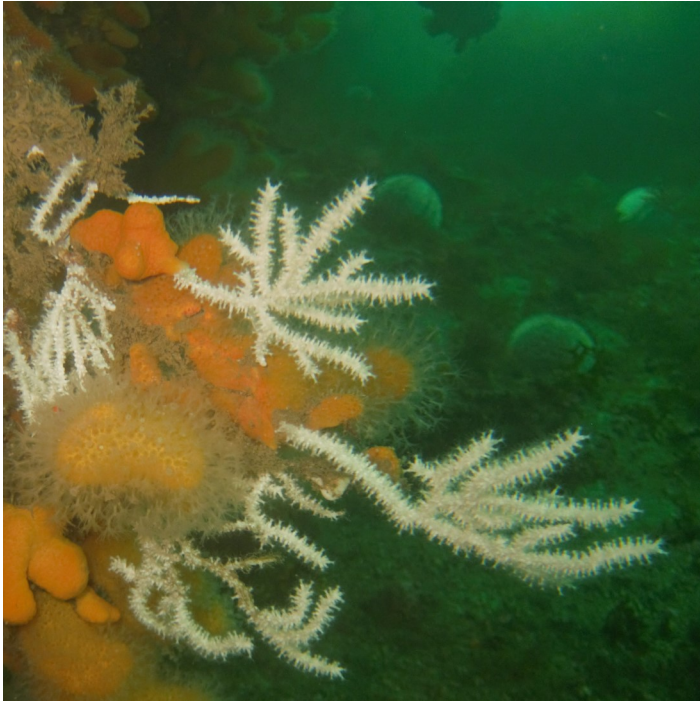


Pink Sea Fan (*Eunicella verrucosa*)

Anthozoa (Cnidaria:Alcyonacea)



White in colour they are a large, highly branched fan shaped colony of polyps (up to 50cm in height). Large undamaged sea fans are extremely distinct however shorter or damaged colonies can be confused with the Northern Sea fan (*Swiftia pallida*) which is less branched and much smaller (5-20cm). A nudibranch *Tritonia nilsodhneri* feeds on this species (below) matching the colour of the colony on which it feeds.

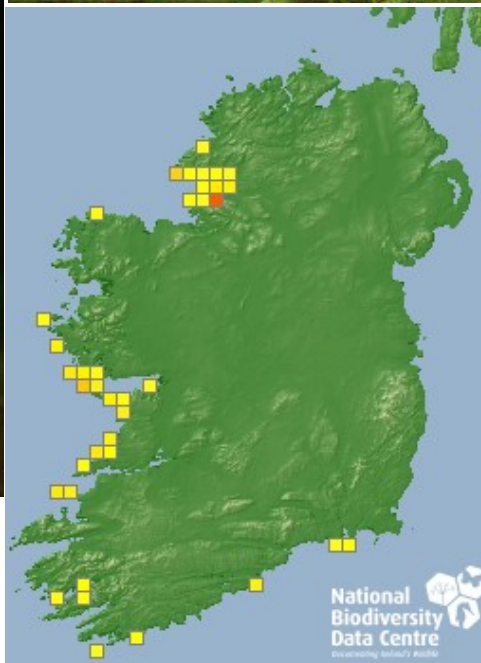
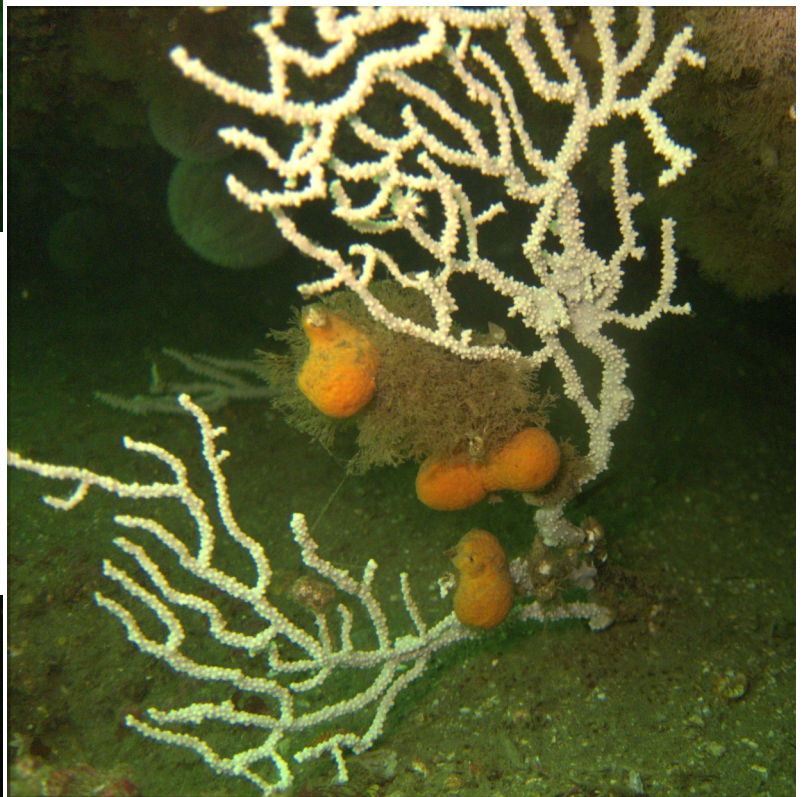


Generally considered a southern species most records from Ireland are from the west coast. Particularly common in Donegal and Galway Bays.

Taxonomy: Cnidaria->Anthozoa->Alcyonacea

IUCN Red List Categorisation: Vulnerable

Categorised by the IUCN as vulnerable this species is extremely vulnerable to damage caused by fishing, as a long lived species (individuals can live up to 50 years). While named the pink sea fan, most colonies found in Ireland are white in colour. In the UK this species is and protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act though no similar protection exists in Ireland.



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