

## APPENDIX 1: GLOSSARY AND ABBREVIATIONS

Term	Definition
µg	Micrograms
µPa	Micropascal (unit of pressure)
AA	Appropriate Assessment
Abiotic	Refers to nonliving objects, substances or processes e.g. climate
Ablated	To remove by erosion, melting, evaporation, or vaporization
Accretion	An increase in land resulting from depositional processes
AGLV	Areas of Great Landscape Value
Alluvial deposits	Sediment deposited by flowing water, as in a riverbed, flood plain, or delta
Amphipods	Small flat-bodied semi-terrestrial crustaceans (e.g. “sandhoppers”)
Anadromous	Migratory behaviour of fish that spend most of their lives at sea but migrate to fresh water to spawn
Anthropogenic	Resulting from human activity
AOB	Apparently Occupied Burrows
AON	Apparently Occupied Nests
AOS	Apparently Occupied Sites
AoSP	Areas of Special Protection
AOT	Apparently Occupied Territories
Aquaculture	The cultivation of aquatic plants and animals for food or other purposes
Archipelago	A group of many islands in a large body of water
ARLS	Areas of Regional Landscape Significance
ASCOBANS	Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (United Nations)
Ballast water	Water put into a vessel to enhance stability
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plans
BAT	Best Available Techniques
Beam trawling	A bottom trawl that is kept open laterally by a rigid beam
Benthic	Relating to organisms living in or on the seabed
BEP	Best Environmental Practice
BGS	British Geological Survey
Bioaccumulation	The uptake of elements or compounds within organisms
Biodiversity	Diversity of species
Biogenetic Reserve	An area of conservation which includes species for the purposes of genetic preservation
Biogenic	Produced by the action of living organisms
Biogeographic	Relating to the geographical area characterised by distinctive flora and fauna
Biomass	Living material; e.g. the total mass of a species or of all living organisms present in a habitat; usually excluding shell mass
Biota	The total flora and fauna of a given area
Biotopes	The smallest unit of habitat where all environmental conditions and all types of organisms found within it are the same throughout
Bivalves	Marine or freshwater molluscs having a soft body with plate-like gills enclosed within two shells hinged together

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>Block</b>	See Licence Block
<b>Bloom</b>	Rapid increase in concentration of phytoplankton, often dominated by one species; may be seasonal (spring bloom); natural or anthropogenic
<b>BODC</b>	British Oceanographic Data Centre
<b>boe/day</b>	Barrels of oil equivalent per day
<b>BP</b>	Before Present
<b>Brackish</b>	Slightly salty
<b>Brochs</b>	Circular, two-story, drystone structures of the iron age
<b>Bryozoans</b>	Small aquatic animals that reproduce by budding and form moss-like or branching colonies permanently attached to stones or seaweed
<b>BTO</b>	British Trust for Ornithology
<b>Bycatch</b>	The portion of a fishing catch that is discarded as unwanted or commercially unusable
<b>Byssus</b>	A tough, thread-like structure by which mussels attach themselves to the substratum
<b>Cairns</b>	Neolithic burial chambers
<b>Caledonian orogeny</b>	Period of volcanic activity, folding, faulting and metamorphism between the Cambrian and Devonian periods (544-410 million years ago)
<b>CANMORE</b>	Computer Application for National Monuments Record Enquiries
<b>Carse</b>	A low flat, peat or marsh covered plain, normally estuarine
<b>CEFAS</b>	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
<b>Cephalopods</b>	Marine molluscs including squid, cuttlefish and octopus
<b>Cetaceans</b>	Aquatic mammals including whales, dolphins and porpoises
<b>CFC's</b>	Chlorofluorocarbons
<b>Chemosynthetic</b>	Synthesis of complex molecules from simple inorganic chemicals
<b>CITES</b>	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
<b>CMS</b>	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (also known as the Bonn Convention - 1979)
<b>Coniferous</b>	Trees or shrubs bearing cones often with evergreen leaves
<b>Continuous Plankton Recorder Survey (CPR)</b>	SAHFOS survey which monitors the near-surface plankton of the North Atlantic and North Sea on a monthly basis, using Continuous Plankton Recorder on a network of routes to cover the area
<b>Copepod</b>	Small crustaceans, usually planktonic
<b>CPA</b>	Coast Protection Act
<b>CPR</b>	See Continuous Plankton Recorder
<b>Crannogs</b>	An ancient dwelling or fort built on an artificial island in a lake or marsh
<b>Crustaceans</b>	Aquatic arthropods (including lobsters, crabs, shrimps and barnacles)
<b>Crystalline</b>	Being, relating to, or composed of crystal or crystals
<b>cSAC</b>	Candidate Special Area of Conservation - conservation site proposed for designation by national government under the EU Habitat & Species Directive
<b>Cumacean</b>	An order of marine Crustacea, mostly of small size
<b>Decalcified fixed dunes</b>	The later, more mature, stages of the well-marked successional sequence characteristic of sand dunes
<b>Decapod</b>	A crustacean which characteristically has ten legs e.g. crab, lobster or shrimp

