

Torbay MCZ Seasearch Surveys 2014

Report by Chris Webb

Surveys were carried out by Devon Seasearch on June 14-15th (targeting the NE corner of the MCZ), July 19-20th (targeting the area around Berry Head to the Cod Rock- Mewstone reef system) and September 27th (seagrass beds within the bay). The sites were chosen to fill in gaps in previous Seasearch surveys conducted from 2005 to 2013 and are shown in the table below. Here closely-located sites are clumped into site groups as highlighted by different shadings – these equate to the site groupings in the second table at the end of the report. Independent Seasearchers also provided records for Babbacombe and Anstey's Cove.

Torbay MCZ Survey Positions and Records						
Site Name/Location	Date	Latitude (degrees, decimal minutes)	Longitude (degrees, decimal minutes)	Observation Forms	Survey Forms	Photographs Submitted
Babbacombe	25.05.14	50 28.770	03 30.580W		1	
Anstey's Cove	27.07.14		SX938646	1		
Long Quarry Point North	14.06.14	50 28.647	03 30.005W		1	
Long Quarry Point South	14.06.14	50 28.515	03 29.926W		1	1
Hope's Nose East	14.06.14	50 27.775	03 28.794W		1	
Between Hope's Nose and Lead Stone	14.06.14	50 27.770	03 28.752W		1	
Lead Stone	14.06.14	50 27.772	03 28.688W		2	
Bream Rock	15.06.14	50 27.269	03 27.775W		2	1
Thatcher Rock South Tip	15.06.14	50 27.279	03 29.388W		2	1
Beacon Cove	27.09.14	50 27.340	03 31.303W		1	
Fishcombe Cove	27.09.14	50 24.158	03 31.350W		1	
Berry Head Wall	19.07.14	50 23.940	03 28.857W	1	1	
Berry Head SE	19.07.14	50 23.957	03 28.904W		1	
Cod Rock SW	19.07.14	50 23.616	03 29.099W		1	
Cod Rock N	19.07.14	50 23.623	03 29.060W	1	1	
Cod Rock W	19.07.14	50 23.629	03 29.059W	1		
Cod Rock E	20.07.14	50 23.643	03 29.028W		1	1
Cod Rock Ledge 1	20.07.14	50 23.626	03 29.018W	1		
Cod Rock Ledge 2	20.07.14	50 23.616	03 28.998W	1		
Cod Rock Ledge 3	20.07.14	50 23.640	03 28.950W	1		
Mewstone S	20.07.14	50 23.608	03 29.155W	2		
Mewstone SE	20.07.14	50 23.596	03 29.135W	1		
Mewstone E	20.07.14	50 23.617	03 29.186W		1	

Habitats Recorded:

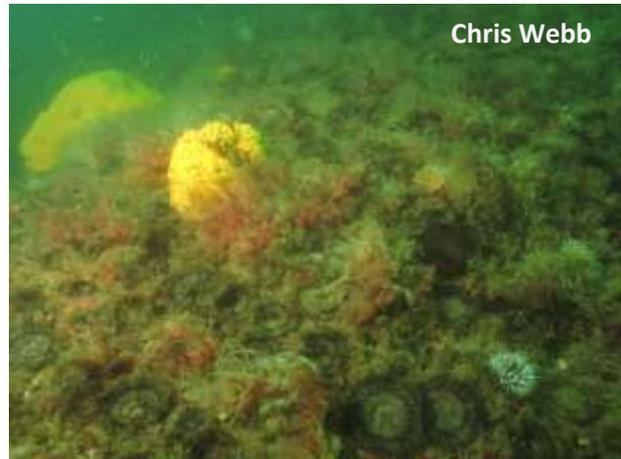
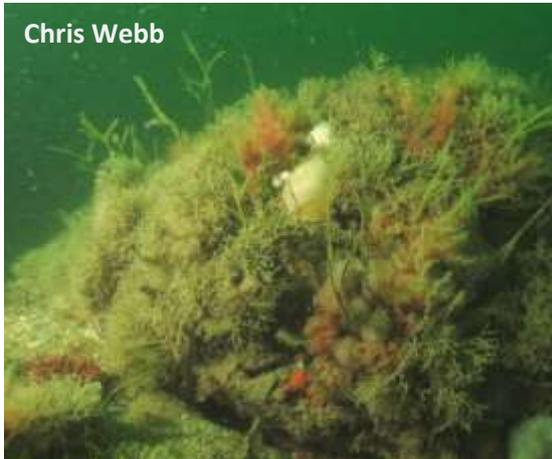
1. Designated Habitat FOCI

Seagrass Beds were surveyed at 2 sites (Beacon Cove and Fishcombe Cove).

