

Periwinkle surveys 2022

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Summary

Gathering of periwinkles (*Littorina littorea*) occurs on rocky shores throughout the Northumberland IFCA (NIFCA) district both commercially and recreationally, with concerns raised by the public about levels of collection in certain areas. From June 2020 until April 2021 NIFCA surveyed five known collection sites (Berwick-Upon-Tweed, Boulmer Haven, Cresswell, Holy Island and St Mary's Island), ranking them in terms of collection intensity from NIFCA patrol sightings of intertidal activity. Surveys were carried out every two months where possible, measuring periwinkle densities and sizes in addition to faunal and algal assemblages and substrate cover.

Introduction

Periwinkle gathering occurs both recreationally and commercially on rocky intertidal areas up and down the Northumberland Coast. NIFCA have noted intertidal collection on patrols since 2016, and conducted periwinkle surveys since 2020 to assess impacts. Please refer to previous reports for information on the Northumberland periwinkle fishery, periwinkle biology and size of maturity, and the 2021 survey report which compared collection intensity and periwinkle densities, as well as other rocky shore community characteristics^{1,2,3}.

The 2021 report found no relationship between collection intensity and periwinkle densities or sizes at different locations. Neither faunal nor algal abundance/percentage cover, species richness or diversity were correlated with collection pressure. However, Berwick, which had the highest levels of collection, had the lowest periwinkle densities in addition to the highest macroalgal abundance and diversity which could be due to lower grazing pressure from periwinkles compared to other sites.

From 2021 onwards, NIFCA continued annual surveys in June of the five locations in addition to another site at Boulmer to the north of the bay, where Natural England had previously conducted monitoring assessments. Additionally, Berwick and Boulmer (south of the bay) were monitored quarterly due to concerns about potential impacts at Berwick and the similar nature of the two sites.

This report presents changes since baseline surveys (June 2020) to feed into annual monitoring and control plans for periwinkle collection.

Methods

Survey methods and analysis are described in the 2021 report, including site selection, methodology and analysis. In 2022 a new survey site was added, to the north of Boulmer Bay (called Boulmer N from now, compared to Boulmer S, the original survey site at Boulmer). Sites were ranked in terms of collection pressure based on data from updated NIFCA patrols

Study methodology broadly followed Tinlin-Mackenzie (2018) in comparing communities impacted by different levels of periwinkle collection. Five sites (Berwick-Upon-Tweed, Boulmer Haven, Cresswell, Holy Island and St Mary's Island) were selected within the NIFCA district to survey periwinkles, based on known hotspots of periwinkle collection from NIFCA patrols. Sites were

¹ NIFCA report: *Description of the Northumberland IFCA Periwinkle Fishery*. Aitken & Harvey, 2021

² NIFCA report: *Periwinkle surveys 2020-12*. Harvey, 2021

³ NIFCA report: *Periwinkle Ecology and Size of Maturity Study*. Harvey, 2021

ranked in terms of collection pressure based on data from NIFCA patrols from 2016-2020 (Table 1).

Table 1. Collection pressure classifications of each site, from NIFCA intertidal patrols between 2016-2020. Showing total number of patrols, the proportion of patrols periwinkle harvesting was sighted on, the average number of collectors per sighting of periwinkle harvesting, the average number of collectors per patrol (proportion of patrols x average number per sighting), the maximum number of collectors sighted on a single patrol, and the ranking of collection intensity based on average number of collectors per NIFCA patrol (1= high, 5=low).

Location	Number of patrols	Proportion of patrols activity sighted	Average no. of collectors per sighting	Average no. of collectors per patrol	Max. no. collectors	Collection intensity ranking
Berwick	23	0.70	3.00	2.09	7	1
Boulmer	10	0.40	2.75	1.10	4	2
Cresswell	12	0.50	1.67	0.83	3	4
Holy Island	11	0.27	4.00	1.09	7	3
St Mary's Island	15	0.27	2.00	0.53	2	5

Survey methods

Sampling was carried out in June, August, October, December 2020 and March and April 2021, though due to logistical constraints all survey sites were only able to be surveyed in June, August and April. At each shore, 15 0.25m² quadrats were placed on the intertidal rocky shore randomly along set transects perpendicular to the shore, with five each in the lower, middle and upper shore zones. Within each quadrat, all periwinkles were counted and shell height measured using Vernier callipers. Abundance of all macroalgae (seaweed) and other faunal (animal) taxa was recorded to species level where possible. Count data were recorded for most faunal taxa, while percentage cover was used for sessile invertebrates (e.g. barnacles), macroalgae and encrusting algae or lichen. Within the same quadrats, percentage cover of substrates was recorded (exposed bedrock, boulders, cobbles, pebbles, gravel and sand).

