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