

Microhabitats

Just like on land, the ocean has microclimates, **small areas where conditions differ from the surrounding water**. These can be cooler, more shaded, or better oxygenated, offering refuge for marine life during extreme events like marine heatwaves.

Microhabitats can form:

- Under seaweed canopies (like *Fucus vesiculosus*)
- In crevices or shaded rocky areas
- At greater depths, where water warms more slowly



For species with limited mobility, these microhabitats can mean the difference between survival and stress/death. But as heatwaves become more intense, even these safe spots may become less effective.

