

Collation of data on distribution of species and habitats in the Irish Sea. Stage 3 - Consultation.

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Joint Nature Conservation Committee

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Introduction

The Marine Biological Association (MBA) collated distribution data on a number of species and habitats of national importance in the Irish Sea (see first and second reports). The review of data sources forms part of the Irish Sea Pilot undertaken by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), on behalf of the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). The pilot has been set up to test the potential for an ecosystem approach to managing the marine environment at a regional sea scale.

Distribution maps have been prepared for the selected species and habitats (Annex A and B) combining the data collated by the MBA and JNCC. If no information was found no maps have been produced. Annex C briefly lists the sources of information identified by *MarLIN*.

Methods

Maps were printed out in black and white and sent out to a list of people for consultation provided by JNCC with additional people entered by the MBA giving a total of 35 (Annex D). Participants were asked to comment on the accuracy and completeness of the distribution maps by annotating additional points or by highlighting any points thought to be dubious.

Results

Of the 35 people sent information for consultation replies were received from 18. Approximately half of people who responded did not hold any relevant data or could not provide any additional data.

The time allowed for the actual consultation process was relatively short and some people were on holiday during the time so could not respond in time for the allotted deadline.

The Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) sent a copy of their Phase 1 Database and Welsh BAP Atlas (Moore, 2002). Comparing the prepared maps with those in the Atlas generally the points where identical. One additional record was identified and added into Marine Recorder.

Ivor Rees sent in draft maps from the BIOMOR/SWISS project. The maps are incomplete drafts to go into the 3rd volume of the report on the INTERREG SWISS project for the Southern Irish Sea. The information has not been added to Marine Recorder.

Andy Mackie sent copies of BIOMÔR 1 and 2 and Darybyshire *et al.*, 2002. A macrofaunal survey of Welsh sandbanks. CCW report 539. Additional records were identified for *Arctica islandica* and *Sabellaria spinulosa*.

Julia Nunn sent distribution maps of mollusc species taken from her personal database and the Centre for Environmental Data and Recording (CEDaR)/Ulster Museum database. Records were presented as live (post 1969) or live (pre-1970), The pre-1970 records were not included as they also included shell only records. Additional records were identified for eight species.



The consultation process provided comments and additional data points on the following species:

Species	Consultee	Source	Comment	
Achaeus cranchii	Geoff Moore	Allen, 1967	Reference checked and an additional record entered into Marine Recorder.	
	Ivor Rees	Clarke, 1986	Reference to Allen (1967) and Bruce <i>et al.</i> (1963). Information for these references already in Marine Recorder.	
Alcyonium glomeratum	Keith Hiscock	Hiscock (pers comm.)	Check record (Lat/Long) in Menai Staits. Dr Hiscock believes this is a long-standing faulty record from the Marine Science Laboratory record cards. Dr Hiscock will check with Rohan Holt at CCW the validity of the record.	
Arctica islandica	Ivor Rees	BIOMÔR/SWISS (In progress)	Maps are incomplete drafts so information has not been added to Marine Recorder. It is recommended that the additional data points are followed up.	
	Andy Mackie	BIOMÔR 1 & 2, Darbyshire (2002)	At least 10 additional records.	
	Julia Nunn	Julia Nunn database/CEDaR Ulster Musuem	At least 16 additional records. Lat/long not included in maps – follow up then can enter into Marine Recorder.	
Atrina fragilis	Julia Nunn	Julia Nunn database/CEDaR Ulster Musuem	Two additional records. Lat/long not included in maps – follow up then can enter into Marine Recorder.	
Caryophyllia smithii	Geoff Moore	P.G. Moore (pers. obs)	Record from Little Cumbrae, Firth of Clyde. Entered into Marine Recorder	
Echinus esculentus	Ivor Rees	BIOMÔR/SWISS	Maps are incomplete drafts so information has not been added to Marine Recorder. It is recommended that the additionadata points are followed up.	



