Correlation Tables showing Relationships between EUNIS (2004 and 2007 versions), the Marine Habitat Classification for Britain and Ireland (v15.03) and Habitats Listed for Protection

Spreadsheet version

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jncc.gov.uk/marinehabitatcorrelation

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Introduction

The correlation tables allow users to identify possible relationships between marine habitats listed in the EUNIS classification (2007 and 2004 versions), those listed in the JNCC Marine Habitat Classification for Britain and Ireland, and those listed as being important for conservation under various legislative instruments (e.g. Annex I habitats, OSPAR habitats). The correlation tables are periodically revised as habitat definitions are refined. Two tools are available to investigate these correlations: the correlation spreadsheet and the correlation database. These two tools contain the same correlations. This document provides a user guide to the spreadsheet version – which lets you browse all the correlations in the same table view.

User guide – spreadsheet version

Spreadsheet contents

1. EUNIS Correlation Table
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1. EUNIS Correlation Table

The correlation table can be used to correlate EUNIS habitats with equivalent JNCC Marine Habitat Classification habitats. The top row of the table shows the other various types of listed habitat which can be correlated. Correlations are only given for EUNIS habitats which occur in the UK. The correlation table lets you select one or more EUNIS habitats using the drop-down list on the top row to filter. You can also filter EUNIS habitats at a certain level using the drop-down list at the top of the 'level' column. The fields to the right of the EUNIS habitat show which JNCC Marine Habitat Classification habitat type is equivalent, and which listed habitats *may* qualify. One column displays the listed habitat name and the field to the left shows the relationship between the EUNIS habitat and the listed habitat (e.g. '<'). Where no correlation applies the corresponding cell is blank.

As an example, a section of the correlation table is displayed in Figure 1, with EUNIS habitat A2.61 'Seagrass beds on littoral sediments' filtered. The Habitats of Principle Importance (HPI) column is filled in with 'Seagrass beds' indicating that the selected EUNIS habitat may qualify as that HPI type. The 'relation to HPI types' column shows the relationship code (<) which indicates that the HPI habitat is considered broader than the EUNIS habitat. The OSPAR columns are blank as A2.61 is not directly correlated with any OSPAR habitats.

EUNIS code 2008	EUNIS level	EUNIS name 2008	Relation to OSPAR types	OSPAR	Relation to HPI types	Habitats of Principal Importance	Relation to MCZ Habitat FOCI	MCZ Habitat FOCI	Rel Scot
A2.61	4	Seagrass beds on littoral sediments			<	Seagrass beds	<	Seagrass beds	

Figure 1: Illustrative section of the correlation table

It should be noted that correlations are intended to give an *indication* only of which biotopes could qualify as a listed habitat. Records of biotopes that are correlated with a listed habitat in this table may not necessarily qualify as that feature; the user should also check if there are specific criteria for that listed habitat type to apply, for example, the area of the feature. The correlation table is intended for use in translating EUNIS habitat to listed habitat rather than listed habitat to EUNIS.

2. JNCC Deep-sea to Listed

In 2015, JNCC added a deep-sea section to the Marine Habitat Classification for Britain and Ireland. These deep-sea habitats differ from those in the EUNIS classification. The main correlation table in the spreadsheet shows how each EUNIS deep-sea habitat correlates with JNCC deep-sea habitats. In addition, a JNCC deep-sea habitat to listed habitat correlation table is provided in a separate tab within the spreadsheet. This provides more detail on exactly how JNCC deep-sea habitats relate to listed habitats.

3. Relation codes

Definitions for the relationship codes are provided in a second tab on the correlation table spreadsheet, and displayed in Table 1.

Table 1: Relationship codes

Habitat in original classification (e.g. EUNIS)	Code	Habitat in new classification (e.g. JNCC 04.05)	Meaning
X	=	Y	Habitat X is same as Habitat Y
X	≈	Y	Habitat X is nearly same as Habitat Y
X	<	Y	Habitat X is contained within Habitat Y (i.e. X has a narrower definition than Y)
X	>	Y	Habitat Y is contained within Habitat X (i.e. X has a broader definition than Y)
X	< May occur	Y	Habitat X may occur in Habitat Y but the presence of Habitat X does not always mean the presence of Habitat Y.
X	> May occur	Y	Habitat Y may occur in Habitat X but the presence of Habitat Y does not always mean the presence of Habitat X.
X	#	Y	Habitat X definition partially overlaps with that of Habitat Y
	-	Y	Habitat Y is not present in original classification
	S		Other habitat (i.e. JNCC classification) is source of EUNIS habitat

Key updates to this version of the correlation tables

Addition of new classification systems

- 97.06 version of the JNCC Marine Habitat Classification for Britain and Ireland, to allow conversion of old data assigned to previous classifications.
- Annex I sub-features developed by Natural England, and Annex I sub-types developed by Scottish Natural Heritage.
- 2017 Marine Strategy Framework Directive Benthic Broad Habitats; these replace the previous MSFD Predominant Habitats, but we have kept those in the correlation table to allow comparison with the old definitions.

Addition of a new field

- A new column in the spreadsheet version called "Additional criteria to consider for Annex I habitat" gives details of further criteria that should be considered for Annex I correlations – this will help you clarify whether the habitat qualifies as an Annex I habitat in situations where the relationship is 'May occur'.

Corrections and updates

Change	**Rationale**
HOCI 'Intertidal boulder communities' changed to 'Intertidal under boulder communities' for correlations with LR.HLR.FT.FserT & LR.HLR.FT.FserTX	Error
JNCC 15.03: corrected the biotope names for IR.MIR.KR.LhypTX.Ft and IR.MIR.KR.LhypTX.Pk	Error
Changed relationship between EUNIS A5.361 "Seapens and burrowing megafauna in circalittoral fine mud" and OSPAR "Sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities" to < rather than =	Other biotopes also correlated with OSPAR habitat so can't be equal
EUNIS Deep-sea habitat relationships with OSPAR coral gardens - changed from ">" to "#"	Coral gardens can also occur shallower
EUNIS A6.62 "Deep-sea sponge aggregations" relationship with OSPAR "Deep-sea sponge aggregations" - changed from "May occur <" to "<"	Correlation always applies
Correlations added between Annex I habitat 'Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time' and EUNIS level 5/6 habitats	Previously, these were only correlated to level 4