

Species Records

The table to the right shows how many species were recorded in each group and some of the most widely distributed species.



Sponges

Few sponges were recorded and only one species was common at one site, *Myxilla incrustans* (above) at Jellyfish Bank.

Anemones, Corals, Hydroids & Jellyfish

More species were recorded in this group than any other, which is partly a reflection of their size and relative ease of identification.

Seven species of hydroids were recorded of which the two sea beards *Nemertesia antennina* and *N. ramosa* (see front cover) were the most common. These are both widespread and common species.

Thirteen species of anemones and soft corals were recorded with common species being dahlia, elegant and jewel anemones.

Although only one hard coral was found, the Devonshire cup-coral *Caryophyllia smithii*, this was widespread and abundant on rocky surfaces at all depths.

Jellyfish and Ctenophores were a feature at most of the sites, with the moon jellyfish, *Aurelia aurita* and the two lion's mane jellyfishes *Cyanea capillata* and *C. lamarckii* the most commonly observed (see front cover).

Annelida (segmented worms)

Worms were not a major part of the marine fauna. On the flat sandy areas both lugworm, *Arenicola marina* and sand mason worms *Lanice conchilega*, were common and there were small numbers of tube dwelling worms recorded. Peacock worms, *Sabella pavonina* occurred on the offshore banks.

Phylum	Common Name	Number of species	Common Species
Porifera	Sponges	8	Boring sponge <i>Cliona celata</i>
Cnidaria	Anemones, corals, hydroids, jellyfish	23	Lion's mane jellyfish <i>Cyanea capillata/lamarckii</i> Moon jellyfish <i>Aurelia aurita</i> Sea beard <i>Nemertesia ramosa</i> Dead men's fingers <i>Alcyonium digitatum</i> Devonshire cup coral <i>Caryophyllia smithii</i>
Ctenophora	Ctenophores	2	
Annelida	Segmented worms	8	
Pycnogonida	Sea spiders	2	
Crustacea	Crabs, lobsters, barnacles	18	Long clawed squat lobster <i>Munida rugosa</i> Velvet swimming crab <i>Necora puber</i>
Mollusca	Shells, sea slugs, cuttlefish	14	Great scallop <i>Pecten maximus</i>
Bryozoa	Sea mats	7	<i>Securiflustra securifrons</i>
Echinodermata	Starfish, sea urchins, sea cucumbers	21	Featherstar <i>Antedon bifida</i> Seven armed starfish <i>Luidia ciliaris</i> Common starfish <i>Asterias rubens</i> Common urchin <i>Echinus esculentus</i>
Tunicata	Sea squirts	5	
Pisces	Fishes	18	
Algae	Seaweeds	11	
Total Species		140	

Molluscs

The 14 species recorded included 10 nudibranchs (sea slugs). The most commonly recorded mollusc, despite the depredations of trawlers, was the great scallop, *Pecten maximus*.

Crabs and lobsters

Crabs were widely distributed and regularly seen at many of the sites. The edible crab, *Cancer pagurus* (below) and velvet swimming crab, *Necora puber* were the most often seen. Squat lobsters included both the long clawed squat lobster, *Munida rugosa* and the more cryptic and colourful *Galathea squamifera*. Hermit crabs were also common.



Fishes

Surprisingly few fishes were recorded. These included all five of the commonly occurring British wrasses, but in small numbers. The only fish recorded as common was the dragonet on the sandy seabed at Rubha na Mhoine.

Bryozoans

Erect bryozoans, notably *Securiflustra securifrons*, were prominent features of the sessile fauna at the two offshore banks and on Sanday (see photo on inside page). Both banks also had small numbers of the northerly erect bryozoan, *Porella compressa* (below).



Starfish, Sea urchins and Sea cucumbers

There was a high diversity of echinoderms which included 2 featherstars, 6 starfish, 2 sunstars, 1 cushion star, 2 brittlestars, 1 sea urchin and 5 sea cucumbers.

The offshore banks were notable for large numbers of common featherstars, *Antedon bifida* and celtic featherstars, *Leptometra celtica* while the edible sea urchin, *Echinus esculentus* was common at most sites, and leads to heavily grazed rock surfaces.

Sea Squirts

Large individual sea squirts, such as *Ascidia mentula* and *Ascidia aspersa*, were found on the offshore sites, whilst groups of light bulb sea squirts, *Clavelina lepadiformis* were found at most sites.

