Classification guide for potentially vulnerable invertebrate taxa in the SPRFMO Area Note these are FAO 3-Alpha Species Codes (ASFIS)

Code	CSS	AQZ	AJZ				GGW	
Level	Scleractinia (Order)	Antipatharia (Order)	Alcyonacea (Order)			Alcyonacea (Order) -	Sea fan octocorals (G	orgonia
Taxon	Stony corals	Black corals	True soft corals	Keratoisididae Mopseidae (Bamboo)	Coralliidae (Red / Precious)	Primnoidae (Bottle brush, Sea fans)	Paragorgiidae (Bubblegum)	Chry
Form, Size	Second	Semi-rigid, woody, not very dense, dark brown or black skeleton, can be large (>2m). Branch tips can look like bydroids or small gorgonian	Can be mushroom shaped. Floppy or soft, leather-like surface texture. Usually multiple large polyps, body not symmetrical, no foot or stalk	Solid calcified trunk with brown joints (nodes), rings in x-section, branching 2D or 3D, fine tips, tree like branch tins	Calcified skeleton, no spines. Thick, stubby stems with fine side branches	Dark or metallic tree-like branches, flexible	Large (up to 2m), red, thick stems, breaks when flexed	Gold, blac lustre. Ser main axis soft tissue speciment like hydro black cora
Detail (Texture, colour, polyps)	Calcified, very hard or brittle Branching: Often smooth stems Cups: Can be ridged Polyp calyces well formed with ridged edges, large, hard polyps	Slimy flesh on branches. Surface with minute spines, may appear smooth. 3D, fine or bushy tips	Similar polyps to seapens, but soft corals are not stalked	Can scrape off surface tissue, skeleton surface smooth between nodes	Can scrape surface tissue off. Smooth (not sandpapery) with knobbly ends. No pores on skeleton	Usually no spines, some metallic lustre on skeleton, 3D Bushy branches, obvious polyps. Polyps/calyces are usually arranged in obvious pairs or rosettes	Chalky material, not hard. No spines, can scrape off surface. Bulbous ends with polyps	Can be no whip-like metallic lu 3D branch
Commonly mistaken for:	Branching form can look like hard sponges, pieces of hydrocorals, and bryozoans	Hydroid if small, or small pieces of dead Gorgonians	Small pieces of Corallidae. Can also resemble Demosponges, which have no polyps	Other Gorgonians if in small pieces, but won't break easily	Soft corals, which always have soft stems. Red stylasterid hydrocorals but these have minute pores	Hydroids but they have no distinct polyps. Small bottlebush forms can resemble black corals	Small pieces of Corallidae	Antipatha

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Revised by D. Tracey, O. Anderson, E. Mackay, National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research (NIWA), Shane Geange Department of Conservation, May, 2022

These groups are not included



n Alcyonacea)



Note these	are FAO 3-Alpha Sj	FAO 3-Alpha Species Codes (ASFIS) Classification guide for potentially vulnerable invertebrate taxa in the SPRFMO Area							ils Clams Urchins Worms Crabs
Code	AXT	HQZ	PFR	ATX	NTW	CWD	BHZ	BZN	ZOT
Level	Anthoathecata (Order)	Leptothecata (Order)	Porifera (Phylum)	Actiniaria (Order)	Pennatulacea (Order)	Crinoidea (Class)	Brisingida (Order)	Bryozoa (Phylum)	Zoantharia (Order)
Taxon	Stylasteridae Hydrocorals	Hydrozoa (hydroids)	Hexactinellida Demospon (Glass sponges) (Siliceous spo	iae Anemones nges)	Sea pens	Stalked crinoids (sea lilies) Feather stars	Armless stars	Bryozoans (lace corals)	Hexacorals (Zoanthids)
Form, Size	Calcified, no rings in X-section, often pink or white. Often uniplanar, side branches lattice from obviously thicker main stems	Entire organism small, <30cm, flexible and plant- like, often feathery, no soft tissue covering	Often hollow central chamber can be vase like. Diverse shapes; fibrous or crystalline hard forms	esmall und Rubbery bottom with single polyp with lots of tentacles. Usually in retracted hardened cylinder form when captured	Feather with fleshy polyps. Non-branching to whip-like cartilaginous stalk. Fleshy foot or anchor present, body symmetrical. Can be tall. >1 m	Stalked. Small cuplike body. Arms usually branched. Crinoids are generally fragile, often only fragments. A long stalk, some bearing whorls of hooklike cirri Feather stars are similar to sea lilies but lack stalks, using leg- like cirri to grasp the substrate. Feathery arms	At least 6 arms, usually more than 10. Arms easily separated from central disc and often all that is taken	Typically small, (<30 cm). Variable forms. Can be hard or soft (most commonly hard) branching, lace-like, or cornflake shaped, calcified, and brittle, surface cannot be scraped off	Erect "coral-like" colonies. Often grow on, or colonise, other living corals.
Detail (Texture, colour, polyps)	Coarse sandpaper texture, can't scrape off surface tissue. Has minute pores	Indistinct polyps, feathery tips	Pores often visible, glass spicules visible or fibre-glass like texture in hard forms Fleshy, slimy or rub Textures stony, wo fibrous or airy	bery. dy, Knobbly, slimy, with tentacles. Tentacles sometimes look like worms when detached	Fleshy polyps. Flower or feather like polyp mass	Fragile, not flexible. Brittle and segmented	Long spines on ventro- lateral margin	v v v v v v v v v v v v v v v v v v v	5 mm 5 mm 5 mm 5 mm 5 mm 5 mm 5 mm 5 mm 5 mm 5 mm 5 mm 5 mm 5 mm 5 mm 5 mm 5
Commonly mistaken for:	Small, hard Bryozoans or pieces of Coralliidae	Small specimens of Gorgonians or Antipatharia	Bryozoans or scleractinians that are small and of a hard matrix Alcyonaceans or as which are not spor have polyps or siph	cidians, Alcyonaceans, which usually have several polyps or the CoralImorpharia, coral-like anemone Coral	Alcyonaceans or some Gorgonians, that have large polyps	Arm fragments can be confused with brisingid and other sea- star arms	Other sea stars with multiple arms (e.g., brittle stars) and crinoid arms	Stylasterids if hard, hydroids if soft, carnivorous demosponge	Large brooding gorgonian coral polyps; branching soft corals

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