

Marine Atlas

This broad project will map a large majority of the marine BAP species. This will be a new desk based project which should follow on from the Finding Sanctuary¹⁵ process and will help to raise the profile of the marine environment in Cornwall. This will ensure that all the data gathered by Finding Sanctuary for the Marine Conservation Zone process is passed to ERCCIS and therefore useable by all conservation partners.

By having a distribution atlas of habitats and species there will be greater knowledge of how climate change will have an anticipated impact. Once this is established then adaptation principles can be put into practice

Can be used for education, awareness raising and within the various industries that use the sea, i.e. fisheries and recreational

The project and potential funding is at the 'wish list' stage, Lead organisations would be ERCCIS, Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Natural England and Finding Sanctuary

Key habitats:

- Seagrass Beds
- Maerl Beds
- Blue Mussel Beds
- Sabellaria Spinulosa Reefs
- Sabellaria Alveolata Reefs
- Fragile Sponge and Anthozoan Communities on Subtidal Rocky Habitats

Key species:

- Coral maerl
- Common maerl
- Fan mussel
- Stalked jellyfish
- Native oyster
- Pink seafan
- Sea-fan anemone
- Sunset cup coral
- Undulate ray



Pink sea fan. Photo by Chris Bunney

¹⁵www.finding-sanctuary.org