

Appendix 5. Key to acronyms

Acronyms included in the text and likely to be used in relation to studies of sensitivity and identification of marine natural heritage importance of areas are given below.

Terms are briefly explained where they are not referenced in the glossary above and are unclear. The inclusion here of environmental consultants and other commercial organisations merely represents some of the many contractors who have been involved with work on sensitivity and whose names are regularly abbreviated in reports. The inclusion or exclusion of any such organisation is not intended as an endorsement or otherwise of their work.

ACME	Advisory Committee on the Marine Environment (an ICES committee)
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AOS	Area of Search (in relation to SSSI selection)
API	Application Program Interface. An interface between the operating system and application programs, which includes the way the application programs communicate with the operating system, and the services the operating system makes available to the programs.
ASMO	ASsessment and MOnitoring group (of the Oslo and Paris Conventions)
ASP	Active Server Pages. Active Server Pages is a compile-free application environment for Microsoft's Web Server. ASP scripts can be embedded in an HTML document and are parsed before being sent to the client web browser. Active Server Pages provide a method to create dynamic or database driven web pages. Active Server Pages have native support for both VBScript and Jscript and can also embed ActiveX server components.
ASSI	Area of Special Scientific Interest (Northern Ireland)
ATBA	Areas To Be Avoided (by shipping)
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BEDMAN	BEnthic Data MANagement. (A database developed at the Dutch National Institute for Coastal and Marine Management and the Netherlands Institute of Ecology to hold survey data on macro- and meiobenthic fauna from the North Sea.)
BGS	British Geological Survey
BioMar	(Not an acronym) Marine coastal zone management: Identification, description and mapping of biotopes (an EU LIFE-funded project). (Not to be confused with the USA biodiversity and systematics research programme BioMar: BIOlogical diversity in MARine systems).
BOD	Biochemical Oxygen Demand
BODC	British Oceanographic Data Centre
BRC	Biological Records Centre
CA	Country Agency - one of the statutory national nature conservation bodies, the Countryside Council for Wales, English Nature or Scottish Natural Heritage
CAMEO	Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations
CANOCO	CANOnical Community Ordination (a multivariate analytical programme)
CCMS	Centre for Coastal and Marine Sciences (of NERC)
CCW	Countryside Council for Wales
CD-ROM	Compact Disk – Read Only Memory
CEC	1) Commission of the European Communities; the European Commission; 2) Council of the European Communities; 3) Critical Environmental Capital; 4) Crown Estates Commissioners.
CGI	Common Gateway Interface. A way of interfacing computer programs with HTTP or WWW servers, so that a server can offer interactive sites instead of just static text and images.
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
COM	Common Object Model. Microsoft's standard for object interaction. COM provides a standard mechanism by which objects and components can communicate, independent of the language in which the components were created.
CORINE	Co-ORdination of INformation on the Environment (an EU biotopes classification initiative)

COST	COoperation européenne dans la domaine de la recherch� Scientifique et Technique (an EU forum for European scientific research co-operation.)
CZM	Coastal Zone Management
DANI	Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland
DEFRA	Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DETR until mid 2001)
DETR	Department of the Environment Transport and the Regions.
DETR	Department of Environment Transport and the Regions (DoE until mid 1997)
DML	1) Dove Marine Laboratory, Cullercoats 2) Dunstaffnage Marine Laboratory, Oban
DoE	Department of the Environment (DETR after mid 1997)
DoE(NI)	Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland
DOS	Disk Operating System. More computers worldwide have DOS than any other operating system.
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
EA	1) Environmental Assessment 2) Environment Agency
EC	1) European Commission; the Commission of the European Communities; 2) European Community (now referred to as the European Union)
EcoQ	Ecological Quality
EcoQO	Ecological Quality Objective
EEA	European Environment Agency
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment or Analysis
EIR	Environmental Information Regulations
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EMS	European Marine Site
EN	English Nature
ENSIS	English Nature SSSI Information System
EQO	Environmental Quality Objective
ERA	Environmental Risk Assessment
ES	Environmental Statement
ESA	Environmentally Sensitive Area
ESI	Environmental Sensitivity Index
EU	European Union
EUCC	European Union for Coastal Conservation
FSC	Field Studies Council
FSCRC	Field Studies Council Research Centre
FTP	File Transfer Protocol. A client/server protocol for exchanging files with a host computer.
GB	Great Britain
GESAMP	Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine environmental Protection (until about 1991, the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution) (an advisory body to the Heads of eight organisations of the United Nations System)
GIS	Geographical Information System.
GIS	Geographical Information System
GOOS	Global Ocean Observing System
HTML	Hyper Text Mark-up Language
HTTP	HyperText Transfer Protocol. The protocol most often used to transfer information from World Wide Web servers to browsers. Also called Hypertext Transport Protocol
IAMW	Important Area for Marine Wildlife
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Seas.
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
IFREMER	Institut Franais de Recherch� pour l'Exploitation de la Mer
IMA	Important Marine Area

