Figure 3. Is the potential Sabellaria sp reef formed mostly by tubes constructed by S. alveolata or S. spinulosa?

S. alveolata

Is *S. alveolata* reef a designated feature or sub feature of a protected site located within the project ZoI?

If yes:

- Does the relevant site conservation documentation define the qualifying criteria for *S. alveolata* reef for the site? If yes, does the S. alveolata colony fit the definition as reef? If no, consider role of colony in maintaining favourable conservation status of any designated *S. alveolata* reefs within the site during the EcIA and HRA. If the *S. alveolata* colony fit the definition as reef, then include reef as a receptor during the EcIA (and HRA/WFD assessment as required).

If the relevant site conservation documentation does not define the qualifying criteria for *S. alveolata* reef for the site, then you need to determine site specific definition of reef in discussion with NRW (and NE/EA for cross boundary sites). Does *S. alveolata* colony fit the definition as reef? If No then you need to consider role of the colony in maintaining favourable conservation status of any designated *S. alveolata* reefs within the site during the EcIA and HRA. If yes, then include reef as a receptor during EcIA (and HRA/WFD assessment as required).

If *S. alveolata* reef **is not** a designated feature or sub feature of a protected site located within the project ZoI:

- Does the S. alveolata colony meet the qualifying criteria for definition as reef under Section 7 (to be determined in discussion with NRW and NE/EA for cross boundary sites? If yes, it will require a WFD assessment and the reef will need to be included as a receptor during the EcIA (and HRA/WFD assessment as required).

- If the colony does not meet the qualifying criteria for definition as reef under Section 7, could the colony have a role in maintaining favourable conservation status of designated S. alveolata reefs located within the zone of influence? If no, no further action is required. If yes, then the reef will need to be included as a receptor during EcIA (and HRA/WFD assessment as required).

S. spinulosa

Is *S. spinulosa* reef a designated feature or sub feature of a protected site located within the project ZoI?

If yes:

Does the relevant site conservation documentation define the qualifying criteria for *S. spinulosa* reef for the site? If yes Does the *S. spinulosa* colony fit the definition as reef? If it does, then the reef needs to be included as a receptor during the EcIA (and HRA/WFD assessment as required). If it doesn't, then you need to consider the role of the colony in maintaining favourable conservation status of any designated *S. spinulosa* reefs within the site during the EcIA and HRA.

If *S. spinulosa* **is not** a designated feature or sub feature of a protected site located within the project ZoI, then you need to determine the site specific definition of reefs in discussion with NRW (and NE/EA for cross boundary sites). Does *S. spinulosa* colony fit the definition of reef? If yes, the reef needs to be included as a receptor during the EcIA (and HRA/WFD assessment as required). If it doesn't, then you need to consider the role of the colony in maintaining favourable conservation status of any designated *S. spinulosa* reefs within the site during the EcIA and HRA.

If *S. spinulosa* reef **is not** a designated feature or sub feature of a protected site located within the project ZoI then:

Would the *S. spinulosa* colony be considered 'reef' according to Gubbay 2007/Jenkins et al. 2015 and/or the OSPAR description? If yes, then a WFD assessment is required and the reef needs to be included as a receptor during the EcIA (and HRA/WFD assessment as required).

If *S. spinulosa* colony cannot be considered 'reef' according to Gubbay 2007/Jenkins et al., 2015 and/or the OSPAR description, then could the colony have a role in maintaining favourable conservation status of designated *S. spinulosa* reefs located within the project ZoI? If it doesn't, no further action is required. If it does have a role, the reef needs to be included as a receptor during the EcIA (and HRA/WFD assessment as required).