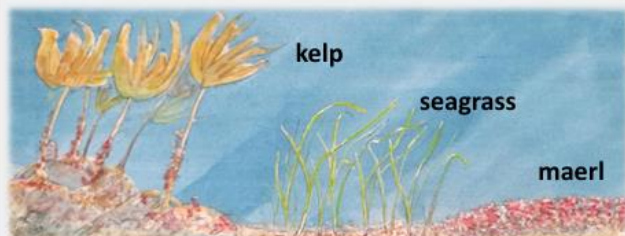
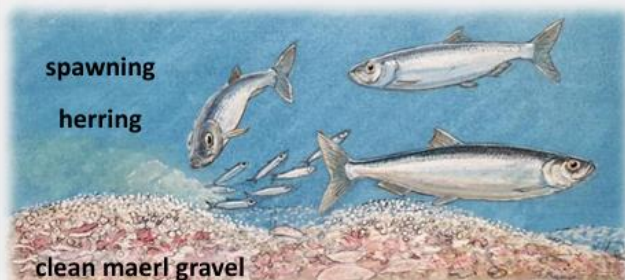


A marine protected area for Wester Ross

The **Wester Ross MPA** aims to protect and restore important seabed habitats that support much other marine wildlife.



Protected habitats include **kelp forest** (home to colourful wrasses and pollack), **burrowed mud** (where nephrops and skate live) and **maerl beds**.



Maerl is a coral-like pink seaweed that forms reef-like habitats that provide safe homes for many animals including juvenile scallop, lobster and cod.

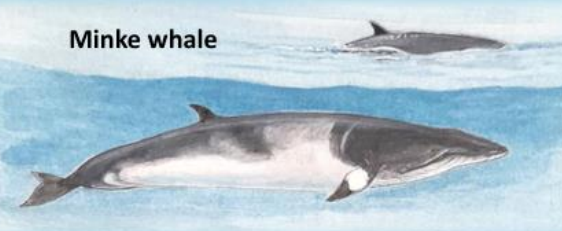
Maerl beds take hundreds of years to grow. They can be easily damaged by dredging and by effluents from open-cage salmon farms.



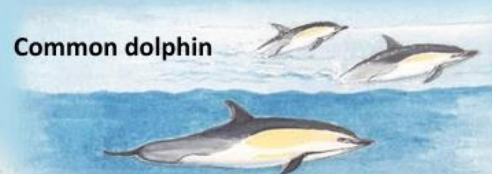
As the seabed recovers, many fishes, birds and other animals benefit.

Look for:

Minke whale



Common dolphin



Porpoise



Local citizen-science groups aim to learn more and to help look after our wonderful seas.

Contacts and supporters:

