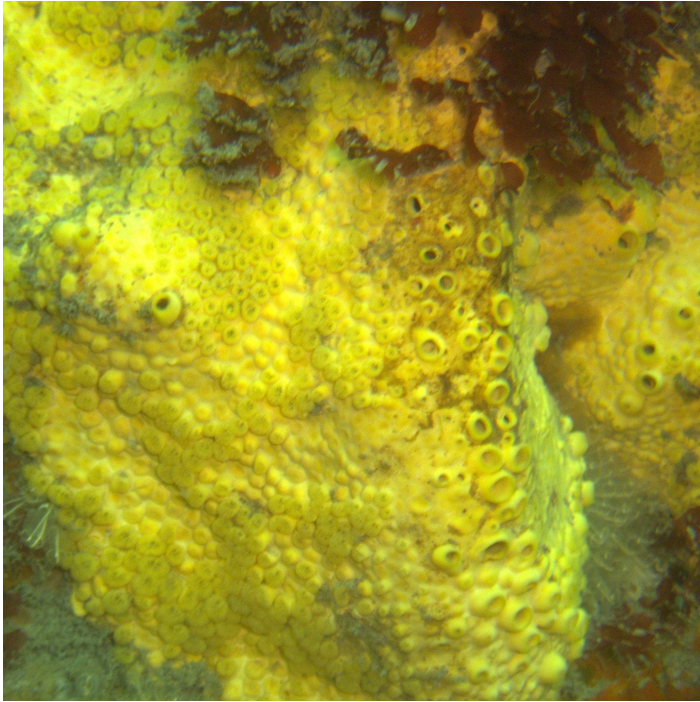


# Boring Sponge (*Cliona celata*)

Demospongiae (Porifera:Clionidae)



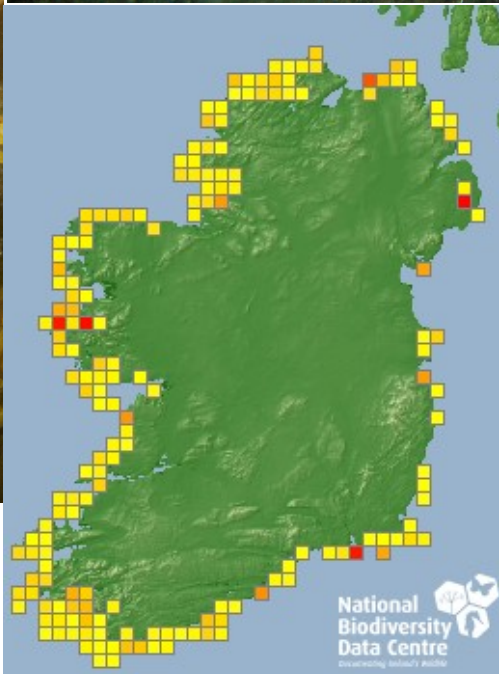
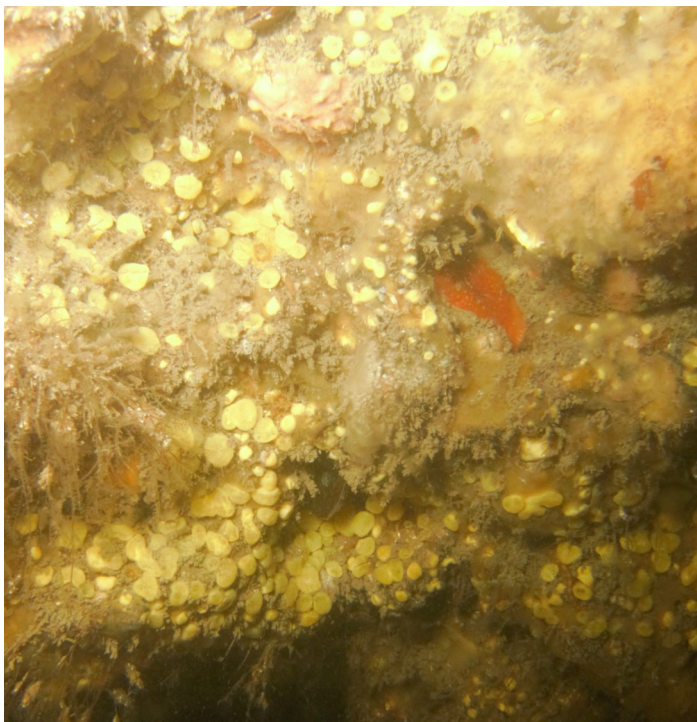
Porifera->Demospongiae->Clionidae

IUCN Red List Categorisation: Not Assessed

The largest sponge found in Irish inshore waters it is found boring into limestone and other calcareous rock surfaces. Widely distributed both around the Irish coast and within Europe it is found in Iceland and Norway, the Baltic Sea and as far south as the Mediterranean. Can cause damage to aquaculture facilities if polyps settle on oyster or mussel shells.



Boring in nature rather than appearance this sponge is one of the most commonly seen in Irish waters due to its conspicuous nature. The boring stage (below) can be difficult to spot as it appears as numerous polyps in rock. The larger stages are unlikely to be confused with any other species in Irish waters due to their large size and bright yellow colouration.



What dive sites can I see it at?

Virtually any dive site with sufficient quantities of calcareous material, this is one of the most widely recorded species in Ireland.

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Every dive can be a Seasearch dive



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