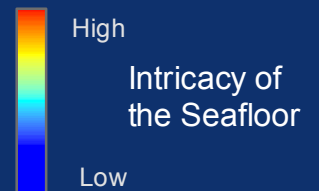


Benthic topographical complexity describes how often the slope of the sea bottom changes in a given area. Note that this is not the same as relief, which looks at the maximum change in depth. Benthic complexity considers how convoluted the bottom is, not how steep or how rough, though these both play a role. Areas of varying habitat are associated with areas of high species richness. More niches available for organisms to occupy will usually lead to a wider variety of organisms, and higher biodiversity.



Note: Complexity not shown beyond the continental slope.

