

Habitat descriptions

Complete a box below for each **habitat** you found on your dive. Normally the shallowest habitat is No. 1 even if you have done the dive deepest first. Each written description should tally with the information entered in the columns and diagrams on the next page. If you found more than 3 habitats, continue your descriptions on another form. Tick boxes where shown, and insert percentages (they must add up to 100%) or assign a score from 1-5 as appropriate. If you are uncertain leave the box blank. The biotope code will be assigned later from your description.

1. DESCRIPTION (physical + community)

Biotope Code

Seabed type: rock boulders cobbles pebbles gravel sand mud wreckage other

Communities: kelp forest kelp park mixed seaweeds seagrass bed enc pink algae

animal turf animal bed sediment with life barren sediment

2. DESCRIPTION (physical + community)

Biotope Code

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3. DESCRIPTION (physical + community)

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animal turf animal bed sediment with life barren sediment

1	2	3	
m			DEPTH LIMITS
			Upper (from sea level) (i.e. minimum)
			Lower (from sea level) (i.e. maximum)
			Upper (from chart datum) *
			Lower (from chart datum) *
%			SUBSTRATUM
			Bedrock type?:
			Boulders - very large > 1.0 m
			- large 0.5 - 1.0 m
			- small 0.25 - 0.5 m
			Cobbles (fist - head size)
			Pebbles (50p - fist size)
			Gravel - stone
			- shell fragments
			Sand - coarse
			- medium
			- fine
			Mud
			Shells (empty - or as large pieces)
			Shells (living - eg mussels, limpets)
			Artificial - metal
			- concrete
			- wood
			Other (state)
100	100	100	Total

1	2	3	
1-5			FEATURES - ROCK (all categories)
			Relief of habitat (even - rugged)
			Texture (smooth - pitted)
			Stability (stable - mobile)
			Scour (none - scoured)
			Silt (none - silted)
			Fissures > 10 mm (none - many)
			Crevices < 10 mm (none - many)
			Boulder/cobble/pebble shape (rounded - angular)
			Sediment on rock? (tick if present)

✓			FEATURES - SEDIMENT (1)
			Mounds / casts
			Burrows / holes
			Waves (>10 cm high)
			Ripples (< 10 cm high)
			Subsurface coarse layer?
			Subsurface anoxic (black) layer?

1-5			FEATURES - SEDIMENT (2)
			Firmness (firm - soft)
			Stability (stable - mobile)
			Sorting (well - poor)

Sketches and plans

Draw a **profile and/or plan** of the sea bed you encountered on your dive in the space below. Mark (& number) the different habitats, corresponding to the written descriptions on p.2. Indicate conspicuous and/or characteristic species. Make sure you include **depth(s)** (vertical axis) and a **distance** scale (horizontal axis) for a profile and scale and north point for a plan. Indicate the direction of the profile or plan and the direction of any current.

