

Algae	A photosynthetic, plant-like single- or multi-cellular organism.
Animal bed	Used to describe when a marine animal forms a bed like structure that is greater than 5mx5m.
Bathyscope	Underwater viewer that can be used from a boat or dry land, generally as a clear bottom viewing cone. It works by eliminating both water surface glare and internal reflection, thereby allowing underwater viewing as far as water clarity and light will permit.
Biodiversity	Biodiversity is the shortened form of two words “biological” and “diversity.” It refers to all the variety of life that can be found on Earth (plants, animals, fungi and microorganisms) as well as to the communities that they form and the habitats in which they live.
Boat draught	The vertical distance between the waterline and the bottom of the hull (keel).
BSL	Below sea level (water depth).
BST	British Summer Time (time zone).
Colonial	Several individual organisms (of the same species) living together in close association.
Datum	A known, fixed point.
DDV	A drop down video system (DDV) is a marine survey equipment setup that is typically an underwater camera and lights on a robust sled/frame. DDV systems generally have a live stream of footage to the surface, built in depth sensors and lasers to provide a scale to estimate the field of view.
Ebb and flood tide	Ebb is the tidal phase during which the water level is falling and flood the tidal phase during which the water level is rising.
Eddies	An eddy is a circular current of water.
Epiphyte	A small plant that grows attached to another plant.
GIS	Geographic Information System (GIS) is a system designed to capture, store, manipulate, analyse, manage, and present all types of geographical data.
GPS	Global Positioning System used to navigate and mark locations.
Inshore water	Scotland’s inshore waters are the marine region within 12 nautical miles of the coast.
Intertidal	The area of coast which is covered by water at high tide, and uncovered at low tide.
Intertidal	The intertidal zone or “littoral zone” is the term used to describe the seashore which is covered during high tide and exposed during low tide.

Marine life cover	The dominating marine community on the seabed or shoreline.
MPA	Marine Protected Area.
Native range	A species range is the area where a particular species can normally be found during its lifetime.
Non-native species	Species introduced or spread from one region to another outside their normal range.
PMF	Priority Marine Feature. This is used in Scotland to describe features characteristic of the Scottish marine environment. The list of PMFs is used to focus conservation and they are given policy protection in the National Marine Plan.
Polecam	A polecam is a video camera attached to a pole that can be deployed to record underwater.
Quadrat	A defined area for scientific sampling, and the frame that is used to define this area.
Random	Lack of pattern or predictability.
ROV	Remotely Operated Vehicle is an unoccupied underwater robot that is connected to the surface by a cable.
SCUBA	Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus.
Sessile	Permanently attached to the substrate. Can only move by external forces (such as water currents).
Slack water	A short period in a body of tidal water when the water is completely unstressed, and there is no movement either way in the tidal stream, which occurs before the direction of the tidal stream reverses.
Species	A name of a living organism.
Spring tide	A tide in which the difference between high and low tide is the greatest. This results in very low, low tides and very high, high tides.
Substrate	the surface or material on or from which an organism lives (e.g. rock, cobbles or mud).
Subtidal	The area of coast which is covered by water at low tide.
Taxonomic hierarchy	Taxonomic hierarchy is the process of arranging various organisms into successive levels of the biological classification.
Tether	The cable that connected an underwater camera to the surface, which transfers information or power.
UTC	Universal Time Coordinated (time zone).