

Symbols & Abbreviations: Nature Of The Seabed

Types Of Seabed

Symbol	Description	Symbol	Description	Symbol	Description
<i>S</i>	Sand	<i>M</i>	Mud	<i>Cy</i>	Clay
<i>Si</i>	Silt	<i>St</i>	Stones	<i>G</i>	Gravel
<i>P</i>	Pebbles	<i>Cb</i>	Cobbles	<i>R</i>	Rocks
<i>Bo</i>	Boulders	<i>Sh</i>	Shells	<i>Sg</i>	Seagrass
<i>Wd</i>	Weed (including Kelp)	<i>Co</i>	Coral / Coralline Algae		

Qualifying Terms

Symbol	Description
<i>f</i>	Fine (sand only)
<i>m</i>	Medium (sand only)
<i>c</i>	Course (sand only)
<i>bk</i>	Broken
<i>sy</i>	Sticky
<i>so</i>	Soft
<i>sf</i>	Stiff
<i>v</i>	Volcanic
<i>ca</i>	Calcareous
<i>h</i>	Hard

Merging Terms

Symbol	Description
<i>S/M</i>	Two layers e.g. sand over mud
<i>mS</i>	Qualifying terms precede the seabed type, e.g. medium sand
<i>fS M Sh</i>	The main constituent is given first for mixtures, e.g. fine sand with mud and shells
<i>fS.M.Sh</i>	

Notes

This sheet is intended as a guide only and should not be relied upon for navigation. You should always use official publications such as Chart 1 (USA/NOAA) or Chart 5011 (UK/British Admiralty).

Supplementary International Abbreviations

Symbol	Description	Symbol	Description	Symbol	Description	Symbol	Description	Symbol	Description	Symbol	Description
<i>Grd</i>	Ground	<i>La</i>	Lava	<i>Grs</i>	Grass	<i>Fu</i>	Fucus	<i>glac</i>	Glacial	<i>br</i>	Brown
<i>Oz</i>	Ooze	<i>Pm</i>	Pumice	<i>Stg</i>	Sea-tangle	<i>Ma</i>	Mattes	<i>ten</i>	Tenacious	<i>ch</i>	Chocolate
<i>Ml</i>	Marl	<i>T</i>	Tufa	<i>Spi</i>	Spicules	<i>sml</i>	Small	<i>wh</i>	White	<i>gy</i>	Gray
<i>Sn</i>	Shingle	<i>Sc</i>	Scoriae	<i>Fr</i>	Foraminifera	<i>lrg</i>	Large	<i>bl/bk</i>	Black	<i>lt</i>	Light
<i>Ck</i>	Chalk	<i>Cn</i>	Cinders	<i>Gl</i>	Globigerina	<i>rt</i>	Rotten	<i>vi</i>	Violet	<i>dk</i>	Dark
<i>Qz</i>	Quartz	<i>Mn</i>	Manganese	<i>Di</i>	Diatome	<i>str</i>	Streaky	<i>bu</i>	Blue	<i>vard</i>	Varied
<i>Sch</i>	Schist	<i>Oys</i>	Oysters	<i>Rd</i>	Radiolaria	<i>spk</i>	Speckled	<i>gn</i>	Green	<i>unev</i>	Uneven
<i>So Hd</i>	Coral Head	<i>Ms</i>	Mussels	<i>Pt</i>	Pteropods	<i>gty</i>	Gritty	<i>yl</i>	Yellow		
<i>Mds</i>	Madrepores	<i>Spg</i>	Sponge	<i>Po</i>	Polyzoa	<i>dec</i>	Decayed	<i>or</i>	Orange		
<i>Vol Ash</i>	Volcanic Ash	<i>K</i>	Kelp	<i>Cir</i>	Cirripedia	<i>fly</i>	Flinty	<i>rd</i>	Red		