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>Deciduous</b>	Shedding foliage at the end of the season
<b>DEFRA</b>	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
<b>Demersal</b>	Living at or near the bottom of the sea
<b>DEPCON</b>	Deposit Consent (included in Pipeline Works Authorisation)
<b>Detritis</b>	Loose fragments or grains that have been worn away from rock
<b>Development well</b>	Well drilled in order to produce hydrocarbons from a proven field
<b>Diadromous</b>	Used of fish, migratory between fresh and salt waters
<b>Diatoms</b>	Any of various microscopic one-celled or colonial algae of the class Bacillariophyceae, having cell walls of silica consisting of two interlocking symmetrical valves
<b>Dinoflagellates</b>	Any of numerous minute, chiefly marine protozoans of the order Dinoflagellata, characteristically having two flagella and a cellulose covering and forming one of the chief constituents of plankton
<b>Dispersant</b>	A liquid or gas added to a mixture to promote dispersion or to maintain dispersed particles in suspension
<b>Doliolids</b>	A small (9-10mm long) transparent barrel-shaped gelatinous creature that has a quick jumpy motion
<b>Dragonets</b>	Any of various small, often brightly coloured marine fishes of the family Callionymidae, having a slender body and a flattened head
<b>Drill cuttings</b>	Rock chips produced as a result of drilling
<b>Drilling mud</b>	Mixture of clays, water and chemicals used to cool and lubricate the drill bit, return rock cuttings to the surface and to exert hydrostatic pressure to maintain well control
<b>DSFB</b>	District Salmon Fishery Boards
<b>DTI</b>	Department of Trade and Industry
<b>Dune slacks</b>	Low-lying areas within dune systems that are seasonally flooded and where nutrient levels are low
<b>Dystrophic</b>	Having brownish acidic waters, a high concentration of humic matter, and a small plant population. Used of a lake or pond
<b>E&amp;P</b>	Exploration and Production
<b>EA</b>	Environmental Assessment - systematic assessment of the environmental effects a proposed project may have on its surrounding environment
<b>EC</b>	European Community
<b>Echinoderms</b>	Any of numerous radially symmetrical marine invertebrates of the phylum Echinodermata, which includes the starfishes, sea urchins, and sea cucumbers, having an internal calcareous skeleton and often covered with spines
<b>Echinoids</b>	An echinoderm of the class Echinoidea, which includes the sand dollars and sea urchins
<b>Ecosystem</b>	An ecological community together with its environment, functioning as a unit
<b>Eddy</b>	A current, as of water or air, moving contrary to the direction of the main current, especially in a circular motion
<b>EIA</b>	Environmental Impact Assessment
<b>Environmental Statement</b>	Formal document presenting the findings of an EIA process for a proposed project. Issued for public consultation in accordance with <i>The Offshore Petroleum Production and Pipe-lines (Assessment of Environmental Effects) Regulations, 1999</i>

