- Booterstown Marsh
- Dalkey Island
- Ireland's Eye

What kind of biodiversity lives in the reserve?

- A huge diversity of mammals, birds, fish, insects and plants live and breed on the Bay's coastal habitats
- Over 300 plant species have been recorded on North Bull Island alone