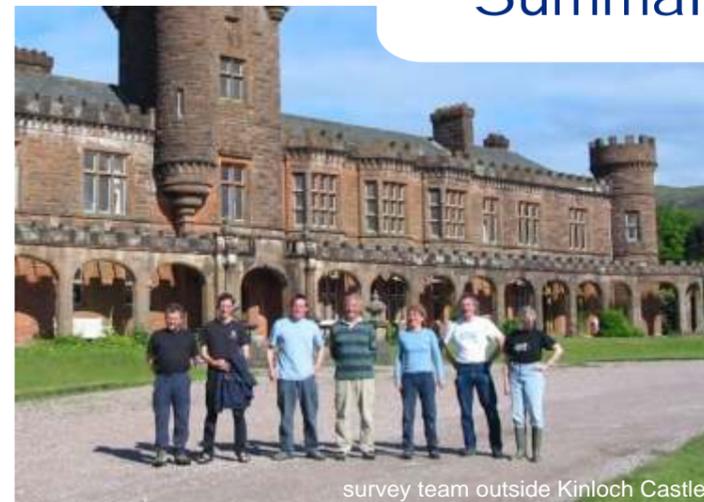


hydroid *Nemertesia ramosa* CW

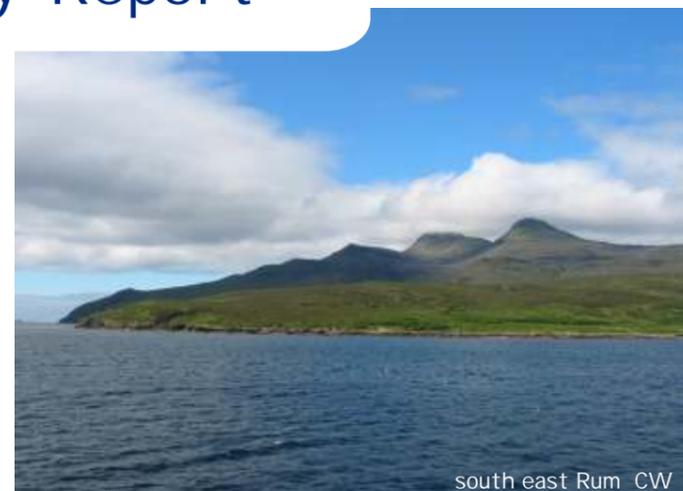


kelp *Laminaria hyperborea* CD

Rum Survey June 2004 Summary Report



survey team outside Kinloch Castle



south east Rum CW



cottonspinner *Holothuria forskali* CD



Jellyfish *Cyanea lamarckii* CD

This Seasearch survey was organised as a part of the Marine Conservation Society's Member's Dives Programme.

Surveyors taking part were: Paul Biggin, Calum Duncan, Blair Lindsay, Rachel Locklin, Fiona Ravenscroft, Nick Smart and Chris Wood. We would like to thank Mark Woombs for taking us to the sites and Andy MacLeod for organising transport, accommodation and much more.

This report has been prepared by Chris Wood. Photographs are by Calum Duncan & Chris Wood.



Seasearch is a volunteer underwater survey project for recreational divers to contribute to the conservation of the marine environment. Financial support for the project during 2004/5 and for the production of this summary report has been given by:



Site 5: The Lighthouse, Sanday

This site was dived to compare with those around Rum. Here there was a rock slope leading to a vertical wall from 31m to 90m (recorded by echo sounder). This is much steeper than any of the sites around Rum. Kelps dominated the shallow rocks down to about 19m and were replaced by boulders and reef with mixed seaweeds, hydroids, bryozoans and featherstars to the top of the wall at 30m. The face of the wall itself was dominated by anemones, hydroids and bryozoans.



Plumose anemone CD

A number of species were seen on this site that did not occur on the sites around Rum. These included the northern sea fan *Swiftia pallida*, the white cluster anemone, *Parazoanthus anguicomus* and a number of sponges including the boring sponge, *Cliona celata* and branching sponges.

