

S4. Classification S4.

B-425 NATURE OF THE SEABED: GENERAL

The nature (quality) of the seabed (bottom) must be shown in sufficient detail, where known and on the appropriate scale charts, for such purposes as:

- To give some guidance on holding characteristics when anchoring;
- To help in assessing the stability of shoals and to distinguish rocks from unconsolidated material, when navigating in shoal areas;
- To show where vessels may safely take the ground at low water in tidal areas;
- To give an indication of the nature of the seabed in deeper waters for fishermen and submariners.

B-425.1 Colours of seabed materials should be omitted as they are no longer of interest to the navigator.

B-425.2 Deep water. The nature of the seabed should be shown in a depth of 2000m and less. The nature of the seabed may be shown in greater depths if thought to be useful.

B-425.3 Symbols and abbreviations should be used in preference to legends written in full. For rock symbols, see B-421.

Abbreviations for seabed materials must have a capital as the initial letter; abbreviations for qualifying terms must be composed of lower case letters only.

B-425.4 Style of abbreviations should be fine sloping sans serif text. See also B-425.9 for punctuation.

B-425.5 Standard abbreviations. English language abbreviations should be used, as in the following list.

J1	<i>S</i>	-Sand	
J2	<i>M</i>	-Mud	
J3	<i>Cy</i>	-Clay	
J4	<i>Si</i>	-Silt	
J5	<i>St</i>	-Stones	
J6	<i>G</i>	-Gravel	
J7	<i>P</i>	-Pebbles	
J8	<i>Cb</i>	-Cobbles	
J9.1	<i>R</i>	-Rock, Rocky	
J9.2	<i>Bo</i>	-Boulders	(usually used in intertidal areas)
J10	<i>Co</i>	-Coral and Coralline Algae	
J11	<i>Sh</i>	-Shells (skeletal remains)	
J13.1	<i>Wd</i>	-Weed (including extensive areas of Kelp, see B428.2, etc) Weed (including kelp)	
J13.2	<i>Sg</i>	Seagrass (<i>phanerogam</i>).	
J30	<i>f</i>	-fine	(only used in relation to Sand)
J31	<i>m</i>	-medium	(only used in relation to Sand)
J32	<i>c</i>	-coarse	(only used in relation to Sand)
J33	<i>bk</i>	-broken	
J34	<i>sy</i>	-sticky	
J35	<i>so</i>	-soft	
J36	<i>sf</i>	-stiff	
J37	<i>v</i>	-volcanic	
J38	<i>ca</i>	-calcareous	
J39	<i>h</i>	-hard	

B-425.6 Currently unused.

B-425.7 **Hard seabed.** Where not positively identified as Rock, the abbreviation for 'hard' must be used.

h **J39**

B-425.8 **Underlying material.** Where the underlying material is known to differ from the surface layer, the abbreviation for the quality of the surface layer and that for the quality of the underlayer must be written in that order, one after the other, separated by a forward slash.

SM **J12.1**

B-425.9 **Mixed qualities.** If known, the abbreviation for the dominant quality must be shown first with a full stop or slight space between the qualities. Full stops must not be used after qualifying terms or at the end of whole abbreviations.

IS.M.Sh **J12.2**

B-427 **NATURE OF THE SEABED: OUTSIDE THE LOW WATER LINE**

In waters outside the low water (drying) line, abbreviations must be used to show the nature of the seabed (bottom). These abbreviations are in addition to the symbol for submerged rocks; see B-421.4. Where possible, the seabed must be shown on all shoals and in known and likely anchorages. Elsewhere, the nature of the seabed should be charted sufficiently to show variations in its composition. As an approximate guide, the maximum spacing between abbreviations should be about 50mm on charts, provided the information is available. The nature of the seabed found on old surveys may be used, at discretion, in areas of little change, where the latest surveys give inadequate data. Abbreviations need not necessarily be associated with a sounding.

~~B-428.2 **Kelp** (large species of seaweed) is an indication of the presence of submerged rocks. It must normally be charted by the following symbol: J13.2 A legend may be used in place of the symbol, but only for extensive areas. Wd J13.1~~

B-428.2 Seaweed, Weed (including Kelo or large species of seaweed) It must normally be charted by the following symbol: J13.2.



J 13.2

A legend may be used in place of the symbol, but only for extensive areas. Wd J13.1

Wd J13.1

B-428.2 Sea-grass (Plant, phanerogam (Posidoniaceae, Zosteraceae, Hydrocharitaceae, or Cymodoceaceae)). It must normally be charted by the following symbol: J13.4.



J 13.4

A legend may be used in place of the symbol, but only for extensive areas. Sg J13.3

Sg J13.3