Species	Consultee	Source	Comment
	Ivor Rees	BIOMÔR/SWISS	Maps are incomplete drafts so information has not been added to Marine Recordert is recommended that the additional data points are followed up.
Modiolus modiolus		Liverpool bay sludge surveys	·
	Julia Nunn	Julia Nunn database/CEDaR Ulster Musuem	Many additional records. Lat/long not included in maps – follow up then can enter into Marine Recorder.
Nucella lapillus	Julia Nunn	Julia Nunn database/CEDaR Ulster Musuem	Many additional records. Lat/long not included in maps – follow up then can enter into Marine Recorder.
Okenia elegans	Gabrielle Wyn (CCW)	(Moore, 2002).	Checked Moore (2002), an additional record not included on maps - Black Scar (Jen Jones pers. comm). Record entered into Marine Recorder?
	Julia Nunn	Julia Nunn database/CEDaR Ulster Musuem	Three additional records. Lat/long not included in maps – follow up then can enter into Marine Recorder.
Ostrea edulis	Julia Nunn	Julia Nunn database/CEDaR Ulster Musuem	Many additional records. Lat/long not included in maps – follow up then can enter into Marine Recorder.
Palinurus elephas	Geoff Moore	Allen, 1967	Reference checked. Additional records entered into Marine Recorder.
Patella ulyssiponensis	Julia Nunn	Julia Nunn database/CEDaR Ulster Musuem	Many additional records. Lat/long not included in maps – follow up then can enter into Marine Recorder.
Sabellaria alveolata	Terry Holt	Hartnoll <i>et al.</i> (1998) Holt <i>et al.</i> (2000) Holt <i>et al.</i> (1998).	Checked Holt <i>et al.</i> (1998) no additional information. Requested copies of Holt <i>et al.</i> (2000) and Hartnoll <i>et al.</i> (1998) from Environment Agency (NW region) for follow up.
Sabellaria spinulosa	Andy Mackie	BIOMÔR 1 & 2, Darbyshire (2002)	At least 10 additional records.
Ventrosia ventrosa	Julia Nunn	Julia Nunn database/CEDaR Ulster Musuem	Three recent records for true <i>V. ventrosa</i> – more 'aggregate' records which may include <i>Hydrobia acuta</i> . Lat/long not included in maps – follow up then can enter into Marine Recorder.

Discussion

During the process of collating data, drawing maps and actual consultation some important points were raised.

Ownership of data.

The data sources used by JNCC when preparing distribution maps were:

- MNCR records from within the Irish Sea Pilot Study Area
- Records collated by MarLIN under contract [F90-01-592]
- Records collated by MarLIN for the data access programme
- CCW records
- Records collated by Kate Northern

It is important that the ownership not just the source of all records is identified for the confidence of data providers to be maintained.

In addition it was indicated on the maps points which were taken from Seaward's "Conchological Society Sea Area Atlas of Marine Molluscs", as points were inland or offshore. Points had a box drawn round them and were clearly labelled in the legend.

Colour of map

The cost of printing the distribution maps in colour was high so the decision was taken to send out black and white maps with the option of receiving colour maps by email if required. In the future different shapes, as well as colours, should be used to indicate the various data sources.

Labelling presence/absence data

Terry Holt questioned the *Sabellaria alveolata* map stating that it had not been found on the Isle of Man although it was shown there on the map.

The main reference used to gather distribution information for *S. alveolata* included both presence and absence data. This data was entered into Marine Recorder as it was thought useful to include information on sites where species had been searched for but not found. JNCC were unaware of the inclusion of absence data when the maps were prepared and so the *S. alveolata* and *Ostrea edulis* maps contained presence and absence data.

JNCC were informed of this error and updated maps were sent.

Latitude and longitude

No grid lines were included in the maps making it difficult to annotate additional points accurately or to check points that were included. Subsequent consultation exercises should include grid lines allowing annotation of maps.

Projection of the map

Fitting the maps onto a single A4 page created a distorted north-south effect. The large size of the titles along with logos could be rethought to give a better map projection.