In addition to quadrat surveys for periwinkle densities, timed searches were also carried out where officers manually searched for periwinkles for set time periods (normally 10 minutes) to include areas unsuitable for quadrat surveys such as within rockpools, in crevices and under boulders. Density in terms of numbers found per minute was calculated.

Analysis

Since periwinkle density was found to vary between sites and also within sites over time, when comparing between locations only surveys from June, August and April were used where all sites

were surveyed. All months and survey sites were used to analyse changing periwinkle density over time. Median densities of periwinkles were calculated per quadrat for quadrat surveys, and per minute for timed searches, and compared between locations using the Kruskal-Wallis and pairwise post-hoc Dunn tests.

Total abundance of faunal counts and summed percentage cover of algae, faunal (count and percentage) and algal species richness (number of species), and faunal and algal Shannon Weiner diversity (H) index were calculated for each quadrat and the median values compared between sites using the Kruskal-Wallis and pairwise post-hoc Dunn tests. Community structure was analysed using Bray-Curtis Similarity index on $\log(x+1)$ -transformed averaged data to down-weight dominant species abundances and bring out the signals of less common species. Average percentage cover of sediment types was compared between shores and Bray-Curtis index on averaged data used to analyse similarity between sites in terms of sediment composition.

Correlations between periwinkle density and substrate types in addition to community measures of abundance/cover, species richness and Shannon diversity in each quadrat were analysed using a negative binomial GLM to take account of the over-dispersion in the count data.

Results

Periwinkle density compared between sites

There were significant differences between median periwinkle densities at different locations for both quadrat surveys (Kruskal-Wallis test: $H(4) = 63.196$, $p < 0.0001$) and timed searches (Kruskal-Wallis: Kruskal-Wallis test: $H(4) = 15.34$, $p < 0.01$). Quadrat and timed search densities correlated well, though at Holy Island comparatively more were found during quadrat surveys than in timed searches, while more were found in timed searches compared to quadrat surveys at Cresswell and Boulmer.

A pairwise post-hoc Dunn test showed that Berwick and Boulmer had the smallest median densities (0 and 1 per quadrat respectively) which were significantly smaller than at St Mary's and Cresswell, while Holy Island had the highest densities with an average of 14 per quadrat as well as the highest variability between different quadrats. The pairwise post-hoc Dunn test showed similar results for timed searches with Berwick having the smallest median density, St Mary's and Boulmer had higher densities but not significantly so, and both Cresswell and Holy Island having the highest densities.

There was no correlation found between median periwinkle density (either quadrat or timed searches) and collection intensity (Figure 1). However, Berwick, which had the highest collection intensity, also had the lowest periwinkle densities of any location for both survey methods.

Boulmer, which had the next highest levels of collection, also had low density in quadrat surveys however comparatively higher densities were found in timed searches, which also occurred at Cresswell. This could indicate periwinkles in those sites are located in areas unsuitable for quadrat surveys for example within crevices or rockpools.

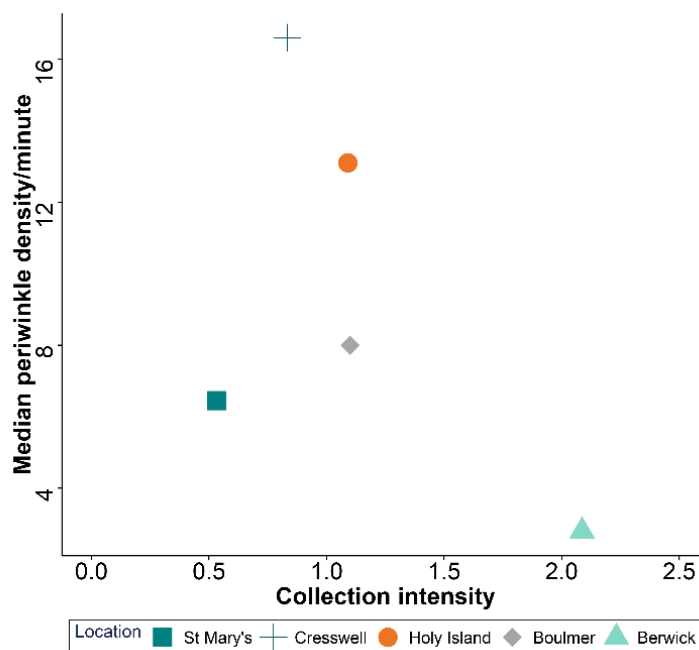


Figure 1. Median periwinkle density a) per quadrat and b) per minute from timed searches, correlated with collection intensity, measured as the average number of collectors seen on patrol at each location.

Periwinkle size compared between sites

Periwinkle size varied between locations, with the largest average sizes at Berwick and Boulmer, and the lowest at Cresswell (Figure 2). Size did not appear to be related to collection intensity however was negatively related to periwinkle density: shores with higher densities had lower average sizes.

