

## **MONITORING THE LUNDY NO-TAKE ZONE - THE FIRST THREE YEARS**

by

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The Lundy No-Take Zone (NTZ) is a 3.3 km<sup>2</sup> area off the east coast of the island, bounded to the east by the 4° 39'E line of latitude, but excluding the area of the Landing Bay. It is the U.K.'s first statutory NTZ for nature conservation.

Three aspects of Lundy's marine biodiversity have been selected for monitoring potential effects of the Lundy NTZ:

1. lobsters and crabs;
2. scallops, and
3. long-lived epifauna on subtidal rocks.

Lobsters and crabs are assessed for abundance and the sizes of individuals by experimental potting at locations within the NTZ, at nearby control sites outside the NTZ and at more-distant reference sites in North Devon and South-West Wales. Scallop density and size are assessed by diver measurement at sample locations within and outside of the NTZ on the east coast of Lundy. Epifauna on subtidal rocks are monitored by quadrat sampling (counts by divers) at two locations within the NTZ and two outside. Twenty-one species are included in the monitoring.

Monitoring has been undertaken in 2004, 2005 and 2006. Some of the results already show significant differences within and outside of the NTZ. The abundance and size of lobsters has been much greater within the NTZ than outside and the size of scallops larger inside than outside. Epifauna communities, because of their slow growth and often great longevity, will be much longer to show any effect. The present programme of monitoring will finish in 2007, but it is expected to be repeated again in the future to assess longer-term changes.