

# King Scallop (*Pecten maximus*)

Bivalvia(Mollusca:Pectinida)

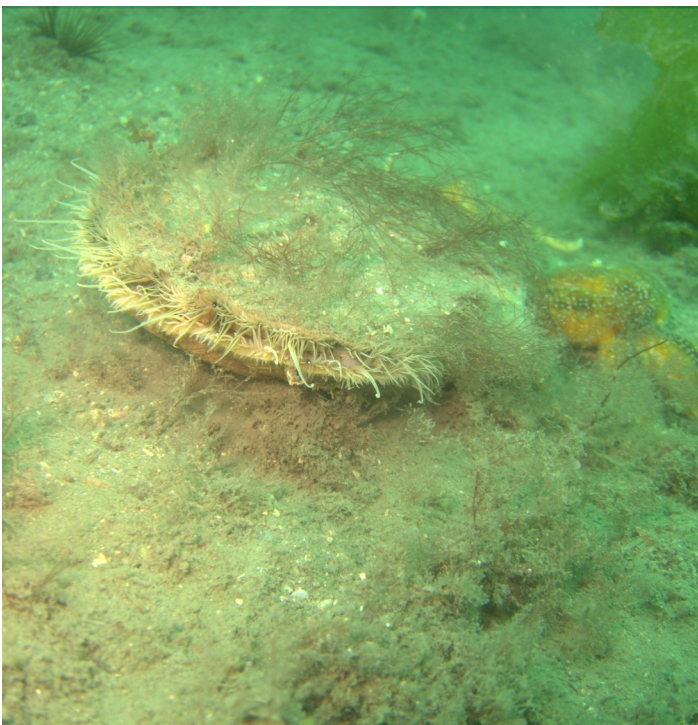
Taxonomy: Mollusca->Bivalvia->Pectinida->Pectinidae

IUCN Red List Categorisation: Not Assessed

Widespread species found in the Atlantic from Norway to west Africa but not in the Mediterranean (though there is some confusion as to whether the Mediterranean scallop *Pecten jacobaeus* is a separate species). Hermaphrodites they are typically sexually mature at 6-7cm. DNA studies found no population structures or major differences in genes across its range apart from in Mulroy Bay.

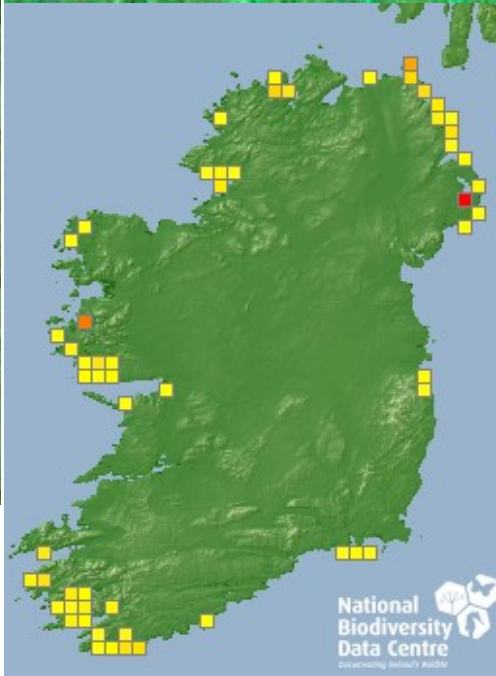


King scallops can be easily identified as adults due to their large size and the shape of the shell with one concave and one flat valve. Can grow up to 15cm long with a series of radiating ridges on the valves (right) they are unlikely to be confused with any other bivalve species in Irish waters. Typically found in sandy or muddy habitats.



What dive sites can I see it at?

Likely under recorded due to the habitat requirements of the species not being conducive to diving they are found on all Irish coasts. Particularly common at Conger Alley in Killary.



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