About the survey

The aim of the survey was to visit sites which had not been surveyed during the last MCS survey of Rum in 1980. Particular targets were the exposed south west facing coast of the island and two offshore banks to the east. Which we wished to compare with the Oberon Bank to the east of Eigg which was visited in

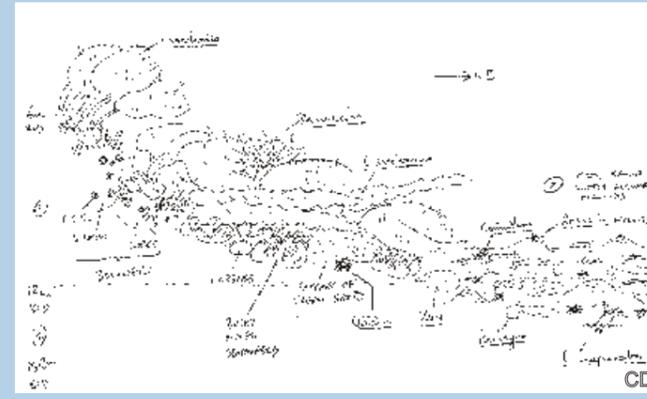


form filling CD

The survey team was accommodated, together with divers from Perth and Dalriada Sub Aqua Clubs, in Kinloch Castle, which provided excellent and comfortable surroundings for completing recording forms at the end of the day. We dived from the large RIB *Liparis* operated by Mark Woomb's from Inverie.

Site 1: Rubha na Mhoine

The site was off a low rocky point at the north east of the island and had a large boulders in the



shallows leading to a flat sandy seabed at a depth of 13metres. The boulders were covered in a dense turf of large kelps, the furbelows, *Saccorhiza polyschides* and sugar kelp, *Laminaria saccharina* with a variety of smaller brown and red seaweeds. There was a range of animal life on the rocks themselves, including jewel and elegant anemones and many cup corals. Mobile species included crabs, starfish & sea urchins. The flat seabed also had some seaweeds growing on cobbles and pebbles. The main animal life was burrowing in the sand and included the tube anemone *Cerianthus lloydii*, lugworms and razor shells.

Site 3: Jellyfish Bank

This is an exposed offshore rocky bank which is 19m deep at the shallowest point and shelves quite gently to below 50m. It is unnamed on the chart but was called Jellyfish Bank by us because of the large number of moon and lion's mane jellyfish in the water at the time of the survey. (see cover photo)



CW

Attached life on the rocks was dominated by hydroids and bryozoans, notably *Nemertesia antennina*, *N. ramosa* and *Securiflustra securifrons* the latter shown in the photo (left). There was sugar kelp and red seaweeds on the shallowest parts. Below, the deeper boulders and bedrock also had large numbers of cup corals, *Caryophyllia smithii* and featherstars, both *Antedon bifida* and *Leptometra celtica*, were also common. Mobile life included crabs, starfish and urchins.