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>Epifauna</b>	Organisms living on the surface of the seabed
<b>Epithelia</b>	Membranous tissue composed of one or more layers of cells separated by very little intercellular substance and forming the covering of most internal and external surfaces of the body and its organs
<b>ES</b>	See Environmental Statement
<b>ESA</b>	Environmentally Sensitive Area
<b>ESAS</b>	European Seabirds at Sea database
<b>Espoo Convention</b>	The Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (1991)
<b>Estuarine</b>	Of, relating to, or found in an estuary
<b>Estuary</b>	The wide part of a river where it meets the sea; normally where fresh and salt water mix
<b>Eulittoral</b>	The intertidal band, in-between the low and high water line
<b>Euphausiid</b>	Any small, pelagic, shrimp-like crustacean of the order Euphausiacea. Euphausiids are an important constituent of <i>Krill</i> , the main food of baleen whales
<b>Eutrophic</b>	Rich in dissolved nutrients, photosynthetically productive and often deficient in oxygen during warm weather
<b>Exploration well</b>	Well drilled to determine whether hydrocarbons are present in a particular area
<b>Fallow</b>	Characterised by inactivity
<b>Fault</b>	A fracture in the continuity of a rock formation caused by a shifting or dislodging of the earth's crust, in which adjacent surfaces are displaced relative to one another and parallel to the plane of fracture
<b>Fauna</b>	Animals of an area or period
<b>FEPA</b>	Food and Environment Protection Act
<b>Firths</b>	A long, narrow inlet of the sea
<b>Fjord</b>	A long, narrow, deep inlet of the sea between steep slopes
<b>Flora</b>	All the plant life in a particular region
<b>Fluvial</b>	Produced by the action of a river or stream
<b>Formation</b>	An assemblage of rocks or strata
<b>FRS</b>	Fisheries Research Services
<b>Fugitive emissions</b>	Very small chronic escape of gas and liquids from equipment and pipework
<b>Gadoid</b>	Fish of the cod family
<b>Gastropods</b>	A class of molluscs typically having a one-piece coiled shell and flattened muscular foot with a head bearing stalked eyes
<b>GCR</b>	Geological Conservation Review site
<b>Geomorphology</b>	The study of the underlying form, and weathering processes, of rocks and land surfaces
<b>Geos</b>	Steep, very narrow inlets in rocky cliffs
<b>Gillnet</b>	Curtains of netting that hang vertically in the water, either in a fixed position (e.g. surface or seabed) or drifting, that trap fish by their gill covers – operculum – when they try to swim through the net's meshes
<b>Gravity survey</b>	A survey technique used to measure the gravitational pull of the Earth over an area, to determine the density of the underlying rocks, helping to locate rock formations that might contain trapped oil

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>Grey dunes</b>	Mature dunes, normally vegetated and inland
<b>Grilse</b>	A young Atlantic salmon on its first return from the sea to fresh or brackish waters
<b>Ha</b>	Hectare
<b>HAB</b>	Harmful Algal Blooms
<b>Habitats (and Species) Directive</b>	<i>Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna</i> requires EU member states to protect scheduled species and to designate and manage special areas of conservation (SAC)
<b>HMSO</b>	Her Majesty's Stationary Office
<b>Hydrocarbon</b>	Compounds containing only the elements carbon and hydrogen, (such as oil and natural gas)
<b>Hydrodynamic</b>	Of, relating to, or operated by the force of liquid in motion
<b>Hydrography</b>	In this context, the study of sea water masses, currents and tides
<b>Hz</b>	Hertz (unit of frequency)
<b>IBA</b>	Important Bird Area
<b>ICES</b>	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
<b>ICZM</b>	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
<b>IMO</b>	International Maritime Organisation
<b>Infauna</b>	Aquatic animals that live in the substrate of a body of water, especially in a soft sea bottom
<b>Interreg</b>	European Commission community initiative that aims to stimulate interregional co-operation in the EU. It is funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
<b>Intertidal</b>	The coastal zone between high water mark and low water mark
<b>Invertebrate</b>	Animals without backbones
<b>IOPP</b>	International Oil Pollution Prevention
<b>IPPC</b>	Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control
<b>Irish Sea Pilot</b>	The UK Government Review of Marine Nature Conservation set up the Irish Sea Pilot project in 2002 to test the potential for an ecosystem approach to managing the marine environment at a regional sea scale
<b>Islets</b>	Very small islands
<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (or World Conservation Union)
<b>JMC's</b>	Joint Maritime Courses
<b>JNCC</b>	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
<b>Kelp</b>	Any of various brown, often very large seaweeds of the order Laminariales
<b>Km</b>	Kilometre
<b>Lamellibranch</b>	Marine or freshwater molluscs having a soft body with plate-like gills enclosed within two shells hinged together (bivalve)
<b>LBAP</b>	Local Biodiversity Action Plans
<b>Licence block</b>	Area of the sea which has been sub-divided and licensed to a company or group of companies for exploration and production of hydrocarbons. A Block is approximately 200-250 square kilometres
<b>Licensing round</b>	An allocation of licences made to oil companies
<b>LIMPET</b>	Commercial wave power station located on the shoreline of Islay