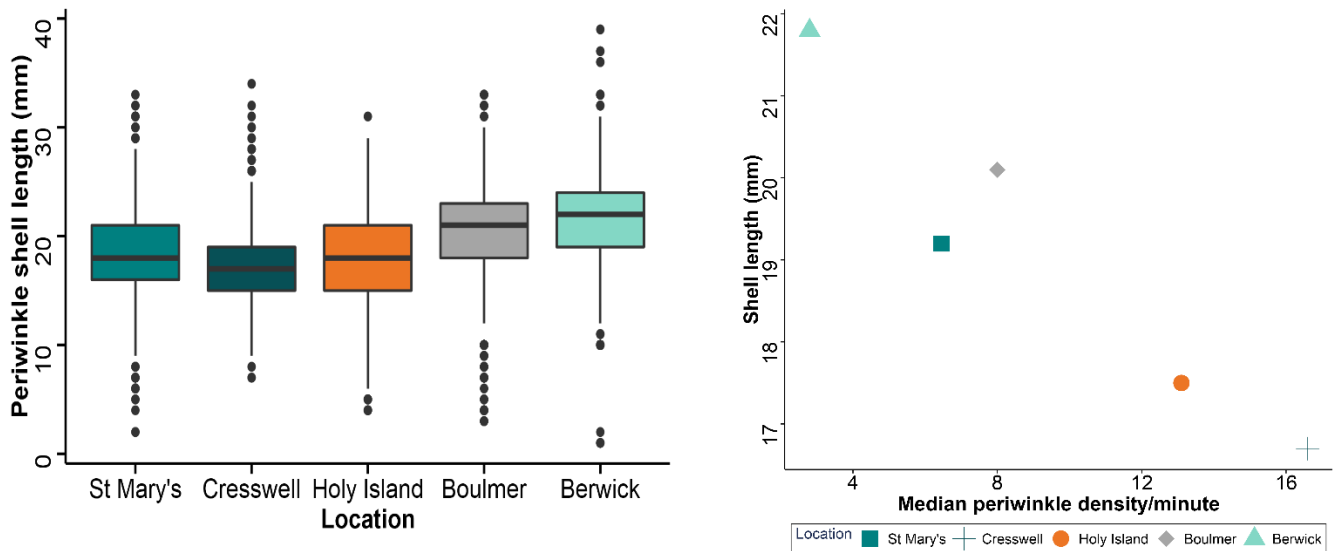


Figure 2. Median periwinkle shell length (mm) from quadrat and timed searches compared between locations at increasing collection intensities and b) compared to median periwinkle density per minute from timed searches. Survey data from June, August and April only.

Rocky shore community

The occurrence and abundances of all taxa recorded at each site for all quadrats combined from June, August and April surveys can be seen in the Appendix (Table A1). Average species abundance, species richness and Shannon diversity for animals and algae varied significantly at different locations (Table 2). Holy Island is the most distinct location with much lower percentage cover and diversity of algae than other sites, though similar levels of faunal abundance and diversity. Berwick has the highest algae percentage cover and diversity, though has relatively low faunal abundance and diversity. St Marys has the highest faunal abundance and diversity compared to other sites, while Cresswell and Boulmer are less distinct. Overall, neither animal nor algal abundance, species richness or diversity is related to periwinkle collection intensity.

Bray Curtis similarity, calculated for all animal and algae species, shows differences in the community structure at different sites (Figure 3). Berwick and Boulmer are the most similar (63%), while Cresswell and St Mary's are also similar (61%). Berwick/Boulmer and Cresswell/St Mary's share about 50% similarity while Holy Island is distinct, less than 50% similar to St Mary's and Cresswell and only 24% similar to Berwick. Bray-Curtis analysis of different times of year showed that communities at different locations remain similar throughout the year.

Table 2. Median (\pm 95% confidence intervals) faunal abundance (count species only, not including periwinkles), algal abundance (sum of % cover), faunal (all organisms) and algal species richness

and Shannon's diversity per quadrat for each site. Sites are in order of increasing collection pressure (arrow). Significant differences between values are shown by different letters for each parameter (abundance/richness/diversity) with darker colours showing locations with higher values of these parameters compared to other sites. Samples taken in June, August 2020 and April 2021 (n=45). Results of Kruskal-Wallis tests for each parameter show p-value significance ($p < 0.01 = *$, $p < 0.001 = **$, $p < 0.0001 = ***$, $p < 0.00001 = ****$) and chi-squared values.