Copyright of data

It is important to label the data correctly as to who is the copyright holder. Consultants were concerned that any data they provided should be labelled correctly. The legend on the map should be



reworded to differentiate between data actually collected by individuals/organisations (fieldwork) and that collated by individuals/organisations (literature review).

Labelling of maps

Keith Hiscock thought that common names of species should be included on maps for non-specialists. The legend text was also thought to be unclear, MNCR (ISP) species records should be reworded i.e. MNCR species records from Irish Sea Pilot study area. James Dargie and Keith Hiscock thought that habitat maps should include the biotope code to allow easy searching of databases.

Species

Ivor Rees commented on the list of species used

Acanthocardia aculaeata – main distinguishing features can lead to confusion, possibilities of misidentification so should not include.

Aeollidiella sanguinea – how relevant is distribution of sea slug only found a couple of times at Calf of Man to future management of the Irish Sea?

Echinus esulentus – found on all except fine sediment grounds. Recommends seeking records of *Echinus acutus* and *Echinus elegans*, which are open shelf species, a few of which penetrate the Irish Sea.

Ventrosia ventrosa – comments on value of including a species that occurs mainly in enclosed brackish lagoons.

Sabellaria spinulosa – records do not reflect true situation as often not identified to species when rapidly sorting dredge samples at sea.

Scolanthus callimorphus – identification confusion with *Edwardsia* app. So lack of records may not fully reflect distribution.

Recommendations

The consultation exercise has thrown up a number of additional records and interest. The inclusion of Individual additional data points identified and the requested cross-referencing of references were carried out. An updated version of the datasets in Marine Recorder is attached.

- It is recommended that the data from Ivor Rees should be incorporated into the maps. This
 will entail getting geographical positions for the survey points and entering it into Marine
 Recorder.
- 2) Cross-reference of the CCW phase one database to find any additional records of species and/or habitats.
- 3) Enter data provided by Julia Nunn once latitude and longitude are provided.
- 4) Cross-reference BIOMÔR and Darbyshire (2002) to find any additional records of species.

No time has been allocated for this in the current contract but *MarLIN* can carry out both exercises if required in the future. We envisage the exercise taking approximately six days.

The contract has provided a good investigation for species distribution data. It has been less successful in identifying the habitats data and a future exercise should address this with reference to biotope codes but also using dominant species.



Annex A - Species

Common name	Latin Name	Map No.
Spiny cockle	Acanthocardia aculeata	1
Crab	Achaeus cranchii	2
Sea Slug	Aeolidiella sanguinea	3
Red sea fingers	Alcyonium glomeratum	4
Bryozoan	Amathia pruvoti	No map
Sea fan anemone	Amphianthus dohrnii	No map
Ocean quahog	Arctica islandica	5
Fan mussel	Atrina fragilis	6
Sea slug	Caloria elegans	7
Cup coral	Caryophyllia inornata	8
Devonshire cup-coral	Caryophyllia smithii	9
Sea slug	Doris sticta	10
Edible sea urchin, Common sea urchin	Echinus esculentus	11
The tall sea pen	Funiculina quadrangularis	No map
Carpet coral/Weymouth carpet coral	Hoplangia durotrix	12
Mud snail	Hydrobia (Ventrosia) ventrosa	13
Sunset cup coral/Sunset star coral	Leptopsammia pruvoti	No map
Horse mussel	Modiolus modiolus	14
Dog whelk	Nucella lapillus	15
Yellow skirt slug	Okenia elegans	16
Worm	Ophelia bicornis	17
Native oyster/Flat oyster	Ostrea edulis	18
European spiny lobster	Palinurus elephas	19
Yellow cluster anemone	Parazoanthus axinellae	20
Limpet	Patella ulyssiponensis aspera	21
Amphipod	Pectenogammarus planicrurus	22
Colonial sea squirt	Polysyncraton lacazei	23
Honeycomb worm	Sabellaria alveolata	24
Ross worm	Sabellaria spinulosa	25
Worm anemone	Scolanthus callimorphus	26
Serpulid tube worm	Serpula vermicularis	27
Bristle worm	Sternaspis scutata	28
Lagoon sea slug	Tenellia adspersa (Tenella adspersa)	29
Sea slug	Trapania maculata	30