2. Additional Broad-scale Habitats

Infralittoral rock was surveyed at 4 sites/site groups (Long Quarry Point sites, Hope's Nose sites, Thatcher Rock South Tip and Cod Rock sites) **with high or moderate energy biotopes** recorded.

Cirralittoral rock was surveyed at 7 sites/site groups (Long Quarry Point sites, Hope's Nose sites, Bream Rock, Thatcher Rock South Tip, Berry Head sites, Cod Rock sites and Mewstone sites) with **high energy biotope complexes** (CR.HCR.XFa) recorded at all site groups often reflecting the moderately strong tidal streams. The photographs below show Bream Rock (left) and Thatcher Rock South Tip (right) supporting diverse fauna in high abundance. **Moderate energy biotopes** were also recorded at 2 sites.



Subtidal coarse sediment was surveyed at 6 sites and **Subtidal sand** was present at 2 sites.

Species Recorded:

1. Designated Species FOCI

The native oyster *Ostrea edulis* was found at 3 sites including Long Quarry Point S where the photograph below left was taken.



2. Additional BAP and Scarce Species

The pink sea fan *Eunicella verrucosa* (BAP) was found at Cod Rock E and one specimen is shown above right, very entangled with monofilament angling line. At Beacon Cove and Cod Rock Ledge plaice *Pleuronectes platessa* (BAP) were recorded. The scarce (as listed in the JNCC Rare/Scarce Species List) scarlet-and-gold cup-coral *Balanophyllia regis* was found at Cod Rock Ledge.

Survey Data

The following table gives details about the records produced.

Summary of Priority Habitats and Species Recorded			Number of Survey Form records from these site groupings											Photographs Submitted
Designated Habitat FOCI	Biotope Complex/ Biotope		Babbacombe	Long Quarry Point N/S (2 sites)	Hope's Nose Sites (3 sites)	Bream Rock	Thatcher Rock South Tip	Beacon Cove	Fishcombe Cove	Berry Head (2 sites)	Cod Rock (4 sites)	COD ROCK Ledge (3 sites) OBSERVER FORM S.O.N.I.Y.	Mewstone (3 sites)	
HOCI	Seagrass Beds	SS.SMp.SSgr.Zmar						1	1					
Additional Broad-scale Habitat and Habitat FOCI														
BSH	Subtidal coarse sediment	SS.SCS.ICS	1	1	1									
		SS.SCS.CCS				1	1			1				
BSH	Subtidal sand	SS.SSa.IFiSa	1											
		SS.SSa.IMuSa		1										
BSH	Moderate energy infralittoral rock	IR.MIR.KR.XFoR		2	3		1				1			
BSH	Moderate energy circalittoral rock	CR.MCR.EcCr			1		1							
BSH	High energy infralittoral rock	IR.HIR.KFaR			1						1			
		IR.HIR.Ksed									1			
BSH	High energy circalittoral rock	CR.HCR.XFa		1	5	4	2			3	5		2	2
Designated Species FOCI			Number of Survey/Observation Form records from these site groupings											
SOCI	Native oyster <i>Ostrea edulis</i>			1	1		1							1
Additional Species FOCI														
BAP	Pink sea fan <i>Eunicella verrucosa</i>										1			1
BAP	Plaice <i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>							1				1		

Data validated by Chris Webb and Chris Wood.

Data entered into Marine Recorder by Sally Sharrock: Survey Reference MRMCS01500000068.

Data verified by Chris Wood.

Survey forms from Andrew Grant, James Padfield, Mary Restell, Roy Restell, Lynda Rose, Jean-Luc Solandt and Chris Webb. Observation forms from Sarah Chaddock, David Dooley, Mark Harrison and Roy Restell.

Boat skippering by Rick Parker.