

The table to the right shows the number of species recorded on each taxonomic group and some of the most commonly recorded species.

Phylum	Common Name	No. of Species	Common Species
Porifera	Sponges	2	Burrowing Anemone <i>Cerianthus lloydii</i>
Cnidaria	Anemones, Hydroids	7	Lion's Mane Jellyfish <i>Cyanea capillata</i>
	Corals, Jellyfish		Parchment Worm <i>Chaetopterus variopedatus</i>
Nemertea	Ribbon Worms	1	Velvet Swimming Crab <i>Liocarcinus puber</i>
Annelida	Segmented Worms	3	Swimming Crab <i>Liocarcinus depurator</i>
Crustacea	Lobsters, Crabs, Barnacles	9	Hermit Crab <i>Pagurus sp</i>
			King Scallop <i>Pecten maximus</i>
Mollusca	Shells, Sea Slugs, Octopus	6	Red Cushion Star <i>Porania pulvillus</i>
			Common Sunstar <i>Crossaster papposus</i>
Bryozoa	Sea Mats	2	Lightbulb Tunicate <i>Clavelina lepadiformis</i>
Echinodermata	Starfish, Urchins	7	Goldsinny Wrasse <i>Ctenolabrus rupestris</i>
Tunicata	Sea Squirts	4	Two Spot Goby <i>Gobiusculus flavescens</i>
Pisces	Fishes	9	Shoaling Fish indet
Algae	Seaweed	14	Sugar Kelp <i>Laminaria saccharina</i>
			Brown Algae <i>Dictyota dichotoma</i>
Birds and Marine Mammals		5	Red Algae indet
Total Species		69	

Cnidarians

Lion's Mane Jellyfish were abundant and the surveyors were grateful for the clear water with only one mild sting recorded over the weekend! The Burrowing Anemone *Cerianthus lloydii* was common in all the sand/gravel areas surveyed but other anemones were scarce. Hydroids were common in the boulder areas.

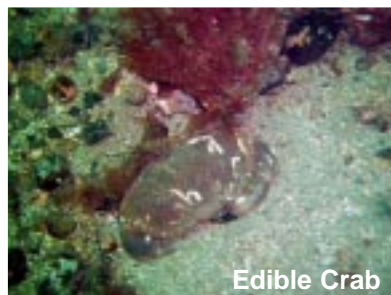
Molluscs

Scallops were reasonably common close to the rocky areas but scarce in the more open areas. Burrowing bivalves seemed to be common with numerous siphons and burrows seen at the surface of the sediment.

Echinodermata

Six species of starfish were recorded with the colourful Red Cushion Star (*Porania pulvillus*) being especially notable. The Common Sea Urchin was also recorded on the fringe of the rocky areas.

Goldsinny Wrasse and Two Spot Gobies were common with occasional Dogfish, Dragonet and Butterfish also recorded.



Edible Crab



Bloody Henry Starfish



Goldsinny Wrasse

Crabs and Lobsters

Swimming Crabs and Hermit Crabs were common with Edible Crabs and Squat Lobsters frequent.

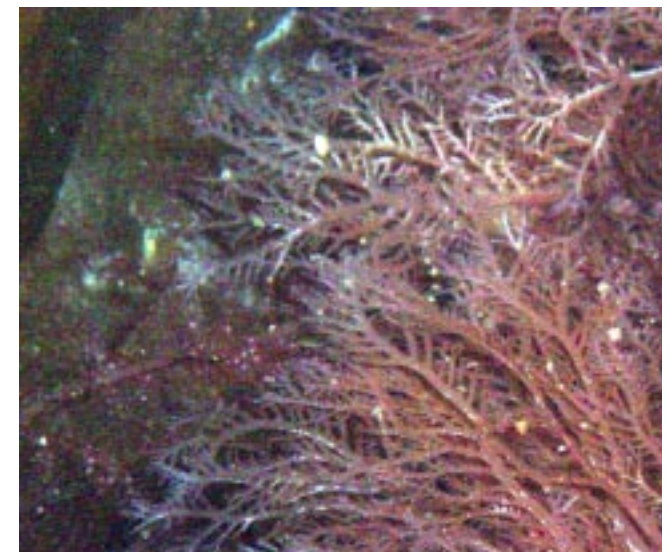
Fishes

Several large shoals of young fish swam through the survey area but usually to quickly for the surveyors to identify the species. However

Algae

Red algae in particular were very abundant at Sites 5 and 6 with many more species present than recorded.

