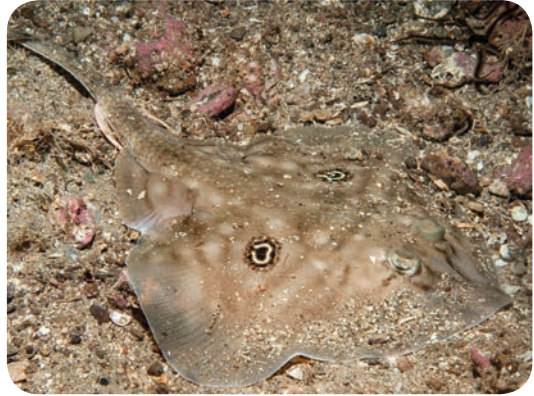


A Diver's Guide to Northern Ireland Marine Species of Interest



Thornback Ray (*Raja clavata*) - Row of large, recurved thorns runs from the back of the head and along the tail. Size: Adults 85 cm–1 m long (incl. tail).



Cuckoo Ray (*Leucoraja naevus*) - The large eye spots on the pectoral fins are diagnostic. Size: Adults 45–70 cm long (incl. tail).



Spotted Ray (*Raja montagui*) - Pale back with dark spots, which do not extend to edge of fins. Size: Adults 60–80 cm long (incl. tail).



Lesser sandeel (*Ammodytes marinus*) - Elongate, silver body with a single, long dorsal fin. Size: Adults up to 25 cm long.

Please submit species records with an accompanying date, location and photograph, to CEDaR Online Recording - www2.habitas.org.uk/records or the iRecord App (available to download from the App Store or Google Play).

Once confirmed by an assigned verifier, all records will be collated on CEDaR's database and will appear on the NBN Atlas Northern Ireland. - northernireland.nbnatlas.org

Funding: Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), Northern Ireland

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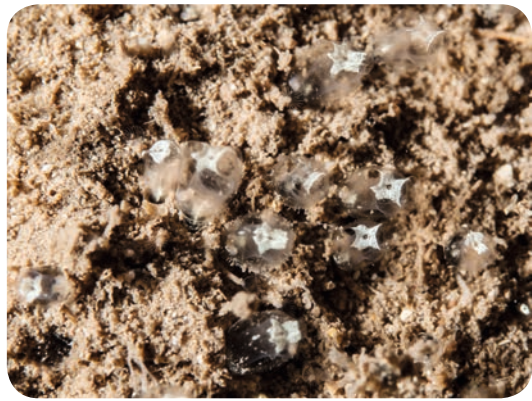
Photography: Bernard Picton

Contributors: Centre for Environmental Data and Recording (CEDaR), DAERA Marine and Fisheries Division

Contracting Officer: Sally Stewart-Moore



Sea squirt (*Pyura microcosmus*) - Thick, leathery test usually covered in detritus. Orange-red and white stripes inside siphons. Size: Up to 10 cm tall.



Pin-head squirt (*Pycnoclavella stolonialis*) - Transparent body with white cross-shaped patch between the siphons. Size: Zooids only 2–3 mm tall.



Goosefoot starfish (*Anseropoda placenta*) - Can be recognised by short webbed arms; thin body; white and red markings. Size: Up to 20 cm.



Purple sun star (*Solaster endeca*) - Cream to purple colour; close-set spines; 7–13 arms. Size: 20–40 cm across.



Northern feather star (*Antedon petasus*) - Large, neat feather-like arms with red or brown and white bands. Similar to *A. bifida* (inset). Arms 7–10 cm long.



Sea cucumber (*Thyonidium drummondii*) - Red bushy tentacles and white body covered with tube feet. Lives in mud. Size: Including tentacles up to 25 cm.



Ross coral (*Pentapora foliacea*) - Large, erect, orange coloured bryozoan; outer edges of colony are wavy. Size: Up to 40 cm across.



Nudibranch (*Palio dubia*) - Yellow, rounded tubercles on greenish body. Short, white papillae on sides of gills. Size: Up to 3 cm.



Nudibranch (*Hero formosa*) - Bushy, branched processes on sides of body and front of head; white central line on back. Size: Up to 40 mm long.



Nudibranch (*Cumanotus beaumonti*) - Transparent body with gold speckling and tapering, long cerata. Size: Up to 20 mm long.



Fan mussel (*Atrina fragilis*) - Light golden, triangular shaped shell which tapers to a point. Shell is thin, brittle and very fragile. Size: Up to 48 cm long.



Marbled chiton (*Tonicella marmorea*) - Large, broadly oval shaped body. Shell plates have an obvious beak. Wide, granular girdle. Size: Up to 4 cm long.



Burrowing anemone (*Arachnanthus sarsi*) - Single row of tentacles around mouth and long tentacles at edge of disc. Size: 9–12 cm across.



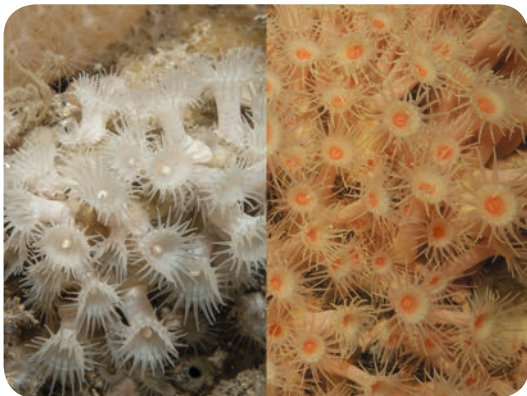
Burrowing anemone (*Edwardsia timida*) - Worm-like body with 16–32 long, translucent tentacles. Found in tideswept sand-gravel. Size: 7 cm long x 5 cm across.