Location	Animals			Algae		
	Abundance	Richness	Diversity	% cover	Richness	Diversity
St Mary's	22 ^a (19-25)	6 ^a (6-7)	0.98 ^a (0.87-1.03)	67 ^c (28-86)	6 ^b (5-7)	1.21 ^b (1.07-1.34)
Cresswell	16 ^b (14-20)	5 ^b (5-6)	0.84 ^{ab} (0.73-1.04)	112 ^b (103-125)	6 ^b (5-7)	1.07 ^{bc} (0.90-1.19)
Holy Island	10 ^b (8-13)	6 ^a (6-7)	0.94 ^{ab} (0.83-1.04)	18 ^d (11-31)	3 ^d (2-4)	0.63 ^d (0.00-0.805)
Boulmer	11 ^b (7-22)	5 ^b (4-5)	0.69 ^b (0.60-0.87)	130 ^b (104-144)	5 ^c (4-5)	0.97 ^c (0.87-1.03)
Berwick	11 ^b (8-15)	5 ^b (4-6)	0.86 ^{ab} (0.69-1.03)	159 ^a (145-180)	8 ^a (7-9)	1.39 ^a (1.28-1.52)
Kruskal-Wallis test	*** 63.196	**** 30.88	* 12.455	**** 102.49	**** 92.728	**** 74.644

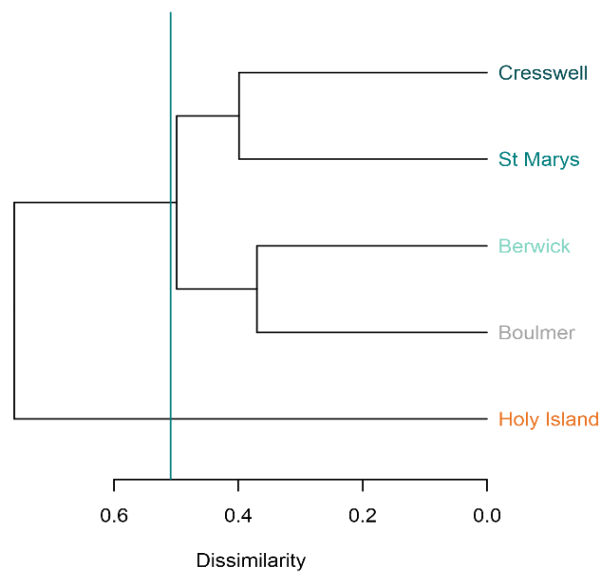


Figure 3. Plot of Bray-Curtis dissimilarity index for different sites, based on rocky shore communities. Line shows the mean dissimilarity score for all sites.

Sediment characteristics

Sites differed greatly in terms of their sediment characteristics (Figure 4). Boulmer and Cresswell were the most similar shores (93% similarity) with high proportions of exposed bedrock and the

remainder mostly sand, with very little intermediate sized mixed sediment. Berwick also shared 83% similarity with Boulmer and Cresswell but had less exposed bedrock and slightly more mixed sediments. Holy Island and St Mary's both had much more mixed sediment types of different sizes, though only shared 30% similarity with each other. St Mary's had very little sand while Holy Island was almost 50% sand cover and had the lowest proportion of exposed bedrock.

