

OUR OCEAN SUPERHEROES



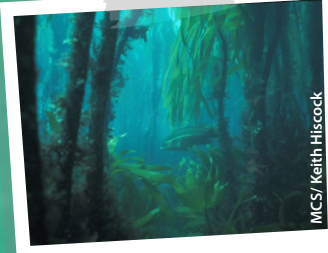
MCS / Georgie Bull

Seagrass



MCS / Sine Scot

Maerl



MCS / Keith Hiscock

Kelp

Why are they superheroes?

Oxygen

Like other green plants and algae, our superheroes produce their food through a process called photosynthesis. This process also gives us the oxygen we need to breathe. We couldn't live without green plants and algae.

Climate Change

Our superheroes are much better at removing Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) than plants on the land. Carbon Dioxide is the gas that is produced by humans, for example when we burn fuel to make electricity or use cars. This gas is heating up our world, causing climate change.

Biodiversity

These vital underwater habitats provide a sheltered environment for far more wildlife than sandy seabeds. This helps ocean biodiversity - the range of different wildlife found in the area. Good biodiversity is a sign of a healthy habitat.

Erosion

Kelp and seagrass help to prevent erosion (wearing away) of the seabed and coast. They create a natural barrier which slows down the waves and reduces their impact. This is particularly important as climate change causes more severe storms.

Protecting our superheroes

Building ports and other development in coastal areas, climate change and mooring of boats can all damage our superheroes.

We need people to know about why these habitats are so important so they know to take care of them, for example, by mooring boats outside of these areas, or by taking action to reduce the amount of CO₂ we produce.