

## **SPECIES ABUNDANCE**

The Abundance scale is **Super abundant, Abundant, Common, Frequent, Occasional, Rare**

The JNCC has a cunningly devised table for working out the abundances of various plants and animals depending on their size and the group to which they belong. However, on a Seasearch survey you are unlikely to be recording at this level of detail. Instead, you are asked to give an indication of a particular species' abundance in your own judgement based on the simplified scale below.

<b>Abundance</b>	<b>Encrusting and turf species</b> e.g. encrusting algae/sponge, jewel anemones, hydroids, barnacles, mussels, seaweeds	<b>Small plants and animals (1-5cm)</b> e.g. worms, small sponges, anemones, cup-corals, shells, solitary sea squirts	<b>Large plants and animals (&gt; 5cm)</b> e.g. large sponges, sea fans and pens, large anemones, crabs and lobsters, starfish, fish,
<b>Superabundant</b>	80-100% cover	10,000 per m <sup>2</sup>	100 per m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Abundant</b>	40-80% cover	1000 per m <sup>2</sup>	10 per m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Common</b>	20-40% cover	100 per m <sup>2</sup>	1 per m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Frequent</b>	10-20% cover	10 per m <sup>2</sup>	1 per 10m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Occasional</b>	5-10% cover	1 per m <sup>2</sup>	1 per 100m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Rare</b>	< 5% cover	< 1 per m <sup>2</sup>	1 per 1000m <sup>2</sup>

If you identify something from a photograph and have no idea of abundance you can put **P** for *present* in the abundance column.