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>Limpet</b>	Marine gastropods with low conical shells; found clinging to rocks in littoral areas
<b>Links</b>	Relatively flat or undulating sandy turf-covered ground usually along a seashore
<b>Littoral</b>	The edge of the sea, but particularly the intertidal zone
<b>LNR</b>	Local Nature Reserve
<b>Lochan</b>	A small lake or pond
<b>Loliginid squid</b>	Long-finned squid belonging to the squid family Loliginidae
<b>LSA (Low Specific Activity)</b>	Low dose, naturally occurring radiation
<b>Machair</b>	Gaelic word for links or dune pasture
<b>Maquis and garrigue</b>	Terms defining vegetation in the Mediterranean area, normally developing on limestone, and degraded
<b>MARPOL</b>	The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (1973/78)
<b>MASH</b>	Marine Protected Areas and Species Habitats
<b>MCA</b>	Marine Consultation Area
<b>MCA</b>	Maritime and Coastguard Agency
<b>Medusae</b>	A type of jellyfish
<b>Megafauna</b>	Large animals
<b>Megaplankton</b>	Extra-large zooplankton between 20 and 200cm in size
<b>MEHRA</b>	Marine Environment High Risk Area – area of high environmental sensitivity at risk from shipping
<b>Meiofauna</b>	Small benthic animals
<b>MEPC</b>	IMO Maritime Environmental Protection Committee
<b>Meroplanktonic</b>	Plankton that spend only part of their life cycle in the water column before settling to the bottom
<b>MESH</b>	Mapping European Seabed Habitats
<b>Mesolithic</b>	Middle Stone Age (10,000-4,000 BP)
<b>Middens</b>	A mound or deposit containing shells, animal bones, and other refuse that indicates the site of a human settlement
<b>MNCR</b>	Marine Nature Conservation Review
<b>Molluscs</b>	Marine invertebrates typically having a soft unsegmented body, a mantle, and a protective shell
<b>Morphological</b>	Concerned solely with shape
<b>MPA</b>	Marine Protected Area
<b>Mud-flats</b>	Intertidal areas which are composed of mud and silt
<b>MW</b>	Megawatt
<b>Mysid</b>	A small shrimp
<b>Mysticete whales</b>	Any of several usually large whales of the suborder Mysticeti, such as the right whale and rorquals, having a symmetrical skull, two blowholes, and baleen plates instead of teeth
<b>NAO</b>	North Atlantic Oscillation
<b>Natura 2000 Network</b>	Sites of conservational value designated under the EU Habitats Directive
<b>NCR</b>	Nature Conservation Review sites
<b>Necropsy</b>	Examination of a cadaver to determine or confirm the cause of death
<b>Nematode</b>	Roundworms
<b>Nemertea</b>	Soft unsegmented marine worms