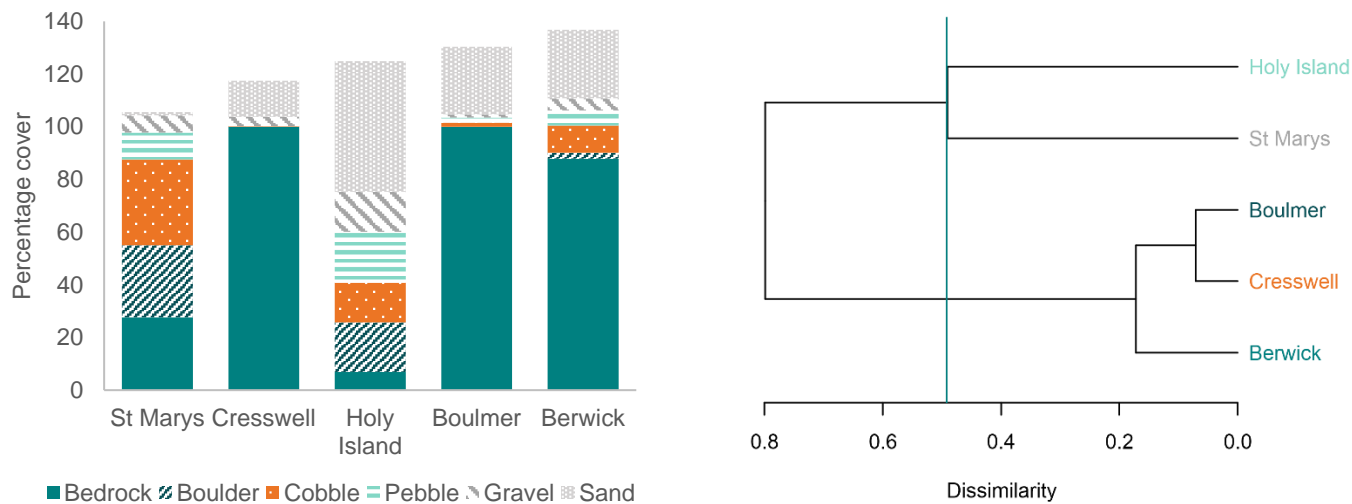


Figure 4. Substrate types found in quadrat surveys. a) Average percentage cover of quadrats at different sites and b) plot of Bray-Curtis dissimilarity index for different sites when comparing average sediment compositions. Overall percentages are greater than 100% due to overlapping sediment coverage. Line shows the mean dissimilarity score for all sites.

Periwinkle density, rocky shore communities and substrate type

Though overall faunal abundance is not correlated with the percentage of algae cover, periwinkle abundance is significantly negatively correlated with algae cover ($p < 0.001$). Cover of algae was strongly related to algae species richness ($p < 0.01$) and diversity ($p < 0.05$) therefore generally, sites with higher numbers of periwinkles have both lower percentage cover of algae and algae species richness/diversity (Figure 5). Holy Island quadrats have high densities of periwinkles but low percentage cover of algae, while Berwick has high algae cover and species richness, with the lowest densities of periwinkles.

Higher cover of algae was related to increased amounts of exposed bedrock and boulders ($p < 0.001$), although periwinkle density was only correlated with cover of gravel ($p < 0.001$; Figure 5c). Periwinkle density was not significantly related to cover of other substrate types within quadrats.