Annex B - Habitats

Habitats	Map No.
Ampharete falcata turf with Parvicardeum ovaleum cohesive muddy very fine sand near margins of deep stratified seas	No map
Cirratulids and Cerastoderma edule in littoral mixed sediment	No map
Flustra foliacea and Haliclona oculata with a rich faunal turf on tide-swept circalittoral mixed substrata	31
Laminaria saccharina, Chorda filum and dense red seaweeds on shallow unsAnnex infralittoral boulders or cobbles	32
Limaria hians beds in tide-swept sublittoral muddy mixed sediment	33
Modiolus modiolus beds on circalittoral mixed sediment	No map
Modiolus modiolus beds with Chlamys varia, sponges, hydroids and bryozoans on slightly tide- swept very sheltered circalittoral mixed substrata	34
Pectenogammarus planicrurus in midshore well-sorted gravel or coarse sand	35
Sabellaria alveolata reefs on sand-abraded eulittoral rock	36
Sabellaria spinulosa encrusted circalittoral rock	37
Styela gelatinosa and other solitary ascidians on very sheltered deep circalittoral muddy sediment	38
Suberites sp. with a mixed turf of crisiids and Bugula sp. on heavily silted, moderately wave exposed, shallow circalittoral rock	39
Zostera noltii beds in littoral muddy sands	40

Not all records on the JNCC Marine database have biotope labels attached to them. For example records that appear on the Modiolus modiolus species distribution map do not appear on the Modiolus biotope map as they are not labelled Modiolus biotopes, although many of the records will be Modiolus beds records.

Maps have also been produced for Sabellaria spinulosa biotopes (map 41) and Modiolus modiolus biotopes (map 42) from the information held on the JNCC Marine database.



Annex C – Sources identified

Latin Name	Sources identified by MarLIN	
Acanthocardia aculeata	No sources within Irish Sea Pilot area found. Tebble (1976) describes it as	
Acantinocardia acdieata	"not common in British Waters, occuring only in the south-west."	
Achaeus cranchii	Isle of Man (Bruce, 1963).	
Aeolidiella sanguinea	Record from Isle of Man (Dr Bill Sanderson, 1991)	
Alcyonium glomeratum	Records found within Irish Sea Pilot area are from Skomer Island, Pembrokeshire (Dr Bill Sanderson, 1987-1990).	
Amathia pruvoti	Nothing found on this species.	
Amphianthus dohrnii	No sources identified within the Irish Sea pilot area. Manuel (1988) describes it as "Formerly common in the English channel and around southern Irelandappears to have become rare"	
Arctica islandica	One record in Strangford Lough (Roberts 1975). <i>MarLIN</i> has previously accessed <i>Artica islandica</i> data for the Irish Sea from the CEFAS 4m beam trawl data.	
Atrina fragilis	Firth of Clyde (Allen, 1962), non-confirmed record from Clyde Basin (Woodward, 1985 – entered as metadata only).	
Caloria elegans	Record from Cardigan Bay (Dr Bill Sanderson, 1995)	
Caryophyllia inornata	Records found within Irish Sea Pilot area are from Skomer, Pembrokeshire (Dr Bill Sanderson, 1991).	
Caryophyllia smithii	Records from Isle of Man (Bruce <i>et al.,</i> 1963; Moore, 1937), Skomer (Rostron, 1988; Dr Bill Sanderson) and Strangford Lough (Williams, 1954).	
Doris sticta	Referred to Picton & Morrow (1994) for distribution by Dr Bill Sanderson – found around Skomer – no actual records of surveys found in literature.	
Echinus esculentus	Isle of Man (Bruce <i>et al.</i> , 1963), Skomer (Bishop, 1989; Bishop & Earll, 1984), Firth of Clyde (Comley & Ansell, 1988), Loch Fyne (Davies, 1989)	
Funiculina quadrangularis	Only absence records reported. Chris Lumb's suggested lead of Scottish Natural Heritage ROV records to be followed up. <i>Funiculina quadrangularis</i> is not known from the Clyde (Davies, 1989) "In extensive studies of deep mud habitats in the Irish Sea (particularly the Firth of Clyde), <i>Funiculina quadrangularis</i> has not been found (Dr R.J.A. Atkinson, pers. comm.)".	
Hoplangia durotrix	Only one record from within Irish Sea Pilot area; Skomer (Dr Bill Sanderson, 1989).	
Hydrobia (Ventrosia) ventrosa	Record from one location: Anglesey (Barnes, 1987).	
Leptopsammia pruvoti	No records within Irish Sea Pilot area found (record from Lundy from Dr Bill Sanderson).	

