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 européene dans la domaine de la recherché 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 Français de Recherché 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
MBA Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom

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.)