

## ENGLISH NATURE'S MARINE MONITORING AROUND LUNDY

By

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### INTRODUCTION

Marine biological monitoring on Lundy was initiated in 1983 by the Nature Conservancy Council and continued as part of a formal programme until 1990. This monitoring was established to assess, in particular, changes in certain rocky habitat species in terms of growth (erect sponges and seafans) or recruitment of species such as the cup coral *Leptopsammia pruvoti*. The monitoring was reviewed by Fowler & Pilley (1992) who demonstrated the general long term stability in circalittoral communities, but pointed to very infrequent recruitment and a decline in numbers of *L. pruvoti*.

The monitoring and survey requirements of Lundy were recently reviewed (Gilliand & Downie, 1996). In part, this followed an assessment of some of the sublittoral monitoring sites by Munro (1995) which recommended further effort being put into monitoring at the community rather than the species level. This review also took account of the new status of Lundy as a candidate SAC for its reefs and the need to be able to monitor and report on the condition of this feature. As a result of this, monitoring of an existing site at the Knoll Pins was carried out in May 1998, and an additional belt transect (2m wide by 5m high) was established nearby to monitor changes at the larger scale community level (Munro, 1998).

Results from the monitoring of the existing site at the Knoll Pins suggest a continued stability of marine communities, although there has been an apparent decline in the number of the cup coral *Leptopsammia pruvoti* (estimated to be around 0% to 1.5% loss per year). There has also been a slight downward trend in the numbers of the cup corals *Caryophyllia* spp., although this may be due to difficulties of observing smaller individuals through the overgrowth of hydroid and bryozoan turf

### CONCLUSION

Further monitoring work is planned by English Nature in 1999, with a view to repeating the existing small transect at the Knoll Pins, carrying out the first repeat survey of the belt transect established in 1998, and identifying a suitable location to monitor wider community changes in the circalittoral.

### REFERENCES

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