Term	Definition
Neolithic	The 'new' Stone Age beginning around 10,000 B.C.
Nephrops	<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i> , also known as langoustine, scampi, Dublin Bay prawn, and Norway lobster in Scotland
Nesses	Low promontories of rock platforms, boulders and shingle
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
Nitrate Vulnerable Zone	An area of land in Scotland which drains into and contributes to pollution of the waters which the Scottish Ministers have identified as waters affected by, and which could be affected by, pollution from nitrates
NMR	National Monuments Record. The national repository for archaeological and historic data
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NOK	Norwegian Krona
Non-statutory	Having no basis in statute or in law
NORM	Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials
NPOA	National Plans for Action
NPPG	National Planning Policy Guidelines
NSA	National Scenic Area
Nursery	Part of the fish's habitat where the young grow up
Oceanographic	The exploration and scientific study of the ocean and its phenomena
Odontocetes	Toothed whales
Oligochaetes	Hermaphroditic terrestrial and aquatic annelids (worm) having bristles borne singly along the length of the body
Oligotrophic	Lacking in plant nutrients and having a large amount of dissolved oxygen throughout (used of a pond or lake)
Ommastrephid squid	Short-finned squid
OPF	Organic-Phase Drilling Fluids
Ophiuroid	Any of various marine organisms of the class Ophiuroidea, related to and resembling the starfish but having long slender arms (also called Brittle Star)
OPRC	The International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation (1990)
OSPAR	Oslo and Paris Commission - for the protection of the marine environment of the North East Atlantic (1992)
Otter trawling	A demersal trawl that is held open laterally by otter boards or 'doors'
Palaeolithic	The 'old' Stone Age (being the period of the emergence of primitive man) about 2.5 million to 3 million years ago until about 12,000 B.C.
Parabolic dunes	Mobile dunes having a distinctive parabolic (V-shape) which migrates in the direction of the apex of parabola
Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP)	An illness caused by poisons concentrated in clams, mussels, oysters, snails and scallops
PCZ	Preferred Conservation Zone
PDO	Plan for Development and Operation
PEC:PNEC	Predicted Effect Concentration: Predicted No Effect Concentration
Pelagic	Organisms living in the water column of the sea
Pelamis	Wave energy converter
Pennatulid	A sea pen
Perennial	Recurring again and again

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>Petrogenic</b>	Derived from mineral hydrocarbons
<b>PEXA</b>	Practice and Exercise Areas for the military
<b>Phalaropes</b>	Any of several small wading birds of the family Phalaropodidae, resembling sandpipers but having lobed toes that enable them to swim
<b>Physiographic</b>	The study of the natural features of the earth's surface, especially in its current aspects, including land formation, climate, currents, and distribution of flora and fauna (also called physical geography)
<b>Phytoplankton</b>	Free floating microscopic plants (algae); including diatoms and dinoflagellates
<b>Pico plankton</b>	Tiny plankton between 0.2 and 2 microns in size, mostly bacteria
<b>Pictish</b>	Of or relating to the Picts or their language or culture
<b>PILOT program</b>	PILOT is the successor to the Oil and Gas Industry Task Force (OGITF)
<b>Pinnipeds</b>	Of or belonging to the Pinnipedia, a suborder of carnivorous aquatic mammals that includes the seals, walruses, and similar animals having finlike flippers as organs of locomotion
<b>Plankton</b>	Free-floating microscopic organisms
<b>PMSU</b>	Prime Minister's Strategy Unit
<b>Pockmarks</b>	Closed seabed depressions that are typically 2-5m deep, 50-200m wide and are usually elongated in the direction of the predominating near-bottom currents
<b>Polychaetes</b>	Chiefly marine annelids (worms) possessing both sexes and having paired appendages bearing bristles
<b>PON</b>	Petroleum Operations Notice
<b>POPA</b>	The Prevention of Oil Pollution Act, 1971
<b>Progradation</b>	General term for a coastline which is advancing into the sea
<b>Promontory</b>	A high ridge of land or rock jutting out into a body of water; a headland
<b>PSP</b>	See Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning
<b>PSSA</b>	Particularly Sensitive Sea Area
<b>Purse seines</b>	A deep curtain of netting that is shot in a circle to form an enclosing cylinder around shoals of pelagic fish
<b>Quadrant</b>	Subdivision of sea area for purposes of awarding licences for hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation. A whole quadrant contains thirty blocks, and is approximately 7,500 sq km
<b>Radionuclide</b>	Natural or artificial radioactive isotope
<b>RAF</b>	Royal Air Force
<b>Ramsar sites</b>	Areas designated by the UK under the Ramsar Convention (Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as waterfowl habitat)
<b>Red Data Book</b>	Documents the current status of globally threatened biodiversity
<b>Riverine</b>	Relating to or resembling a river
<b>RLD</b>	Regional Landscape Designation
<b>RMNC</b>	Review of Marine Nature Conservation
<b>Ro-ro</b>	Roll on-roll off
<b>ROV</b>	Remotely Operated Vehicle
<b>RSPB</b>	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds