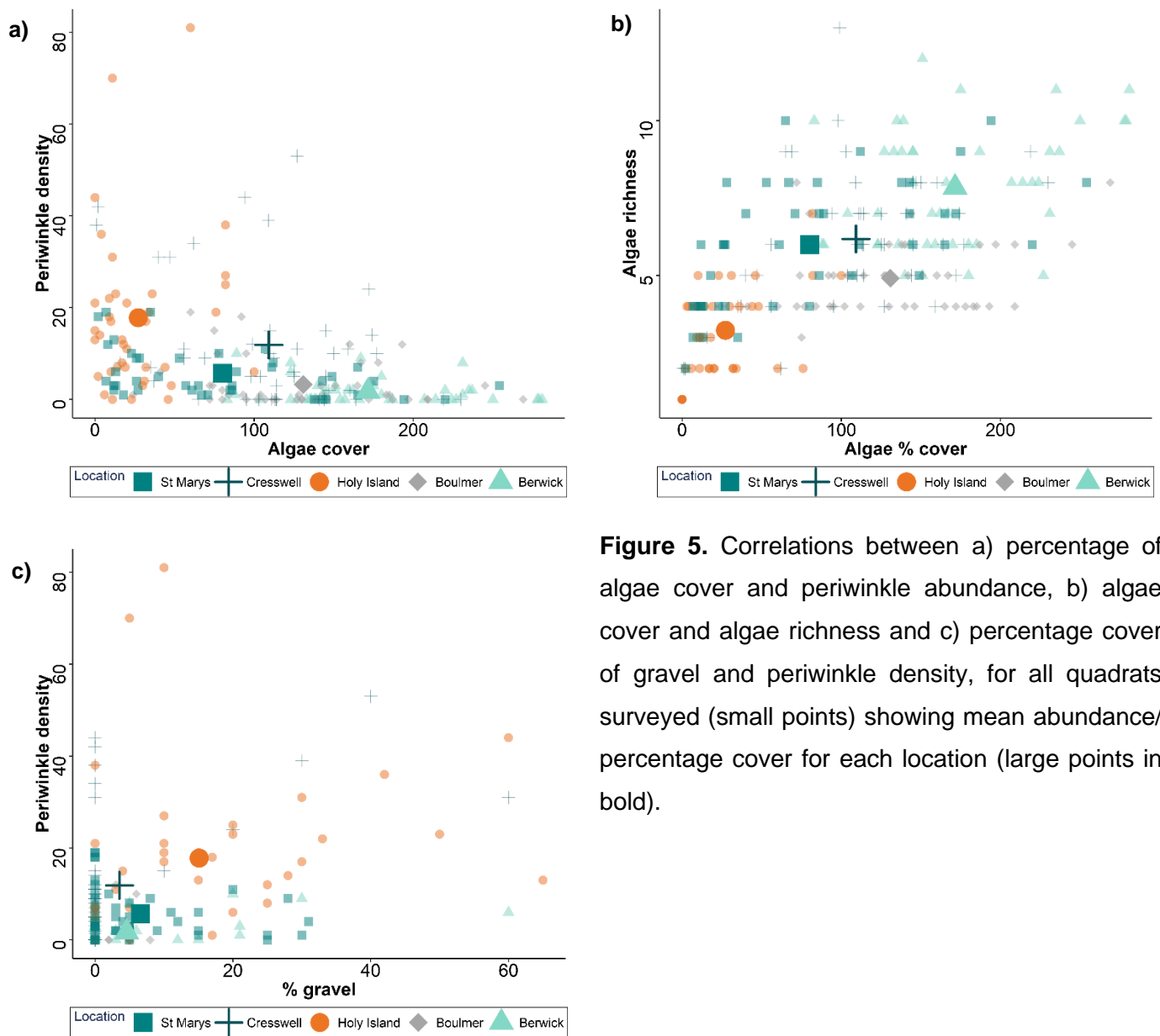


Figure 5. Correlations between a) percentage of algae cover and periwinkle abundance, b) algae cover and algae richness and c) percentage cover of gravel and periwinkle density, for all quadrats surveyed (small points) showing mean abundance/percentage cover for each location (large points in bold).

Periwinkle density over time

Periwinkle density varied over time, with higher densities found in June 2020 surveys than in other months consistently surveyed (Figure 6). Results overall were similar for both quadrat and timed search surveys. There was a high degree of variation between sites. The site sampled for the most months, Cresswell, had the same pattern of highest densities in June and lower densities thereafter. St Mary's, Boulmer and Berwick also had the highest densities in June in timed searches though in quadrat surveys Berwick had the highest densities in August.

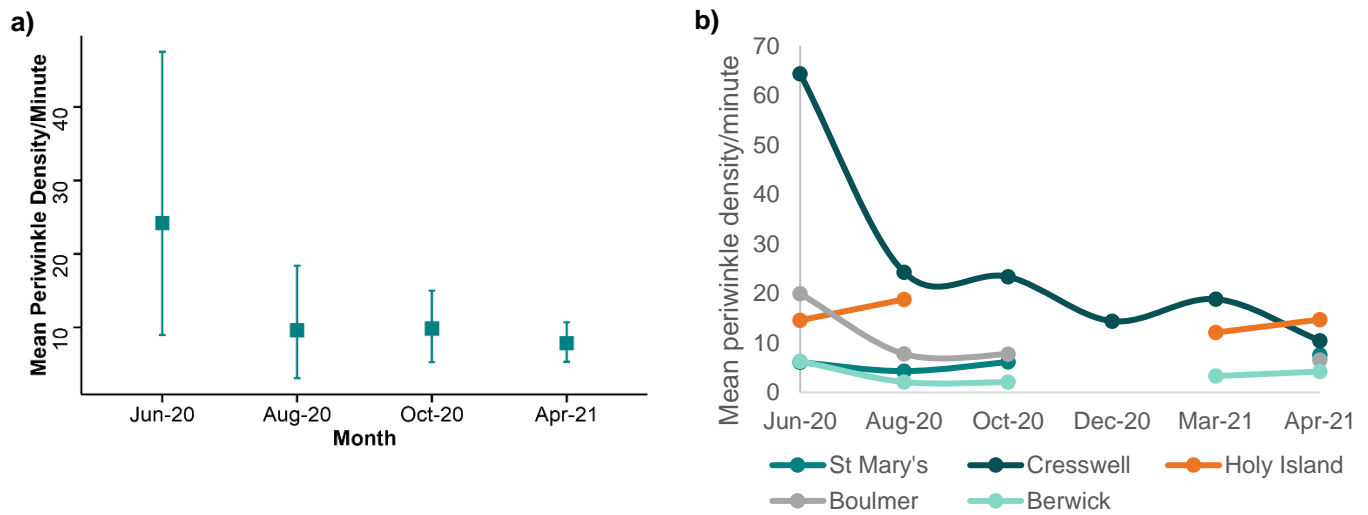


Figure 6. Mean periwinkle density per minute, over time at different locations a) for sites surveyed in June, August, October 2020 and March 2021 (all except Holy Island) and b) for all individual sites and every surveyed month.

Discussion

Periwinkle density

While periwinkle density varied significantly between sites, there was no clear relationship to collection intensity. Berwick, the location with the highest levels of collection, did have the lowest density of periwinkles for both quadrat and timed search surveys, however other sites had varying densities of periwinkles not dependent on collection intensity.

Periwinkle density was related to environmental factors: cover and diversity of macroalgae, and percentage cover of gravel. A previous study (Eddy & Roman 2016) found that environmental variables collectively explained 67% of the variation in species assemblages on rocky shores, including sediment type (up to 33% of the variation explained) as well as organic and water content and elevation, which were not measured in this study but are likely to contribute to differences in communities and periwinkle density.

