

Sample Research Questions

LiMPETS Rocky Intertidal Monitoring Program



TOPIC	QUESTION	DATA NEEDED
Climate Change	Are species shifting higher in intertidal as sea level rises? <i>Green pin-cushion algae, rockweeds, scouring pad algae, mussels, common acorn barnacles, leaf barnacles, purple sea urchins, honeycomb tube worms</i>	Vertical transect
	Are southern species becoming more abundant in the northern part of their range (presumably because of warming ocean temperatures)? <i>Sunburst anemones, pink acorn barnacles</i>	Total counts Random quadrat
Human Harvesting	Are species harvested by humans becoming less abundant over time? <i>Mussels, owl limpets</i>	Random quadrat Size frequency
	Are trends over time different in protected vs unprotected areas? <i>Mussels, owl limpets</i>	Random quadrat Size frequency
	Is the average size of owl limpets getting smaller? <i>At one site or many sites?</i>	Size frequency
	Is the average size of owl limpets larger in Marine Protected Areas than in unprotected areas?	Size frequency
Disease <i>sea star wasting syndrome</i>	What is the impact of sea star wasting disease on ochre sea star populations?	Total counts
	With the disappearance of sea stars, are mussels increasing in abundance?	Random quadrat
	With the disappearance of sea stars, are mussels increasing in the low tide zone?	Vertical transect
General trends to search out – that could lead you to your own questions.	At your monitoring site, how does the abundance of a common species change over time?	
	How does the abundance of some common algae found at your site change from season to season? From year to year? <i>Rockweeds, sea lettuce</i>	Random quadrat