Table 10. VME indicator and habitat records from the VME Database within the Celtic Seas Ecoregion, the 400 – 800 m depth band, and for each closure option within the depth 400 – 800 m depth band.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Celtic Seas Ecoregion** | **400-800 m Depth** | **Scenario 1 Option 1** | **Scenario 1 Option 2** | **Scenario 2 Option 1** | **Scenario 2 Option 2** |
| **VME Indicator** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Anemones | 612 | 234 | 228 | 228 | 228 | 168 |
| Black coral | 728 | 138 | 138 | 138 | 138 | 124 |
| Cup coral | 364 | 107 | 101 | 101 | 101 | 57 |
| Gorgonian | 337 | 38 | 38 | 38 | 38 | 19 |
| Sea-pen | 1,349 | 488 | 106 | 106 | 159 | 130 |
| Soft coral | 213 | 24 | 14 | 14 | 22 | 19 |
| Sponge | 2,758 | 1,200 | 1,052 | 1,052 | 1,147 | 891 |
| Stony coral | 1,534 | 323 | 323 | 323 | 323 | 289 |
| Stylasterids | 16 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 4 |
| Xenophyophores | 10 | - | - | - | - | - |
| **VME Habitat** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cold-water coral reef | 386 | 146 | 146 | 146 | 146 | 132 |
| Coral Garden | 1384 | 303 | 303 | 303 | 303 | 269 |
| Deep-sea Sponge Aggregations | 739 | 617 | 617 | 617 | 617 | 614 |
| Sea pen fields | 458 | 166 | 166 | 166 | 166 | 166 |
| Tube-dwelling anemone aggregations | 55 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 10 |
| Xenophyophore aggregations | 41 | 41 | 41 | 41 | 41 | 2 |
| Anemone aggregations | 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 | - |
| Stalked crinoid aggregations | 6 | - | - | - | - | - |

Text relating to table 10 on page 106 of the report:

Both Scenario 1 closure options capture the same number of VME records including all available VME habitat records in the 400 – 800 m depth band and all, or nearly all VME indicator records apart from sea pen (106/488), soft coral (14/24) and sponge (1052/1200) records (Table 10). Closure Scenario 2 option 1 captures the same number of VME records as the Scenario 1 closure options, including all VME habitat records, and more sea pen (159), soft coral (22) and sponge (1147) VME indicator records. Closure Scenario 2 option 2 captures fewer VME habitats than the other closure options, for: deep-sea sponge aggregations (614/617), tube-dwelling anemone aggregations (10/55), Xenophyophore aggregations (2/41) and Anemone aggregations (0/22). Closure Scenario 2 option 2 captures fewer anemones, cup coral, sponge and stony coral indicator records than the other closure options, but captures more sea pen and soft coral records than the Scenario 1 closure options (Table 10). Figure 16 shows the example of sponge VME indicator records that lie within the Celtic Sea ecoregion, 400 – 800 m depth band and the four closure options.