

Hartland Point to Tintagel rMCZ – Seasearch surveys 2014

Seasearch surveys were carried out on 20th September 2014 by members of Appledore Sub Aqua Club to add habitat and data to existing information for this rMCZ.

The area surveyed was on the west facing coast south of Hartland Point opposite Knap Head and about 1.5km offshore. One site was called Knap head and the other Welcombe Reef after the nearest village. Three sites were dived of which Seasearch records were obtained from the two rock sites, which were similar.

Habitats Recorded:

Circalittoral Bedrock – gently sloping rock 12-14m BCD with gullies up to 4m deep. Extensive fissures in the rock. Upper surfaces with short red algal turf, vertical surfaces dominated by encrusting sponges with jewel anemones and a silty short hydroid turf. (Photos below)



Species recorded: A full list of species recorded is in the Marine Recorder survey data. Species of particular interest were as follows:

***Palinurus elephas*, crawfish:** FOCI species recorded at both sites, photo supplied (right)



***Eunicella verrucosa*, pink sea fan:** FOCI species recorded at both sites, photos supplied (photographs of two different colonies below)



***Axinella damicornis*, crumpled duster sponge:** nationally scarce species, recorded at one site, photo supplied

***Dromia personata*, sponge or teddy bear crab:** westerly species with relatively few records – shown in habitat image left on first page.

Survey Data

Positions: Welcombe Reef 50°57.13N 4°33.51W
 Knap Head 50°57,502N 4°33.913W

 Both positions entry point from boat GPS

Records made by: David Dooley with images from Mark Lavington (habitats and crawfish), Damian Board (sea fan) and Simon Cobb (sea fan)

Data validated by Chris Wood

Data entered into Marine Recorder by Sally Sharrock: Survey Reference MRMCS0150000005F

Data verified by Chris Wood