When paddling in this area you will notice the 41m high Scrabo Tower, overlooking the town of Newtownards and breeding grounds as faraway as Siberia, Iceland, Canada and Ireland. Admired by many as the best place to watch the world go by, the tower has a fantastic 360-degree view. It is connected to Mahee Island which is home to Nendrum Island Reagh. The site was once a Catholic Church and the base a round tower. Near the church there is an old limekiln and stone tower. The island also has a heronry and these majestic birds can be seen flying around the site. The Strangford Lough NNR Ringneil Bay is a wonderful windy day option for paddlers. This and the nearby East Island mark the boundary between Strangford Lough and the Irish Sea. The coastal walk between Portaferry and Strangford Lough is a fantastic route to enjoy both water-based and walking activities. This fascinating maze of islands offer sheltered and safe anchorage with many facilities on offer to the visitor. This island-studded sea lough is the largest inlet in the UK and was once the site of some of the most important early Celtic Christian monasteries in Ireland. Early Celtic monks are believed to have occupied an island off the coast of Strangford and one of the islanders was St Molua. When paddling in this area it is important to be aware of other water users such as sailing boats and cruisers. It is not recommended to canoe alone – three boats is the minimum you should be in. Always keep a quick means of communication (VHF Radio, mobile phone), torch and whistle. A first-aid kit, buoyancy aid. Canoe buoyancy should be sufficient to keep the canoe floating. This is an adventure sport and as such should be treated with caution. Always take advice from local organisations and the information provided before you set out. Invasive Species can be a major threat to our marine environment. The same is true for Strangford Lough and the Belfast Lough area. If you are aware of any of these species please contact the Park Office. This area should be treated with utmost caution. One of the reasons for this is the presence of the non-native Crayfish which can cause significant damage to the local aquatic environment. When paddling on this area please take care of the local flora and fauna. No littering or disturbance of wildlife should be allowed.