

Plumose anemone (*Metridium dianthus*)

Anthozoa (Cnidaria:Actinaria)



Generally white or orange in colour but can be quite variable in colour (8 colour variants have been identified). Base is thicker than the column and up to 120mm in width with the column up to 300mm long. Unlikely to be confused with any other species found in Irish waters, though small specimens may be confused with the orange striped anemone (*Haliplanella lineata*).



Found on all Irish coasts it can be seen at sites with sufficient water flow though occasionally seen in sheltered locations in the west of Ireland. Can form aggregations covering large areas locally.

Taxonomy: Cnidaria->Anthozoa->Actinaria

IUCN Red List Categorisation: Not Assessed

Found on both sides of the Atlantic and occasionally in the Mediterranean it is widespread and common on all Irish coasts. Typically found in areas with strong water flows and may occur as a fouling organism on ropes, wrecks or piers. Some confusion exists over the taxonomy of the species due to variation in colour, morphology, habitat and reproduction.

