LiMPETS

Long-term Monitoring Program and Experiential Training for Students

LiMPETS is a citizen science program that helps youth develop a scientific understanding of the ocean by monitoring rocky intertidal and sandy beach ecosystems throughout coastal California. These publicly accessible, scientifically sound, long-term data are used to inform marine resource management organizations, the scientific community, and future students.



"This was my most favorite field trip of the year! Because I want to study marine bio this was a great look into data collection methods!" -Abby

Student Testimonials

"It was an amazing opportunity to see how data can actually cause change and the beach was amazing!" -Anne "I had an amazing time with LiMPETS and enjoyed contributing to give back to our environment and get involved in citizen science!" -Kate

LiMPETS Science Highlights



Student-collected data from Ocean Beach, San Francisco, CA in **2018** supports previous pacific mole crab (Emerita analoga) research by scientists.



Since the sea star wasting disease (SSWD) outbreak and resulting collapse of the Ochre Sea Star populations in 2014, LiMPETS has observed an ongoing recovery of these sea stars at our sites.

Average number of Ochre Sea Stars found per survey area** at Davenport Landing, Santa Cruz Area



NATIONAL MARIN

Owl Limpet Sizes Inside vs. Outside California State Marine Protected Area (MPA) Sites

Why Monitor Owl Limpets?

People collect owl limpets to eat, taking mainly the largest. Because of their unique life cycle, the largest are usually female. People can easily collect all the large females, leaving only small males behind and destroying the population. Monitoring owl limpets inside and outside of CA MPA's helps evaluate how well our CA MPA's work to protect owl limpets and other harvested animals. LiMPETS wanted to know if we could detect a difference between owl limpet size for limpets measured inside vs. outside of CA MPA's at <u>some of our monitoring sites.</u>



HISTORY

Per 10m2 Sample Area *Two sample K-S test p<0.05