

## PRIORITY MARINE FEATURES IN SCOTTISH TERRITORIAL WATERS (DRAFT LIST)

The draft Priority Marine Features (PMFs) list contains habitats and species which we believe to be of greatest conservation importance in Scottish territorial waters. Almost 40,000 marine species are known to occur in Scotland's inshore waters, out to 12 nautical miles. For practical reasons we have developed a priority list to help target future conservation action more effectively.

The list will be used to support the advice we give on marine biodiversity, playing a role in the delivery of new marine planning and licensing systems set out in the Marine (Scotland) Act. The list will also be used to guide future research. A subset of the PMFs, including Flame shell beds, northern sea fan communities and crayfish, will be used to underpin the selection of Nature Conservation MPAs.

### Habitats

Priority Marine Feature (PMF)	Component biotopes/ species (biotope/ common name)	Component biotopes/ species (biotope code/ species name)
<b>Blue mussel beds</b>	<i>Mytilus edulis</i> beds on littoral sediments	LS.LBR.LMus.Myt
	<i>Mytilus edulis</i> and <i>Fabricia sabella</i> in littoral mixed sediment	LS.LSa.St.MytFab
	<i>Mytilus edulis</i> beds on sublittoral sediment	SS.SBR.SMus.MytSS
	<i>Mytilus edulis</i> beds on reduced salinity infralittoral rock	IR.LIR.IFaVS.MytRS
<b>Burrowed mud</b>	Seapens and burrowing megafauna in circalittoral fine mud	SS.SMu.CFiMu.SpnMeg
	Burrowing megafauna and <i>Maxmuelleria lankesteri</i> in circalittoral mud	SS.SMu.CFiMu.MegMax
	Tall seapen	<i>Funiculina quadrangularis</i>
	Fireworks anemone	<i>Pachycerianthus multiplicatus</i>
	Mud burrowing amphipod	<i>Maera loveni</i>
<b>Cold-water coral reefs</b>	<i>Lophelia</i> reefs	SS.SBR.Crl.Lop
<b>Flame shell beds</b>	<i>Limaria hians</i> beds in tide-swept sublittoral muddy mixed sediment	SS.SMx.IMx.Lim
<b>Horse mussel beds</b>	<i>Modiolus modiolus</i> beds with hydroids and red seaweeds on tide-swept circalittoral mixed substrata	SS.SBR.SMus.ModT
	<i>Modiolus modiolus</i> beds on open coast circalittoral mixed sediment	SS.SBR.SMus.ModMx
	<i>Modiolus modiolus</i> beds with fine hydroids and large solitary ascidians on very sheltered circalittoral mixed substrata	SS.SBR.SMus.ModHAS
	<i>Modiolus modiolus</i> beds with <i>Chlamys varia</i> , sponges, hydroids and bryozoans on slightly tide-swept very sheltered circalittoral mixed substrata	SS.SBR.SMus.ModCvar
<b>Inshore deep mud with burrowing heart urchins</b>	<i>Brissopsis lyrifera</i> and <i>Amphiura chiajei</i> in circalittoral mud	SS.SMu.CFiMu.BlyrAchi
<b>Intertidal mudflats</b>	Littoral mud	LS.LMu
<b>Kelp and seaweed communities on</b>	Kelp and seaweed communities on sublittoral sediment <sup>1</sup>	SS.SMp.KSwSS

<sup>1</sup> The following sub-biotopes are specifically excluded: Mats of *Trailliella* on infralittoral muddy gravel (SS.SMp.KSwSS.Tra); & Filamentous green seaweeds on low salinity infralittoral mixed sediment or rock (SS.SMp.KSwSS.FilG)

<b>sublittoral sediment</b>		
<b>Low or variable salinity habitats</b>	Faunal communities on variable or reduced salinity infralittoral rock	IR.LIR.IFaVS
	Kelp in variable or reduced salinity	IR.LIR.KVS
	Submerged fucoids, green or red seaweeds (low salinity infralittoral rock)	IR.LIR.Lag
	Sublittoral mud in low or reduced salinity (lagoons)	SS.SMu.SMuLS
	Bird's nest stonewort	<i>Tolypella nidifica</i>
	Baltic stonewort	<i>Chara baltica</i>
	Foxtail stonewort	<i>Lamprothamnium papulosum</i>
	Small brackish water snail	<i>Hydrobia acuta neglecta</i>
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<b>Maerl beds</b>	Maerl beds	SS.SMp.Mrl
<b>Maerl or coarse shell gravel with burrowing sea cucumbers</b>	<i>Neopentadactyla mixta</i> in circalittoral shell gravel or coarse sand	SS.SCS.CCS.Nmix
<b>Native oysters</b>	<i>Ostrea edulis</i> beds on shallow sublittoral muddy mixed sediment	SS.SMx.IMx.Ost
	Native oyster	<i>Ostrea edulis</i>
<b>Northern sea fan and sponge communities</b>	<i>Caryophyllia smithii</i> and <i>Swiftia pallida</i> on circalittoral rock	CR.MCR.EcCr.CarSwi
	Mixed turf of hydroids and large ascidians with <i>Swiftia pallida</i> and <i>Caryophyllia smithii</i> on weakly tide-swept circalittoral rock	CR.HCR.XFa.SwiLgAs
	Deep sponge communities (circalittoral)	CR.HCR.DpSp
	Northern sea fan	<i>Swiftia pallida</i>
<b>Seagrass beds</b>	<i>Zostera noltii</i> beds in littoral muddy sand	LS.LMp.LSgr.Znol
	<i>Zostera marina/angustifolia</i> beds on lower shore or infralittoral clean or muddy sand	SS.SMp.SSgr.Zmar
	<i>Ruppia maritima</i> in reduced salinity infralittoral muddy sand	SS.SMp.SSgr.Rup
<b>Sea loch egg wrack beds</b>	<i>Ascophyllum nodosum</i> ecad <i>mackaii</i> beds on extremely sheltered mid eulittoral mixed substrata	LR.LLR.FVS.Ascmac
<b>Serpulid aggregations</b>	<i>Serpula vermicularis</i> reefs on very sheltered circalittoral muddy sand <sup>2</sup>	SS.SBR.PoR.Ser
<b>Shallow tide-swept coarse sands with burrowing bivalves</b>	<i>Moerella</i> spp. with venerid bivalves in infralittoral gravelly sand	SS.SCS.ICS.MoeVen
<b>Submarine structures made by leaking gases</b>	Submarine structures made by leaking gases	No code
<b>Tide-swept algal communities</b>	Fucoids in tide-swept conditions	LR.HLR.FT
	<i>Halidrys siliquosa</i> and mixed kelps on tide-swept infralittoral rock with coarse sediment	IR.HIR.KSed.XKHal
	Kelp and seaweed communities in tide-swept sheltered conditions <sup>3</sup>	IR.MIR.KT
	<i>Laminaria hyperborea</i> on tide-swept, infralittoral mixed substrata	IR.MIR.KR.LhypTX