<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>SAC (Special Areas of Conservation)</b>	Areas designated as European Sites (Natura 2000) under the Habitats and Species Directive
<b>SAHFOS</b>	Sir Alister Hardy Foundation for Ocean Science
<b>Saline</b>	Containing salt
<b>Salps</b>	Any of various free-swimming tunicates of the genus <i>Salpa</i> , of warm seas, having a translucent, somewhat flattened, kegl-like body
<b>Salt meadows</b>	As salt pasture
<b>Salt pastures</b>	General term, usually applied to higher levels of saltmarshes which are used for grazing
<b>Saltmarsh</b>	Low coastal grassland normally overflowed by the tide
<b>Sandstone</b>	Sedimentary rock formed by the compaction and cementation of sand grains
<b>SAST</b>	Seabirds at Sea Team (JNCC)
<b>SCAN</b>	Small Cetacean Abundance in the North Sea
<b>SCI</b>	Sites of Community Importance
<b>SCR</b>	Seabird Colony Register
<b>Screes</b>	A sloping mass of rocks at the base of a cliff
<b>SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment)</b>	An appraisal process through which environmental protection and sustainable development is considered in advance of decisions on policy, plans and programmes
<b>Sea urchins</b>	Spiny, hard-shelled animal that lives on the rocky seafloor
<b>SEERAD</b>	Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department
<b>Seismic survey</b>	Survey technique used to determine the structure of underlying rocks by passing acoustic shock waves into the strata and detecting and measuring the reflected signals. Depending on the spacing of survey lines, data processing method and temporal elements, the seismic is referred to as either 2-D, 3-D or 4-D
<b>Senescence</b>	Growing old, aging
<b>SEPA</b>	Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
<b>Sessile</b>	Permanently attached or fixed; not free-moving
<b>Shellfish</b>	Molluscs and Crustacea; fish with a hard outer case or shell
<b>Shingle</b>	Beach material which is intermediate in size between sand and cobbles
<b>SHOAL</b>	Shetlands Oceans Alliance
<b>Shorebirds</b>	Any of various birds, such as the sandpiper and plover, that frequent the shores of coastal or inland waters
<b>Shoreline Management Plan</b>	A document that sets out a strategy for coastal defence for a specified length of coast, taking account of natural coastal processes and human and environmental influences and needs
<b>Silt</b>	A sedimentary material consisting of very fine particles intermediate in size between sand and clay
<b>SINTEF database</b>	The SINTEF Offshore Blowout Database is a comprehensive event database for blowout risk assessment
<b>Siphonophores</b>	Any of various transparent, often subtly coloured marine hydrozoans of the order Siphonophora, consisting of a floating or swimming colony of polyp-like and medusa-like individuals and including the Portuguese man-of-war
<b>Skerries</b>	A group of small rocky exposures which might be submerged during high tide
<b>SLAP</b>	Shetland Leasing and Property Development Ltd

