

Please look out for maerl or eelgrass when you are diving. Have you found a few scattered individuals or been lucky enough to come across a large and well established bed? As well as looking at the two plants, try and record other plants and animals that live on or in these habitats, especially if they appear to be particularly common. For maerl, also have a look at how much is living (pink) and how much dead (cream coloured).

Please describe the location of the maerl or eelgrass very carefully - give a grid or chart reference if possible. And, remember, if you see anything else interesting underwater, please let us know.

Name and address of recorder

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Site name: Date of dive:

Site location: (either OS grid reference or latitude/longitude)

Time of dive - Start: Finish:

Underwater visibility: Current speed:

Sketch of dive profile and where the maerl/eelgrass has been found:

Please include some indication of the abundance of the plants and how big an area they cover and for maerl the % of live maerl/dead maerl/other sediments.

Sea floor type:

Depth range of habitat:

Other plants or animals present:

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Please fill in the form with as much detail as possible and return to SBRC at:
Shetland Amenity Trust, 22-24 North Road, Lerwick, ZE1 0NQ
Tel (01595) 694688, e-mail sbrc@zetnet.co.uk



SEASEARCH

SURVEY SHEET No. 3

MARINE PLANTS



Shetland's wildlife is internationally renowned and attracts many visitors to the islands. Those elements that live on land - such as birds, mammals and plants - are relatively well known. However, we know a great deal less about our marine wildlife for the simple reason that it is very difficult to observe. Two important plants that grow around the coast of Shetland are **eelgrass** and **maerl**. In the right conditions both eelgrass and maerl can grow to form dense beds which support a wide range of other marine plants and animals. As a result they make an important contribution to the biodiversity of the islands.

Shetland Biological Records Centre is keen to find out more about Shetland's marine life. Please help us by recording your sightings of eelgrass and maerl on the survey form on the back page of this leaflet and returning it to SBRC.