Site 2: Seagull Bank

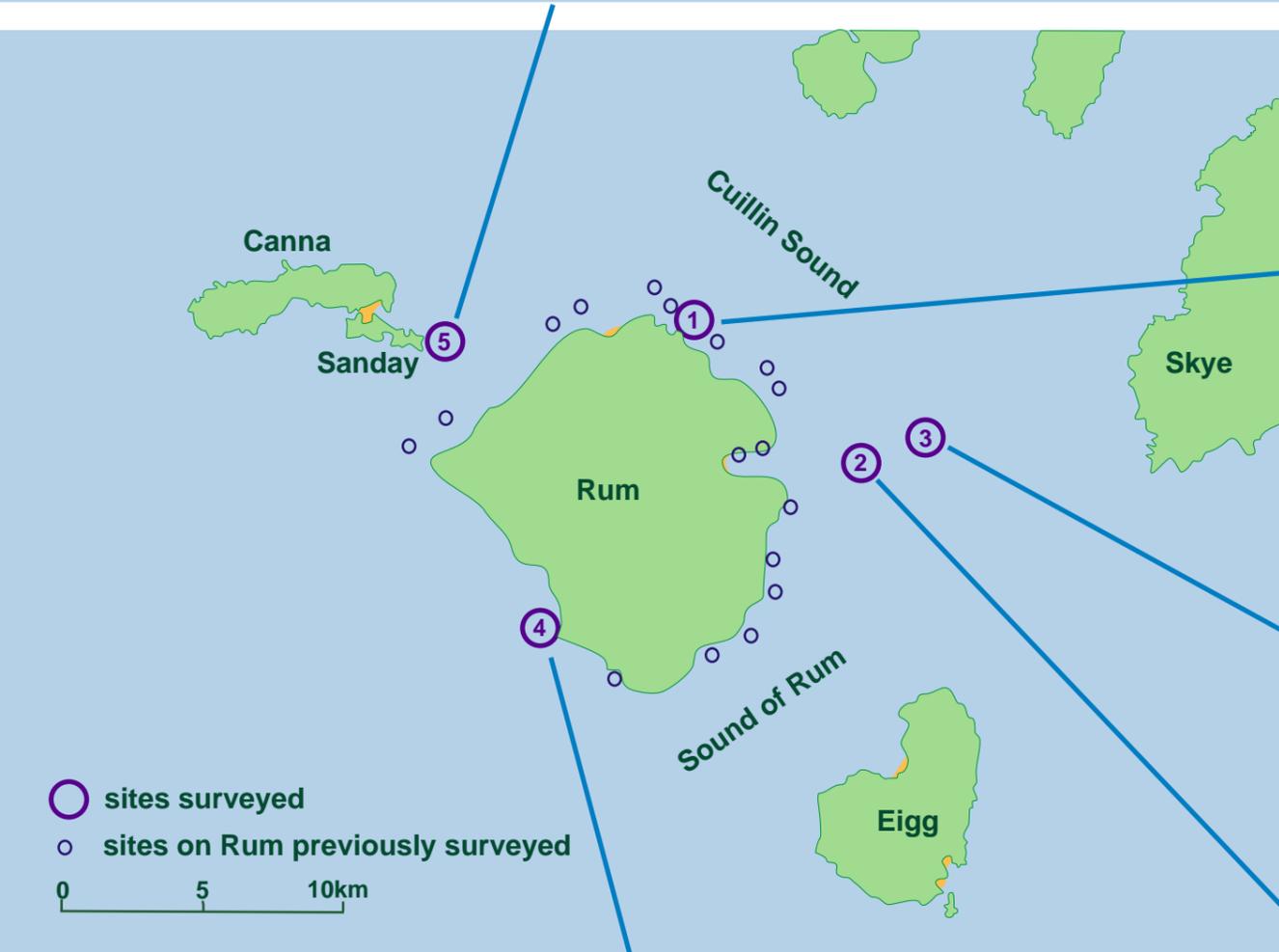
This site had a similar profile to Jellyfish Bank but as it is closer inshore and subjected to less strong tidal currents there was much more silt on the rock surfaces. The top of the bank had bushy red seaweeds and hydroids growing on the rocks. Prominent hydroid species were *Nemertesia ramosa* and *Tubularia indivisa*. Cup corals (right) were abundant.

The lower slopes graded from rock into boulders mixed with gravel and shell debris and flattened out at about 30m. The surfaces were very silty.



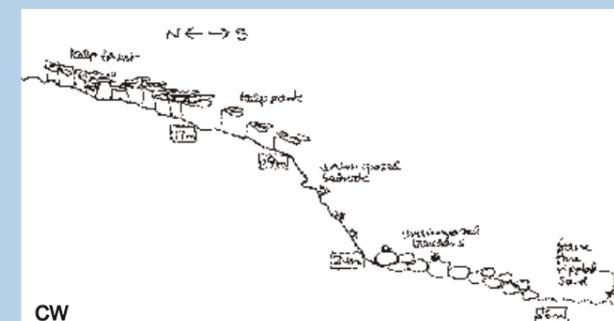
CD

The rocks and boulders were dominated by two species of featherstars mixed in with cup corals. Initially both *Antedon bifida* and the large northern featherstar *Leptometra celtica* were present but by 30m, *Leptometra* was dominant. The long clawed squat lobster was occasional here but there was relatively little other mobile life.



Site 4: Rubha Sgorr an t-Snidhe

This south west facing site was the most exposed of all those visited.



CW

The shallow bedrock was covered in kelp forest of *Laminaria hyperborea* gradually thinning to a kelp park with mixed red and brown seaweeds beneath. Below 19m were steep rock surfaces with boulders at the base. These were heavily grazed by sea urchins and cottonspinner sea cucumbers and consequently had little cover of sessile animals except for cup corals and light bulb sea squirts. At the base of the boulders there was a flat rippled sand sea bed at 26m. The habitat was typical of exposed open coastline in areas of heavy urchin grazing and can be expected to be found along most of the south westerly facing coast of Rum.