<sup>2</sup> As well as the serpulid reefs biotope this PMF specifically includes smaller aggregations of *Serpula vermicularis*

<sup>3</sup> The following sub-biotopes are specifically excluded: *Laminaria saccharina* with foliose red seaweeds and ascidians on sheltered tide-swept infralittoral rock (IR.MIR.KT.LsacT); & Filamentous red seaweeds, sponges and *Balanus crenatus* on tide-swept variable-salinity infralittoral rock (IR.MIR.KT.FilRVS)

## Species

Priority Marine Feature (PMF)	Taxon group	Species name
<b>Burrowing sea anemone</b>	Sea anemones, sea fans and seapens	<i>Arachnanthus sarsi</i>
<b>Pink sea fingers</b>	Sea anemones, sea fans and seapens	<i>Alcyonium hibernicum</i>
<b>White cluster anemone</b>	Sea anemones, sea fans and seapens	<i>Parazoanthus anguicomus</i>
<b>Northern feather star</b>	Starfish and feather stars	<i>Leptometra celtica</i>
<b>Fan mussel</b>	Snails, clams, mussels and oysters	<i>Atrina fragilis</i>
<b>Heart cockle</b>	Snails, clams, mussels and oysters	<i>Glossus humanus</i>
<b>Ocean quahog</b>	Snails, clams, mussels and oysters	<i>Arctica islandica</i>
<b>European spiny lobster</b>	Lobsters and sand hoppers	<i>Palinurus elephas</i>
<b>Eel (marine part of life cycle)</b>	Bony fish (catadromous)	<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>
<b>Atlantic salmon (marine part of life cycle)</b>	Bony fish (anadromous)	<i>Salmo salar</i>
<b>European river lamprey (marine part of life cycle)</b>	Bony fish (anadromous)	<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>
<b>Sea lamprey (marine part of life cycle)</b>	Bony fish (anadromous)	<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>
<b>Sea trout (marine part of life cycle)</b>	Bony fish (anadromous)	<i>Salmo trutta</i>
<b>Anglerfish (juveniles)</b>	Bony fish	<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>
<b>Atlantic herring (juveniles and spawning adults)</b>	Bony fish	<i>Clupea harengus</i>
<b>Atlantic mackerel</b>	Bony fish	<i>Scomber scombrus</i>
<b>Cod</b>	Bony fish	<i>Gadus morhua</i>
<b>Ling</b>	Bony fish	<i>Molva molva</i>
<b>Norway pout</b>	Bony fish	<i>Trisopterus esmarkii</i>
<b>Saithe (juveniles)</b>	Bony fish	<i>Pollachius virens</i>
<b>Sandeels</b>	Bony fish	<i>Ammodytes marinus</i> & <i>Ammodytes tobianus</i>
<b>Sand goby</b>	Bony fish	<i>Pomatoschistus minutus</i>
<b>Whiting (juveniles)</b>	Bony fish	<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>
<b>Basking shark</b>	Sharks, skates and rays	<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>
<b>Common skate</b>	Sharks, skates and rays	Formerly <i>Dipturus batis</i> now split provisionally into <i>D. cf. flossada</i> and <i>D. cf. intermedia</i>
<b>Spiny dogfish</b>	Sharks, skates and rays	<i>Squalus acanthias</i>
<b>Bottlenose dolphin</b>	Whales, dolphins and porpoises	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>
<b>Harbour porpoise</b>	Whales, dolphins and porpoises	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>
<b>Killer whale</b>	Whales, dolphins and porpoises	<i>Orcinus orca</i>
<b>Minke whale</b>	Whales, dolphins and porpoises	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>
<b>Risso's dolphin</b>	Whales, dolphins and porpoises	<i>Grampus griseus</i>
<b>Short-beaked common dolphin</b>	Whales, dolphins and porpoises	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>
<b>White-beaked dolphin</b>	Whales, dolphins and porpoises	<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>
<b>Harbour/common seal</b>	Seals	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>
<b>Grey seal</b>	Seals	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>
<b>Otter</b>	Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>