Kilbrannan Sound Survey July 2005 Summary Report



The survey would have been impossible without the generous provision of RHIBs by Eric Marshall & Joyce Wilson on Saturday and by Peter Howland on Sunday. Thanks also to Sylvie Howland and Wendy for the welcome supply of cakes and coffee.

This seasearch survey was organised by Owen Paisley, Seasearch coordinator for West Scotland with assistance from the NE Kintyre Consortium.

Seasearch is a volunteer underwater survey project for recreational divers to contribute towards the conservation of the marine environment. Financial support for the project during 2005 has been given by:

Seasearch Surveyors were: Eric Marshall, Jane McGuire, Tom McGuire, John Rees and Joyce Wilson.

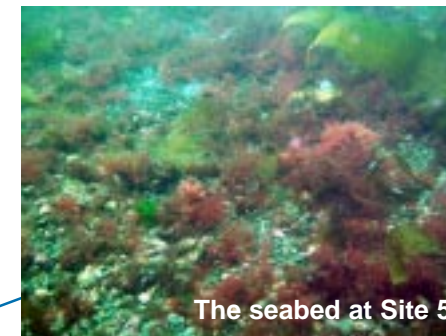


All photographs and text by Owen Paisley.

Kilbrannan Sound, Kintyre - Survey Area



Following a one day Observer Training Course in Oban, five of the participants and one of the tutors mounted a mini-expedition to a previously unsurveyed area of the Kilbrannan sound. Over the weekend of the 16th and 17th July 2005, a total of six dives at two sites in the NW part of Kilbrannan Sound were surveyed. In general, the sites appeared to be remarkably rich in life with red and brown algae being particularly abundant. This may be in part be due to the opportunistic and seasonal nature of many red algae and the severity of winter storms.



The seabed at Site 5



Hedgehog Stones at Site 6

Sites 5 & 6

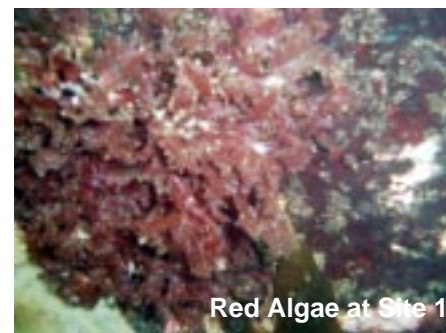
At both sites the seabed was an almost level gravel/sand plan covered in abundant red algae with occasional clearings and widely separated individual Sugar Kelp plants. The area gave the appearance of an underwater meadow with the sunlight streaming through the clear water and the colourful algae making for very pleasant diving. Encrusting red algae was also common with numerous examples of "Hedgehog Stones" scattered about.

Site 1

At Site 1, the divers crossed bedrock down to 15 metres when the seabed changed to boulders which as depth increased became smaller until the seabed at 22m metres was predominantly gravel. The bedrock was covered in Sugar Kelp park with a rich under storey of red algae. The rich cover of red algae continued down to around 20 metres, attached to the numerous boulders and cobbles. Young fish were plentiful both in the water column and amongst the kelp. Five species of starfish were recorded as well as Spider Srabs, Edible Crabs and Velvet Swimming Crabs. Lightbulb Tunicates were common on the boulders and *Cerianthus* Anemones were found in the deeper areas.



