

Appendix 10. Biotope biology and sensitivity key information *pro forma*. (May 2000 onwards)

(MERMAID) = Linked data from JNCC Mermaid Web pages)

BASIC INFORMATION

Biotope / Habitat name

MNCR Biotope code

1. **Information researched by**
2. **Information entered by**
3. **Information refereed by**
4. **Date last updated**
5. **Image and distribution map**
6. **British and Irish Distribution**
7. **National status**
8. **Description (from Connor *et al.*, 1997 a & b)**

BIOTOPE CLASSIFICATION

1. **UK and Ireland Classification**

9. **MNCR Habitat Complex**

10. **MNCR Biotope Complex**

11. **MNCR Biotope**

12. **Similar Biotopes** Other biotopes that could be confused with this biotope or characterized by the same species

13. **Biotopes represented by Key Information review**

Characterising species (MERMAID) Species name, abundance, frequency, faithfulness

14. **Additional Information** Other classifications (for example, ZNIEFF-MER, Wadden Sea, Helcon)

15. **Key references**

ECOLOGY

1. **Ecological Relationships**

2. **Seasonal / Temporal Changes**

3. **Key references**

ADDITIONAL ECOLOGY

1. **Habitat Complexity**

2. **Dominant trophic groups** Photoautotrophs, Chemoautotrophs, Deposit feeders (detritivors), Suspension feeders, Herbivores, Predators, Scavengers, Epifaunal grazers, Not relevant, No information found, Data deficient, Field unresearched.

3. **Productivity**

4. **Major sources of organic carbon** Photosynthesis (macroalgae and halophytic plants), Photosynthesis (microalgae), Chemoautotrophs, Detritus, Dissolved organic matter, Not relevant, Data deficient, Field unresearched

5. **Recruitment processes**

6. **Time for the community to reach maturity**

7. **Additional Information**

8. **Key references**

HABITAT PREFERENCES AND DISTRIBUTION

1. **British and Irish Distribution**
2. **Distribution map**
3. **Habitat preferences**
 - **Substratum (MERMAID)**
 - **Zone (MERMAID)**
 - **Depth range (MERMAID)**
 - **Wave exposure (MERMAID)**
 - **Tidal streams (MERMAID)**
 - **Salinity (MERMAID)**
 - **Temperature range**
 - **Water clarity** High clarity/Low Turbidity, Low clarity/ High turbidity, Very high turbidity, No preference, Not relevant, No information found, Data deficient, Field unresearched.
 - **Limiting nutrients** Nitrogen (e.g. nitrates), Phosphorus (e.g. phosphates), Silicon (silicates), Manganese, Iron, Not relevant, No information found, Data deficient, Field unresearched.
 - **Other preferences**
4. **Additional Information**
5. **Key references**

SPECIES COMPOSITION

1. **Characterising species (MERMAID)** Species name, abundance, frequency, faithfulness
2. **Species indicative of sensitivity** Key structural/functional, important characterizing, important structural/functional, important other.
3. **Explanation**
4. **Species found uniquely in the biotope**
5. **Nationally rare or scarce species associated with biotope**
6. **Additional information**
7. **Key references**

BIOTOPE SENSITIVITY

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Physical factors | Substratum loss |
| | Smothering |
| | Suspended sediment |
| | Desiccation |
| | Changes in emergence regime |
| | Changes in water flow rate |
| | Changes in temperature |
| | Changes in turbidity |
| | Changes in wave exposure |
| | Noise |
| | Visual presence |
| | Abrasion and physical disturbance |
| | Displacement |
| Chemical factors | Synthetic compounds |
| | Heavy metals |
| | Hydrocarbons |
| | Radionuclides |
| | Changes in nutrient levels |
| | Changes in salinity |
| | Changes in oxygenation |
| Biological factors | Introduction of microbial pathogens |
| | Introduction of non-native species and translocation |
| | Selective extraction of this species |
| | Selective extraction of other species |

1. **Sensitivity to factors (ranked against the above factors)**
2. **Recoverability (ranked against the above factors)**
3. **Likely change in species richness** Major decline/decline/minor decline/no change/rise/ not relevant.
4. **Evidence / Confidence**
5. **Species used to indicate biotope sensitivity or recoverability**
 - *Presentation of sensitivity assessments for species that indicate biotope sensitivity*
 - *Presentation of recoverability assessments for species that indicate biotope sensitivity*
6. **Additional information**
7. **Key references**

IMPORTANCE**Marine Natural Heritage Importance****1. Legislation****Protected status or relevance under directives and conventions**

Berne Convention

EC Habitats Directive

NI Conservation legislation

UK Biodiversity Action Plans

UK Biodiversity Action Plan habitat

EC Directive Annex I habitat

Other

2. National status:

Is the biotope nationally rare or scarce?

3. Habitat Directive feature

Reefs, Estuaries, etc (data supplied by EN/SNH).

Commercial Importance

4. Exploitation Description of the commercial, aquacultural, research, curio, or culinary exploitation of the habitat.

5. Biotope importance for other species

6. Additional Information

7. Key references