Maerl

Maerl is an unusual type of red seaweed. It forms hard, brittle nodule shaped structures and requires sunlight to grow.

what does maerl provide?

NURSERY POPULATIONS & HABITATS

PRODUCTS FROM NATURE

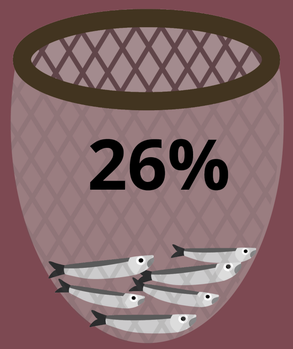
CULTURAL SERVICES

Maerl beds are formed of a complex tangle of fragments of live and dead maerl.

what does maerl do for us?

FOOD FROM WILD CAUGHT FISH

Healthy maerl beds support many commercial species, ensuring a continuing supply of the fish we eat.

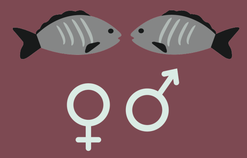


Maerl beds provide valuable nursery habitat for many of the fish we eat. **In Cornwall's Fal and Helford 26% of wild caught fish use maerl habitats.**

BIODIVERSITY

Maerl beds provide a home, place to reproduce and a safe nursery for many species, including some rare and endangered ones.

Many species use maerl beds to reproduce and raise their young.



HUMAN HAPPINESS & WELLBEING

Clear, clean seas rich in biodiversity provide greater opportunities for recreational activities and other benefits for people's happiness and wellbeing.

threats and pressures

Declining water quality

MURKY WATER

EXCESS NUTRIENTS

Recreational impacts

SWING MOORINGS

ANCHORING

how can we help maerl?

REDUCE POLLUTION

ADVANCED MOORING SYSTEMS

VOLUNTARY NO ANCHOR ZONE

LIFE Recreation ReMEDIES

Reducing and **M**itigating **E**rosion and **D**isturbance **I**mpacts aff**E**cting the **S**eabed.

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www.saveourseabed.co.uk

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This infographic has been created from the Seagrass Natural Capital Assessments, please refer to these reports on the project website for sources.