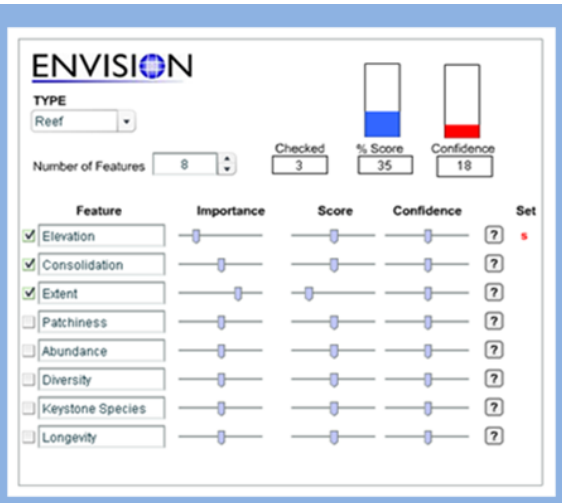
ENVISION MAPPING

DECISION SUPPORT TOOLS

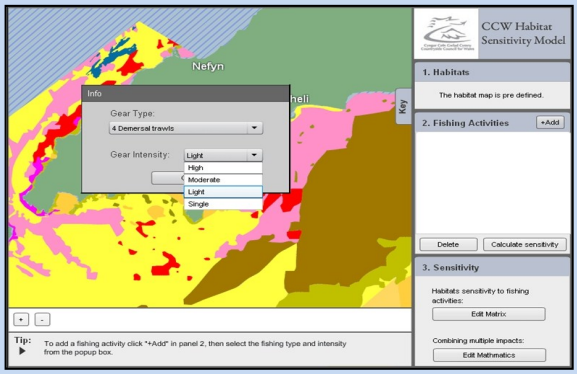
Decisions about the environment affect a large number of people and species, and it is important that they are made using a clear and transparent system and are based on the best possible evidence. **Envision** devises interactive spatial models to assist decision making, and develops GIS tools for calculating the effects of activities on the marine and coastal environments, as well as models and frameworks for socio-economic impacts of coastal management.

Feature scoring system: Decisions on the conservation importance of habitats, such as a Ross worm reef, are of crucial importance to the outcome of a planning application and the need for mitigation, and should be made in a systematic and consistent way.

Envision has pioneered ways to assess and compare habitats by their features (height of reef, extent, biodiversity etc.) so the need to safeguard the habitat can be judged or, if there is a lack of suitable evidence, recommends what is required to fill the information gap.



"How does your reef score?" An interactive decision support tool.



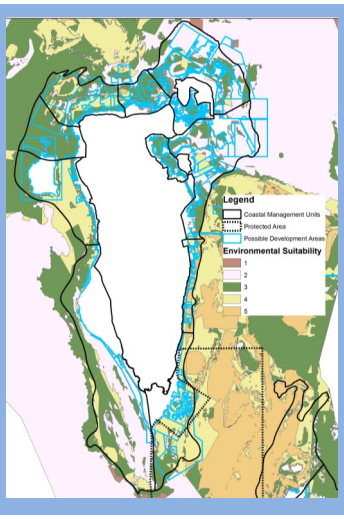
Interactive tool to examine habitat sensitivity to fishing activity.

Habitat sensitivity to fishing activities: Mapping the possible effect of multiple fishing activities on seafloor habitats is necessary for marine spatial planning.

Envision has been working with the Countryside Council for Wales exploring ways to show these effects in inshore waters by developing a system (flash tool) of assessing vulnerability of habitats to fishing techniques and combinations of gears, and predicting the potential impact.

Coastal Development Suitability System (CDSS). **Envision** has developed GIS decision tools which use existing spatial data to assess the coastal zone using an objective and transparent system to determine how suitable and sustainable development in the coastal region is with relation to local needs and planning objectives.

By giving value to (and potentially weighting) and combining all the socio-economic and environmental criteria and their cumulative effects, suitability for national town planning and development in the coastal zone can be assessed.



"Where are the sustainable development opportunities?" An objective assessment approach with spatial data

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