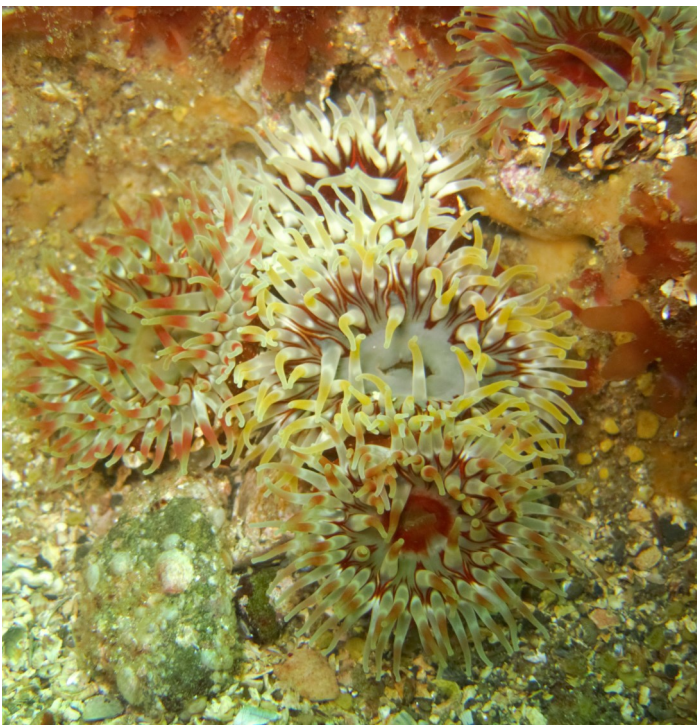


Dahlia Anemone (*Urticina felina*)

Anthozoa (Cnidaria:Actiniaria)



Easily identifiable as it is the largest anemone found in inshore Irish waters they can reach up to 15cm in diameter. Colour is highly variable (as below) though warts on side of column (right) are a diagnostic feature of this species and Dahlia anemones can be easily identified when withdrawn. However typically any large brightly coloured anemone with a large number of tentacles (up to 160) can be positively identified as *U. felina* in the field.



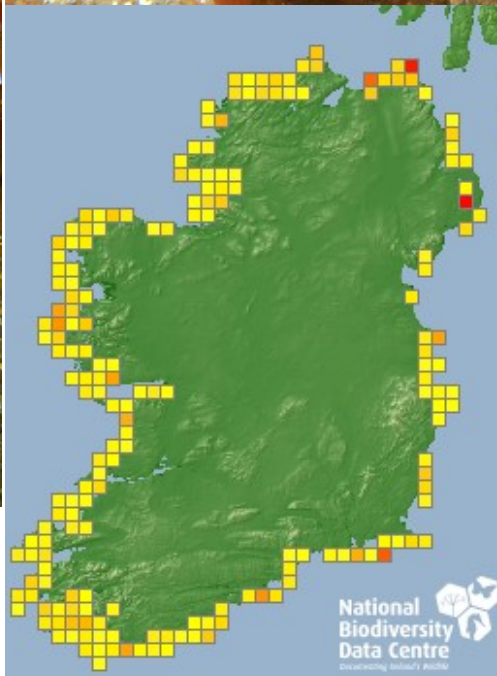
What dive sites can I see it at?

Found on all Irish coasts and at any site with suitable habitat.

Taxonomy: Cnidaria->Anthozoa->Actinaria->Actiniidae

IUCN Red List Categorisation: Not Assessed

There is some confusion surrounding the taxonomy of this species globally. This species may have a circumpolar distribution, certainly found from Russia to southern France but not in the Mediterranean. *U. felina* is a gonochoric species (having only one sex in each individual organism) and is thought to only reproduce sexually by releasing gametes to form free swimming larvae.



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