Up to 23% of the variation in epifaunal assemblages was explained by algae cover, as algae stabilise the substrate, protect from desiccation stress and provide protection (Eddy & Roman 2016). We also found a positive relationship between algae cover and faunal species richness and diversity, though there was no relationship to faunal abundance, and there was a negative relationship of algae cover with periwinkle densities. A previous study also found that algae cover generally decreased with increasing periwinkle densities (Carlson et al., 2006), as periwinkles graze on the algae. The removal of littorinid snails such as periwinkles on rocky shores results in an increase in the abundance of algae (Norton et al., 1990).

Our finding that periwinkles were found at higher densities on more gravel-covered sites was consistent with a previous study in Ireland (Cummins et al., 2002), which also found no significant effect of other substrate types. However, another study (Carlson et al., 2002) found increased densities of periwinkle with higher percentages of bare rock, which we did not find here. They also found increased densities of periwinkle with higher substrate rugosity, or more complex substrates. Littorinid snails are particularly abundant on broken shores or where there are many crevices (Norton et al., 1990), and have been previously found to congregate near boulders and larger cobbles when on mixed substrates (Tillin & Hill, 2016). In general, habitat complexity is

linked with higher diversity and abundance of organisms in intertidal and other habitats (e.g. Meager et al., 2011).

Locations varied significantly in terms of their substrate composition and rocky shore communities, which in addition to other environmental factors likely explains the differences in periwinkle densities. Holy Island, the most distinct site, had particularly high densities of periwinkle especially in the upper shore more dominated by boulders and cobbles. Though Cresswell had high percentages of exposed bedrock in surveys, areas of shore unsuitable to place quadrats such as over very uneven ground may have been missed. The high shore at Cresswell has high boulder coverage like at Holy Island, and this is where the highest densities of periwinkle occur. This could help explain the high densities of periwinkles at Cresswell compared to Boulmer and Berwick where the substrate is mainly exposed bedrock, with very few boulders at any shore height.

Berwick and Boulmer had the most similar rocky shore communities of any sites as well as similar substrate compositions, however Berwick had lower periwinkle densities as well as higher algae cover, richness and diversity. The bedrock at Boulmer is very flat while Berwick has higher rugosity, so might be expected to have higher densities of periwinkle than Boulmer. The fact that it does not could be an indication that the higher levels of periwinkle gathering at Berwick are impacting the population, and potentially influencing the algal communities, although there could be other unexplained sources of environmental variation not accounted for.

Results from these surveys are similar to the PhD by Tinlin-Mackenzie in 2018, which included Holy Island, Boulmer and Marshall Meadows (an uncollected site). A key difference is the addition of the highly collected site, Berwick, which has around two times the average number of collectors seen on a patrol than any other site within the NIFCA district.

In the PhD Holy Island had the highest periwinkle densities and smallest shell height, while Boulmer had lower densities but larger shells which is consistent with our results. Neither study found a correlation between periwinkle size or density, and harvesting pressures. Tinlin-Mackenzie concluded that communities likely vary from natural variation rather than impacts of periwinkle harvesting, which this study supports.

Neither study found evidence of indirect impacts of periwinkle gathering at these sites, for example changes in community structure through trampling. Differences in rocky shore communities are more likely due to environmental variation, although it is unlikely this study could differentiate any impacts of gathering from environmental factors or from other rocky shore activities such as rockpooling.

Density over time

Periwinkles typically migrate down shore in the winter to reduce exposure to sub-zero temperatures, even into subtidal areas, and back up shore in spring (Tillin & Hill, 2016). Therefore, periwinkles in the intertidal are less common in the winter.

We found a higher density of periwinkles in June overall than in other months. This was mainly driven by the significantly higher densities at Cresswell although most other locations had higher densities as well. However, densities in August were similar to those in October, March and April when temperatures would be lower which is unexplained. Cresswell, the only location surveyed across all months, did have the lowest densities in the colder months of December, March and April. The spring and early summer of 2020 were hotter than average which could have influenced the higher densities of periwinkles found in June, or it could have been another factor such as increased abundance of algae in intertidal areas.

Periwinkle size

Periwinkle size varied between sites and was not related to collection intensity but rather to periwinkle density: the higher the density of periwinkles, the smaller the average size. This may be due to increased competition for food at higher densities, which has been shown experimentally to reduce growth rates in periwinkles (Petraitis, 2002). Tinlin-Mackenzie (2018) suggested that smaller periwinkles at Holy Island were due to slow growth because of low availability of algae.

Periwinkle gathering can alter the size structure of populations with collection causing an average reduction in size by 10-20% in most studies (Tinlin-Mackenzie, 2018), however we found the opposite: Berwick and Boulmer, the most collected sites, had the largest periwinkles. This indicates environmental variation and differences in periwinkle density have a larger impact on periwinkle size structure than collection and could show that populations are resilient to the current levels of harvesting.