Slender sea pen (*Virgularia mirabilis*) - Obvious central axis with polyps arranged on side branches. Yellowish-white colour. Size: Up to 60 cm tall.



Pink sea fingers (*Alcyonium hibernicum*) - Pale pink soft coral with white flecks on tentacles. Size: Typically 4 cm tall.



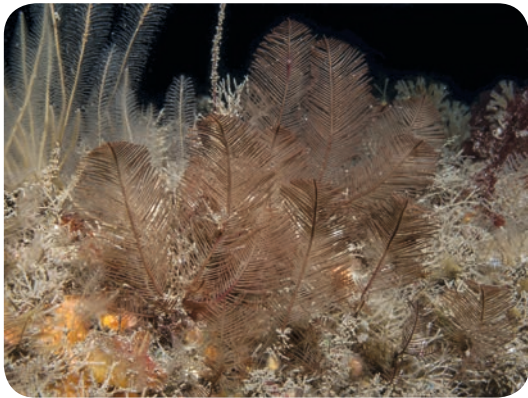
White colonial anemone (*Parazoanthus anguicomus*), up to 25 mm tall. **Yellow colonial anemone (*Parazoanthus axinellae*)**, up to 20 mm tall.



Southern cup coral (*Caryophyllia inornata*) - Colourless cup coral with short, knobby tentacles. Size: 5–7 mm across.



Hydroid (*Diphasia nigra*) - Regularly branched, pinnate hydroid; alternate side branches; hydrothecae in opposite pairs. Size: 15–20 cm tall.



Hydroid (*Diphasia alata*) - Regularly branched, pinnate hydroid with alternate side branches. Distinguished by chocolate brown colour. Size: 7–12 cm tall.



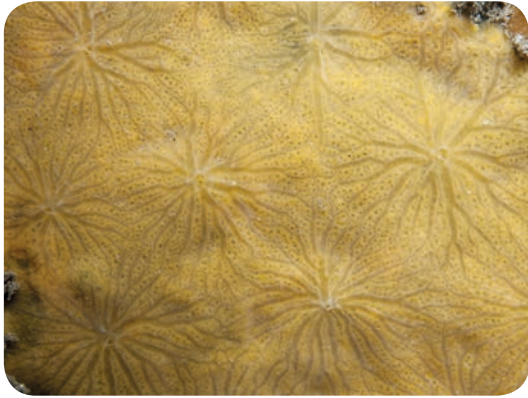
Hydroid (*Polyplumaria flabellata*) - Fan-like hydroid, side branches are opposite and regular. Photograph shows white reproductive structures. Size: 7 cm tall.



Sponge (*Lissodendoryx jenjonesae*) - Distinguished by the yellow colour; relatively thick crust; pore-sieves with tall rims. Size: Patches 5 to 8 cm across.



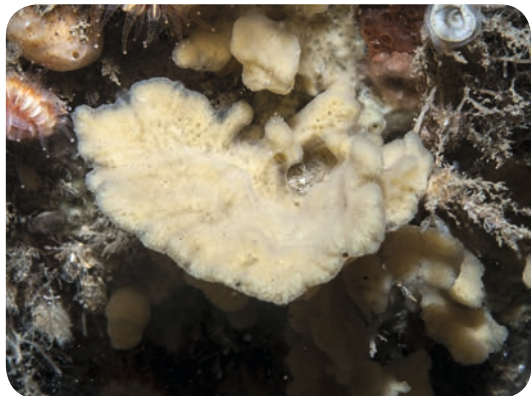
Sponge (*Hymedesmia rathlinia*) - Distinguished by the sieve-like chimneys which have a single hole within them. Size: Patches 3 to 8 cm across.



Sponge (*Hymedesmia stellifera*) - Distinguished by bright yellow colour and finely radiating excurrent channels around the oscules. Size: Patches to 40 cm across.



Sponge (*Axinella damicornis*) - Bright yellow sponge; fused branches; mealy appearance to surface; triangular flaps on tips of branches. Size: 5–10 cm tall.



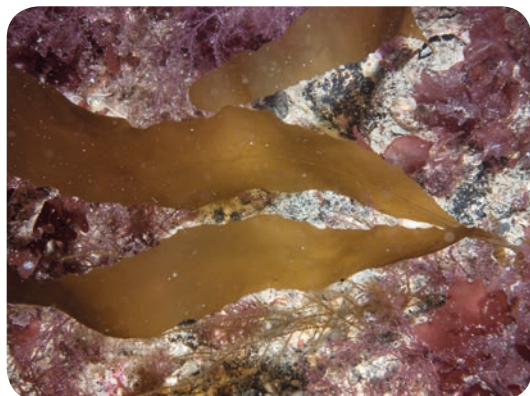
Sponge (*Clathria barleei*) - Can be fan-shaped or with fused, flattened branches. The oscules are mostly at the outer rim. Can be up to 20 cm tall.



Sponge (*Spongionella pulchella*) - Beige, usually fan-shaped with regularly distributed holes (oscules) on edges and faces. Size: 4–6 cm tall.



Sponge (*Spongosorites calcicola*) - Thickly encrusting bright, yellow sponge with a smooth, shiny surface. Exclusively on limestone. Size: Up to 30 cm across.



Desmarest's flat weed (*Desmarestia dudresnayi*) - Can be recognised by having a midrib and a serrated edge to the thin brown frond. Size: Up to 50 cm long.



Maerl (*Phymatolithon calcareum*) - Unattached, pink coralline alga, can form extensive beds. Nodules can be twig-like or flattened. Size: Twigs around 2 cm long.