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>Sm<sup>3</sup></b>	Standard cubic metres
<b>Smelt</b>	Any of various small silvery marine and freshwater food fishes of the family Osmeridae, found in cold waters of the Northern Hemisphere
<b>SMP</b>	Shoreline Management Plan
<b>SMP</b>	Seabird Monitoring Programme
<b>SMRU</b>	Sea Mammal Research Unit
<b>SNH</b>	Scottish Natural Heritage
<b>Sonars</b>	A system using transmitted and reflected underwater sound waves to detect and locate submerged objects or measure the distance to the floor of a body of water
<b>SOPEP</b>	Shipboard Oil Pollution Emergency Plan
<b>SOSREP</b>	Secretary of State Representative
<b>SOTEAG</b>	Shetland Oil Terminal Environmental Advisory Group
<b>SPA (Special Protection Areas)</b>	Areas designated as European Sites under the Wild Birds Directive
<b>Spawning</b>	The release of eggs of aquatic animals such as bivalve molluscs, fish and amphibians
<b>Special Area of Conservation</b>	Areas designated as European Sites (Natura 2000) under the Habitats and Species Directive
<b>Sponges</b>	Any of numerous aquatic, chiefly marine invertebrate animals of the phylum Porifera, characteristically having a porous skeleton and often forming irregularly shaped colonies attached to an underwater surface
<b>SSMO</b>	Shetland Shellfish Management Organisation
<b>SSSI</b>	Site of Special Scientific Interest
<b>SST</b>	Sea Surface Temperature
<b>Stack</b>	A residual rock pinnacle which marks coastal cliff retreat and/or the landward advance of a rock platform
<b>Statutory</b>	Prescribed, authorised or punishable under a statute
<b>Stingray</b>	Tidal stream energy device
<b>Strand</b>	General description of a wide intertidal area usually composed of sand
<b>Strategic Environmental Assessment (or Appraisal)</b>	See SEA
<b>Stratification</b>	Development of a stable layered density structure in the water column; may be as a result of temperature gradients (thermal stratification) or salinity gradients; often seasonal
<b>Sublittoral</b>	Of or situated near the seashore
<b>Substrata</b>	A layer of earth beneath the surface soil; subsoil
<b>Sweep</b>	Addition of a batch of additive to a drilling fluid; typically of a viscous additive to clear the hole of cuttings
<b>SWT</b>	Scottish Wildlife Trust
<b>TAC</b>	Total Allowable Catches
<b>Taxa</b>	Taxonomic category or group
<b>Telemetry</b>	The science and technology of automatic measurement and transmission of data by wire, radio, or other means from remote sources, to receiving stations for recording and analysis
<b>Thaliacea</b>	See Salps
<b>Tomboles</b>	A sand or gravel bar connecting an island with another land mass
<b>Topography</b>	Surface features of an area

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>Trophic level</b>	The position occupied by an organism in a food chain or a food web
<b>Troposphere</b>	The layer of the atmosphere below the stratosphere extending from ground level to 10-15km above the Earth's surface
<b>Tsunami</b>	A very large ocean wave typically caused by an underwater earthquake or volcanic eruption
<b>Tubificids</b>	A type of worm that live within tubes that they secrete
<b>Tunicates</b>	Any of various chordate marine animals of the subphylum Tunicata or Urochordata having a cylindrical or globular body enclosed in a tough outer covering and including the sea squirts and salps
<b>UK</b>	United Kingdom
<b>UKCS</b>	United Kingdom Continental Shelf
<b>UKOOA</b>	United Kingdom Offshore Operators Association
<b>UKOPP</b>	United Kingdom Oil Pollution Prevention
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Organisation for Education, Science, Culture and Communications
<b>Viviparous</b>	Having the development of the young inside the body as in placental mammals
<b>VMR</b>	Voluntary Marine Reserve
<b>Waders</b>	Any of many long-legged birds that wade in water in search of food (includes oystercatcher, whimbrel, snipe, avocets, stilts, plovers, sandpipers, godwits, curlews, snipe and phalarope)
<b>Waterbirds</b>	Group of birds which include divers and grebes, bitterns and herons, rails, crakes and coots, wildfowl <sup>1</sup> and waders
<b>WeBS</b>	Wetland Bird Survey
<b>WFD</b>	Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC)
<b>White dunes</b>	Embryonic small dunes on the upper beach
<b>Whitefish</b>	Any market fish – edible saltwater fish or shellfish – except herring
<b>Wildfowl</b>	Collective term for all ducks, shelducks, geese and swans
<b>Zooplankton</b>	Free floating animals (often microscopic)

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<sup>1</sup> JNCC refer to this group as waterfowl

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