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Latin Name	Sources identified by MarLIN
Modiolus modiolus	Records from four locations within Irish Sea Pilot area. Isle of Man (Answar <i>et al</i> 1990; Jasmin & Brand, 1989; Jones, 1951; Kileen, 1995).North Wales (Wilson, 1958), Strangford Lough (Magorrian & Service, 1998; Roberts, 1975; Brown & Seed, 1977; Erwin, 1977) Firth of Clyde (Comely,1978).
Nucella lapillus	Records from 19 locations within Irish Sea Pilot area. Anglesey (Spence et al., 1987; Seaward, 1993, 1990, 1982), Antrim(Seaward, 1993, 1990, 1982), Arran (Smith, 1984), Belfast (Seaward, 1993, 1990, 1982), Bristol Channel (Seaward, 1993, 1990, 1982), Cardigan Bay (Seaward, 1993, 1990, 1982; Spence et al., 1987, 1990; Hayter, 1988) Clyde & Argyll (Seaward, 1993, 1990, 1982), Cumbria (Hayter, 1988; Spence et al., 1987) Dublin (Seaward, 1993, 1990, 1982), Isle of Cumbrae (Spence et al., 1987), Isle of Man (Seaward, 1993, 1990, 1982; Bruce, 1963; Moore, 1937), Lancashire, (Spence et al., 1990, 1987) Liverpool Bay, (Seaward, 1993, 1990, 1982), Loch Fyne (Davies, 1989) Menai Straits (Spence et al., 1987; Lumb, 1983), Nymphe Bay (Seaward, 1993, 1990, 1982), Pembrokeshire (Crothers, 1974; Spence et al., 1990, 1987; Hayter, 1988) North Ayrshire (Spence et al., 1987), Solway (Seaward, 1993, 1990, 1982), South Ayrshire (Spence et al., 1990, 1987)
Okenia elegans	Records from Antrim (Seaward, 1993, 1990, 1982), Bristol Channel (Seaward, 1993, 1990, 1982), Skomer and St Brides Bay, Pembrokeshire (Dr Bill Sanderson).
Ophelia bicornis	Found in the Exe Estuary, this site is the most northerly for the species and only within UK (Harris, 1991).
Ostrea edulis	Surprisingly few uncultivated records. Records accessed for Strangford Loch (Kennedy & Roberts, 1999).
Palinurus elephas	Recorded in South Wales (Hunter <i>et al.</i> ,1996; records from Dr Bill Sanderson). Any records with Sea Fisheries Committee to be followed up.
Parazoanthus axinellae	Records from Skomer, Pembrokeshire (Dr Bill Sanderson, 1989-90).
Patella ulyssiponensis aspera	Records from 11 locations within Irish Sea Pilot area. Anglesey (Seaward, 1993, 1990, 1982), Antrim (Seaward, 1993, 1990, 1982), Belfast (Seaward, 1993, 1990, 1982), Bristol Channel (Seaward, 1993, 1990, 1982), Cardigan Bay (Seaward, 1993, 1990, 1982), Clyde (Seaward, 1993, 1990, 1982; Allen, 1962), Dublin (Seaward, 1993, 1990, 1982), Isle of Man (Seaward, 1993, 1990, 1982; Bruce <i>et al.</i> , 1963), Menai Bridge (Oliver <i>et al</i> , 1986), Nymphe Bay (Seaward, 1993, 1990, 1982), Solway (Seaward, 1993, 1990, 1982)
Pectenogammarus planicrurus	Aberystwyth, west Wales (Bell & Fish, 1996; Morgan, 1970) Isle of Man (Bruce, 1963; Jones, 1948) County Dublin (Duhig, 1960; Duhig & Humphries, 1955 – entered as metadata only).