IMO	International Maritime Organisation
INTERREG	Interreg is a source of funding from Europe which is designed to encourage partnerships across borders and in doing so stimulate economic development.
IOE	Institute of Offshore Engineering (Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh)
ISSN	International Standard Serial Number
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
JAMP	Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme (OSPAR)
JANET	Joint Academic NETwork. High speed computed network that links academic institutes
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee.
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
LIFE	L'Instrument Financier pour l'Environment [Financial Instrument for the Environment]
LME	Large Marine Ecosystem
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
MarLIN	Marine Life Information Network
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea from Ships
MARS	Network of European Marine Research Stations
MBA	Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom
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MCA	1) Marine Consultation Area, or 2) (generally prefixed 'Voluntary') Marine Conservation Area
MCS	Marine Conservation Society
MEHRA	Marine Environmental High-Risk Area
MNA	Maritime Natural Area
MNCR	Marine Nature Conservation Review
MNR	Marine Nature Reserve
MPA	Marine Protected Area (generic term)
NBN	National Biodiversity Network
NCC	Nature Conservancy Council
NCCE	Nature Conservancy Council for England (English Nature; NCCE remains the formal legal title)
NERC	Natural Environment Research Council
NGO	non-governmental organisation
NHAP	National Heritage Assessment Protocol
NHM	The Natural History Museum, London
NMMP	National Marine Monitoring Plan (UK)
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NP	National Park (England and Wales)
NRA	National Rivers Authority (now the Environment agency)
NRSC	National Remote Sensing Centre
NSQSR	North Sea Quality Status Report
NSTF	North Sea Task Force
NT	National Trust
NTS	National Trust for Scotland
NVZ	Nitrate Vulnerable Zone
ODBC	Open Database Connectivity. An interface that makes it possible to access different database systems with a common language.
OLD	Operations Likely to Damage (English Nature term)
OPRU	Oil Pollution Research Unit
OSIS	Oil Spill Information System
OSPAR	The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic.
OSPAR	OSlo/PARis Convention (short title for the 1992 International Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic)
OSPARCOM	OSlo and PARis COMmissions

PCBs	poly-chlorinated biphenyls
PCoA	Principal Co-ordinates Analysis
PDA	potentially damaging activity (generally used in context of marine protected areas)
PDO	potentially damaging operation (generally used in context of notified SSSIs)
PML	Plymouth Marine Laboratory (of NERC)
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance note
ppt	parts per thousand (measurement of salinity, normally expressed as ‰)
PRIMER	Plymouth Routines In Multi-variate Ecological Research (a multivariate analytical programme)
PSP	paralytic shellfish poisoning
PSSA	Particularly Sensitive Sea Area
QSR	Quality Status Report
QUASIMEME	Quality ASSurance of Information for Marine Environmental Monitoring in Europe
RDB	Red Data Book
RDBMS	Relational Data Base Management System. A complex set of programs that control the organization, storage and retrieval of data for many users in a relational database. Data is organized in fields, records and files. A database management system must also control the security of the database
redox	REDuction-OXidation
RoxAnn	Reputedly a derivation from "rocks and sand"; see glossary of terms
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SACFOR	An abundance scale used by MNCR for recording benthic marine organisms (see Hiscock 1996): Superabundant; Abundant; Common; Frequent; Occasional; Rare
SAMS	Scottish Association for Marine Science
SAST	Seabirds at Sea Team (a project within JNCC's Seabirds and Cetaceans Branch)
SCOPAC	Standing Conference on Problems Associated with the Coastline
SCR	Seabird Colony Register (JNCC)
Seasearch	A JNCC & MCS Phase 1 sublittoral habitat survey
SensMap	Sensitivity mapping of the coastal marine environment in the southern Irish Sea
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
SERCON	System for Evaluating Rivers for CONservation
SMA	Sensitive Marine Area
SMBA	Scottish Marine Biological Association (now Scottish Association for Marine Science)
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
SNIFFER	Scotland and Northern Ireland Forum for Environmental Research
SPA	Special Protection Area (a site designation under the 1979 EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds)
SQM	Site Quality Monitoring
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SWQO	Statutory Water Quality Objective
SWT	Scottish Wildlife Trust
TBT	tri-butyl tin (organotin)
TWINSpan	Two-Way INdicator SPecies ANalysis (a multivariate analytical programme)
UCNW	University College of North Wales (now known as University of Wales, Bangor)
UK	United Kingdom
UK BAP	UK Biodiversity Action Plan. (The UK's action plan in response to the Biodiversity Convention. Biodiversity Action Plans for species and habitats have been prepared under the umbrella of the UK BAP)
UKDMAP	United Kingdom Digital Marine Atlas Project
UKOOA	United Kingdom Offshore Operators' Association
UM	Ulster Museum
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (the 1992 'Rio' conference)
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

UNIX	A multi-user, multi-tasking operating system. It was originally designed for minicomputers, then revised for use on mainframes and personal computers. There are now many versions of UNIX which can be used on many different platforms. UNIX is written in the C programming language.
VB	Visual Basic. A computer programming language
VCO	Voluntary Conservation Organisation
VSA	Very Sensitive Area (normally used in context of fish-farming)
WA	(as suffix, e.g. SWWA) Water Authority
WWF	World-Wide Fund for Nature (formerly World Wildlife Fund)
WWW	World Wide Web
ZNIEFF	Zones Naturelles d'Intérêt Écologique, Faunistique et Floristique [Natural Zones of Ecological, Faunistic or Floristic Interest] (A French initiative to identify sites of interest and classify biotopes.)

