

FAIR ISLE MARINE ENVIRONMENT DATABASE

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The Fair Isle Marine Database has now been established on the spreadsheet program Excel, with the long-term view of transferring it to a relational database.

Sample of an entry on the marine database spreadsheet.

Mytilus edulis.	
DATE	19.08.87
LOCATION	Tail of Uran (OPRU site no. 193)
GRID REF.	HZ 197697
HABITAT	Extensive broken bedrock from exposed point inwards
BIOTOPE	Upper midshore crevices along Hultry Geo.
SUBSTRATUM	Broken bedrock
TIDAL ZONE	Littoral
EXPOSURE	Code 2 (very exposed)
DEPTH	
ABUNDANCE	C
ASSOCIATION	
SOURCE	OPRU
NOTES	W1650

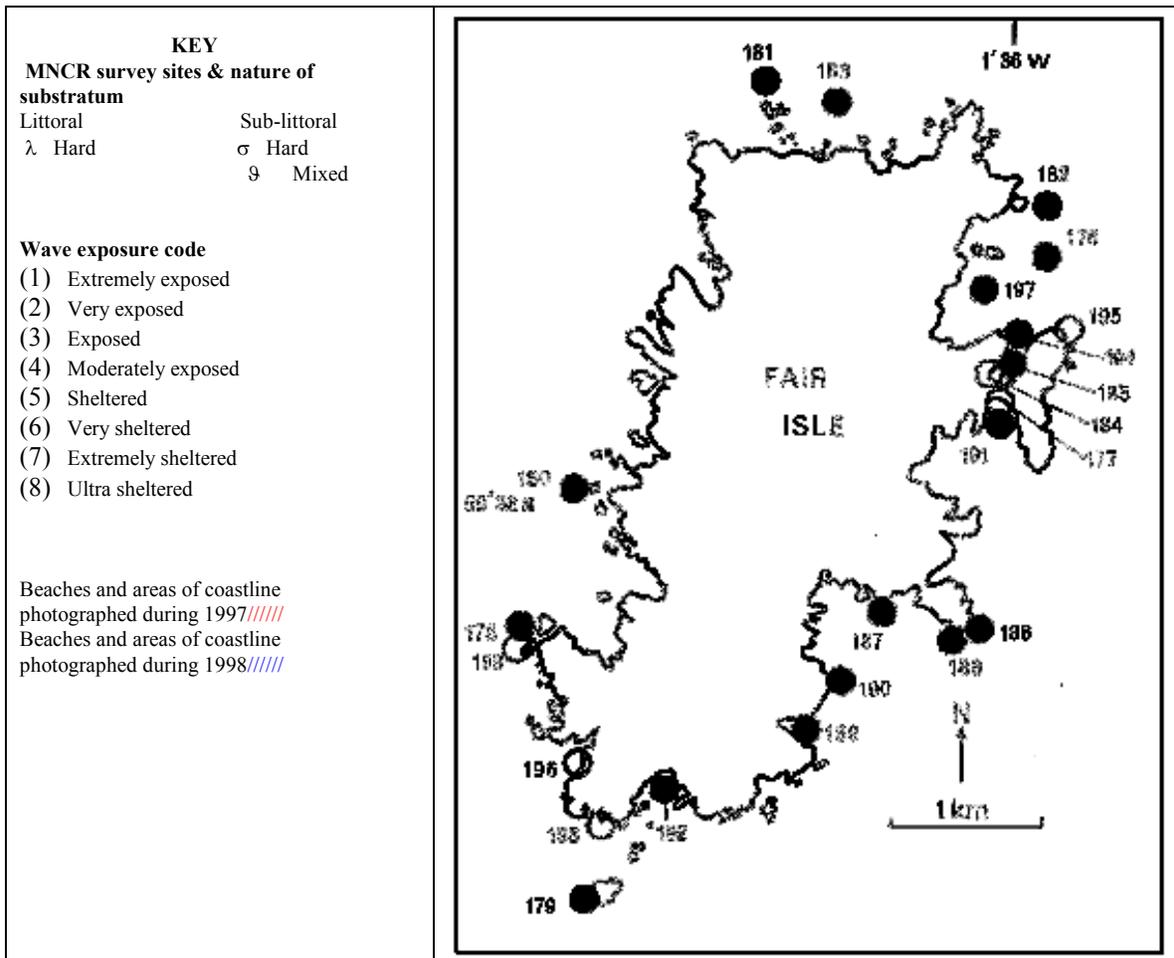
Work on locating, extracting and transferring quantitative data is now well underway, with several thousand records already entered onto the main species database. These include all Fair Isle biota records from the *Marine Nature Conservation Review Survey of Shetland, Foula and Fair Isle 1987: Volume 2*. Work has begun on extracting and entering all records from Fair Isle Bird Observatory's natural history card index, as well as seabird food sample data obtained from Fair Isle Bird Observatory's Seabird Monitoring Scheme. Fair Isle cetacean records are also being collated for inclusion. All records of fish caught, measured and weighed by local island fishermen during 1997 are now on database, as are additional casual records of marine fauna and flora reported by island residents or visitors during 1997. Records of beached bird surveys and rubbish found on beaches are included on database, and these are regularly updated as new information comes in.



As mentioned in the FIMETI Newsletter of January, 1998, initial photographic survey work on the beaches and coastline was begun during the summer of 1997. This has to be done at low tide and during fine weather and, due to poor weather early on, was eventually carried out during August. A total of 7 films were used and these have now been entered onto a photographic database and scanned onto computer.

The Marine Nature Conservation Review has also made available a marvellous collection of underwater photographs which we have had scanned on to computer and prepared as professional quality slides.

Mapping of photographs and the systematic recording of shore habitats has now begun.



The Marine Nature Conservation Review has made available its own standard classification and coding system which will be applied to the database, enabling us to adopt a nationally compatible system.

HABITAT 7. Rock pools from all levels of shores very exposed to wave action, moderately exposed mid and lower shores, and sheltered lower shores. Sites...177, 185, 193, 195.

These pools are dominated by encrusting coralline algae and *Corallina officinalis*, although brown algae, particularly *Himantalia elongata* may be dominant in some. In general, a wide range of species was recorded from pools in this category. The most common were *Mytilus edulis*, *Patella vulgata*, *Nucella lapillus*, *Skeneopsis planorbis*, spirorbids, *Mastocarpus stellatus*, *Himantalia elongata*, *Leathesia difformis*, *Ulva lactuca* and *Enteromorpha intestinalis*. The anemones *Metridium senile*, *Sagartia elegans*, *Urticina felina* and *Actinia equina* are present in several pools, sometimes in considerable abundance. One specimen of *Cereus pedunculatus* was found at Site 185 and *Halidrys siliquosa* is present at Site 193.

(Source: MNCR Report No. FSC/OPRU/15/87, page 19)