Latin Name	Sources identified by MarLIN		
Polysyncraton lacazei	Two references to work on this species. Specimens collected from the northwest Mediterranean, nothing found on British and Irish distribution of this species.		
Sabellaria alveolata	Presence/Absence data from Cunningham <i>et al.</i> (1984), Grave & Whittaker (1997).		
Sabellaria spinulosa	Records from Isle of Man (Bruce <i>et al.,</i> 1963; Moore, 1937) and Skomer (Rostron, 1988).		
Scolanthus callimorphus	No sources found for distribution of species within Irish Sea Pilot area. Manuel (1981) comments on the limited distribution of the species in Weymouth, Naples, Brittany, Roskeeda Bay - County Galway.		
Serpula vermicularis	Loch Creran is the only known location of <i>Serpula vermicularis</i> reefs in Scotland (Moore <i>et al.</i> , 1998). Davies (1989) has 3 locations in Loch Fyne where indiviual specimens occur. Roberts (1975) has a record in Strangford Lough.		
Sternaspis scutata	No records within Irish Sea Pilot area all records from Portland (Dr Bill Sanderson).		
Tenellia adspersa (Tenella adspersa)	Records from Bristol channel (Seaward, 1993, 1990, 1982), Liverpool Bay (Seaward 1993, 1990, 1982).		
Trapania maculata	A rare Mediterranean dorid nudibranch. 1 st recorded in UK from Portland in May 1974. 1 location within Irish Sea Pilot area: Cardigan Bay (Seaward, 1990).		



Annex D – Consultation List

Organisation	Name	Responded	
British Geological Survey	Ceri James	Yes	
British Oceanographic Data Centre	Andy Tabor		
British Oceanographic Data Centre	Lesley Rickards		
Countryside Council for Wales	Mandy McMath		
Countryside Council for Wales	James Dargie	Yes (also Gabrielle Wyn)	
Countryside Council for Wales	Rohan Holt		
Crown Estates	Frank Parish	Yes	
Crown Estates	Carolyn Heeps	res	
Dept. Agriculture & Rural Development for Northern Ireland	Richard Briggs		
Dept. Agriculture & Rural Development for Northern Ireland	Matt Service	Yes	
English Nature	Angela Moffat		
Environment Agency, National Centre for Environmental Data & Surveillance	Tim Sawyer		
Environmental Heritage Service	Joe Breen		
Fisheries Research Service	Derek Moore		
Zoology Department	Jim Wilson		
Port Erin Marine Laboratory	Terry Holt	Yes	
Marine Biological Association	Keith Hiscock	Yes	
Marine Conservation Society	Chris Wood	Yes	
Marine Institute	Francis O'Brien		
National Marine Aquarium	Doug Herdson	Yes	
National Museums & Galleries of Wales	Andy Mackie	Yes	
Queen's University	Sam Vize		
Scottish Natural Heritage	Sandy Downie		
Scottish Natural Heritage	Dave Donnan	Yes	
Scottish Natural Heritage	John Baxter		
Sea Mammals Research Unit	Callan Duck	Yes	
Shark Trust	Sarah Fowler	Yes	
Sir Alister Hardy Foundation for Ocean Science	Chris Reid	Yes	
UK Offshore Operators Association	Alex Duff		
University of Wales, Bangor	Ivor Rees	Yes	
Ulster Musuem	Bernard Picton		
Ulster Musuem	Julia Nunn	Yes	
Scottish Association of Marine Science	Robin Harvey	Yes	
University Marine Biological Station	Geoff Moore	Yes	