Sunstar



Red Algae at Site 1



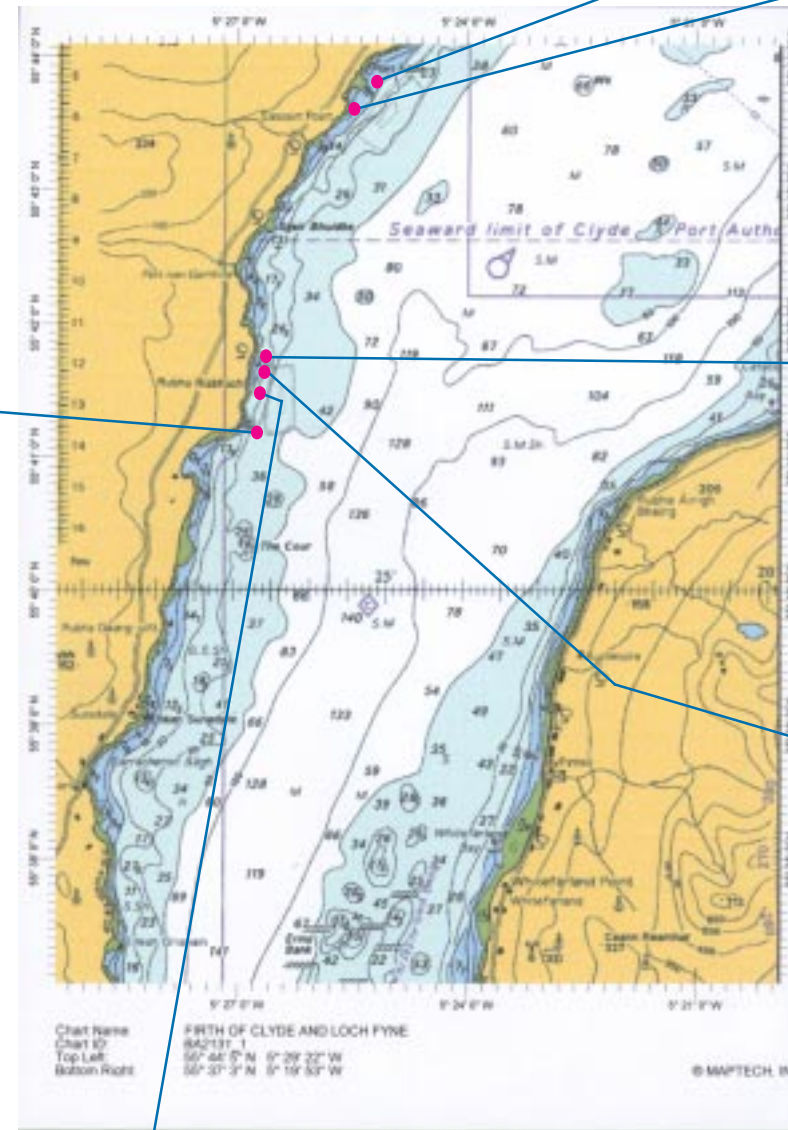
Red Cushion Star



Lightbulb Tunicates

Site 2

As at Site 1, the divers found a rocky reef dropping steeply to around 11 metres which was replaced by boulders grading into cobbles and sand which continued sloping downwards. Sugar Kelp park dominated the shallower water giving way to mixed red algae on boulders and short animal turf of Lightbulb Tunicates and hydroids on the cobbles. Burrowing *Cerianthus* Anemones were common in the sand.



Seven-armed Starfish

Site 4

Site 4 continued the familiar pattern around Rubha Riabhach of rocky reef down to 10 metres then boulders and sand/gravel continuing down to 18metres. *L. hyperborea* kelp forest extended down to 8 metres and was then replaced with dense Sugar Kelp with a dense understorey of red algae which continued down to 18 metres on boulders and stones. As at the other sites the Burrowing Anemone *Cerianthus* was abundant.



Kelp Forest

Site 3

Once again rocky reef with kelp forest/park dropped quite steeply to around 10 metres then gave way to boulders for several metres before grading into mixed gravel and sand. Below 10 metres the surveyors noted numerous broken shells. Red algae continued down to 15 metres and once again *Cerianthus* Anemones were abundant. *Echinus* Sea Urchins were also found to be common on boulders and reef at this site.



Urchins on boulders



Burrowing Anemone