

Pink Sea Fan Wreck Recording Form

About you

Name

Address

Postcode

Email

Sea fan anemones and sea slugs

Number of fans counted

Number with anemones Sea slug adults Sea slug eggs

Additional notes on sea fans at this site



About your dive

Site Name General Location

Position
Lat Long

or OS Grid Reference

Date Start time

Depth range of sea fans to

Habitat of sea fans (tick all that apply)

Sloping or vertical wreckage	Flattish wreckage	Protected by wreckage	Rocks around wreck	Other (specify in notes)
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Density of sea fans

Forest	Common	Occasional	Rare
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Return completed form to: Seasearch, Marine Conservation Society, Unit 3, Wolf Business Park, Alton Road, Ross on Wye, HR9 5NB or Cornwall Seasearch, Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Five Acres, Allet, Truro, TR4 9DJ (Cornwall & Scillies records only)

Why record sea fans?

The pink sea fan, *Eunicella verrucosa*, is one of the two sea fans that grow in British waters. It is found throughout SW Britain and is a slow growing and long lived species which is especially prone to damage by fishing gear or careless divers.

The sea fan is a protected species under the Wildlife and Countryside Act and has been included amongst the marine species for which a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) has been prepared. The aim of this recording project is to add to our knowledge of sea fan distribution, habitat and condition and to complement other research taking place to contribute to the action to protect them.

This form has been designed specifically for records made on deeper wrecks where bottom time is strictly limited. It is therefore more straightforward to complete than the normal pink sea fan recording form, but it does require you to make some simple notes underwater.

We are particularly interested in records of pink sea fans from deeper wrecks, or reefs, since this is a species which is known to occur as deep as 200m. The densest 'forests' of sea fans seem to occur below 30m and we want to know more about numbers and density in these depths.

Wrecks are known to provide hard surfaces for sea fans to attach.



Pink sea fan 'forest'



Sea fan anemones and sea slug



Sea fan sea slug and egg mass

Filling in this form

A new form should be completed for each dive.

Site Name/Location: Name the wreck and describe its general location - e.g 5miles south of the Eddystone

Date and Time: This will enable us to relate your depth information to chart datum.

Position: Use GPS to record Lat/ Long.

Depth Range: Record the shallowest and deepest depth you see sea fans on your dive.

Habitat: Record the habitats in which the sea fans are growing. Tick any of the five boxes that apply. If you use the other category explain in the additional notes box

Density: Tick the box that describes the maximum density of sea fans on the wreck. Forest is a thick covering of sea fans where they almost touch each other. Common is where there are a number of sea fans in different parts of the wreck and you see at least 20 over your dive. Occasional is from 5-20 seen. Rare is less than 5 seen during the dive.

Sea fan anemones and sea slugs: You'll need to look carefully at a number of fans to see these. Record the number of fans and the number that have one or more anemones, sea slug adults and sea slug egg masses on them. Don't count how many there are per fan - just the presence of one or more. For larger pictures of both species and the egg masses see the Seasearch website.



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