Previous maximum shell heights measured at Boulmer (28mm, 30mm and 30mm) are consistent with the maximum shell height found here, 33mm, which was the same as in Tinlin-Mackenzie (2018). This suggests maximum shell height has not decreased over time despite intermediate levels of periwinkle harvesting.

Conclusions

Periwinkle harvesting at current levels in collection hotspots within the NIFCA district does not appear to be negatively impacting periwinkle populations or other rocky shore communities. Environmental variation in terms of substrate cover and other factors likely have a greater impact on periwinkle densities than collection pressures, however it should be noted that Berwick does have particularly low densities of periwinkle and should be monitored over time for changes in both collection pressure and periwinkle density. Periwinkles are generally resilient to localised impacts due to their ability to recolonise from larvae which disperse widely in the sea, therefore harvested populations could be maintained from uncollected populations elsewhere.

Indirect impacts of periwinkle harvesting were also not detected in this study and would be indistinguishable from other users of the rocky shore. However, study sites now have baseline data on their communities and could be monitored over time to ensure communities do not substantially change in the future.

NIFCA will continue to survey periwinkle populations and rocky shore communities, annually at sites of lower concern and more frequently at Berwick and Boulmer. Periwinkle gathering will also be monitored to detect any future changes in effort which could have a greater impact on periwinkles and rocky shores than current levels of harvesting.

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Appendix

Table A1. Presence and abundance of faunal and algal species

Total abundance of count data for faunal taxa and presence (+) and absence (left blank) of taxa recorded as percentage cover, within quadrats (50x50cm) collected from five shores in the NIFCA district. Samples were collected in June and August 2020 and April 2021 on low water spring tides. Unidentified algae were not included.

Species/taxa	St Mary's	Cresswell	Holy Island	Boulmer	Berwick
ALGAE					
<i>Verrucaria mucosa</i>					+
<i>Cladophora</i> spp.	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Ulva/Monostroma</i> spp.	+	+			+
<i>Chaetomorpha</i> spp.	+				
Filamentous green algae	+	+			+
<i>Ascophyllum nodosum</i>			+	+	+
<i>Cladostephus spongiosus</i>		+			+
<i>Fucus serratus</i>	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Fucus spiralis</i>	+		+	+	
<i>Fucus vesiculosus</i>	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Himantalia elongata</i>			+		
<i>Laminaria digitata</i>	+				+
<i>Colpomenia peregrina</i>	+	+			
Filamentous brown algae					+
<i>Ahnfeltia plicata</i>		+			
<i>Ceramium</i> spp.		+			
<i>Chondrus crispus</i>	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Corallina</i> spp.	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Delesseria sanguinea</i>				+	
<i>Dumontia contorta</i>		+			
<i>Lomentaria articulata</i>	+	+			+
<i>Mastocarpus stellatus</i>	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Membranoptera alata</i>					+
<i>Osmundea pinnatifida</i>	+	+	+		+
<i>Palmaria palmata</i>					+
<i>Phycodris rubens</i>					+
<i>Plocamium</i> spp.	+	+	+		+
<i>Plumaria plumosa</i>		+			
<i>Polysiphonia</i> spp.	+	+		+	+
<i>Porphyra / Pyropia</i> spp.			+		
<i>Rhodothamniella floridula</i>		+	+		+
<i>Elachista fucicola</i>		+			
<i>Osmundea osmunda</i>	+				
<i>Rhodomela confervoides</i>					+
<i>Gelidium</i> spp.	+				
<i>Ptilota gunneri</i>	+				
Encrusting red algae	+			+	+
Encrusting pink algae	+	+	+	+	+
TOTAL ALGAE SPECIES	21	21	14	12	24
PORIFERA					
<i>Halichondria panicea</i>	+				+
CNIDARIA					
<i>Actinia equina</i>				+	+
<i>Dynamena pumila</i>		+			+
<i>Obelia geniculata</i>			+		
ANNELIDA					
<i>Polydora/Boccardiella</i>					+
<i>Spirobranchus</i> spp.	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Spirorbis</i> spp.	+			+	+
Unidentified worm					+

BRYOZOA					
<i>Electra pilosa</i>		+		+	+
<i>Flustrellidra hispida</i>					+
<i>Membranipora membranacea</i>	+				
Unidentified bryozoan				+	
CRUSTACEA					
<i>Semibalanus balanoides</i>	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Cancer pagurus</i>	1				
<i>Carcinus maenas</i>	5	2	12	7	8
<i>Paguridae</i> indet.	12	2	13	5	32
<i>Porcellana platycheles</i>					3
<i>Pisidia longicornis</i>				1	
TOTAL CRUSTACEA	18	4	25	13	43
MOLLUSCA					
<i>Littorina littorea</i>	182	421	522	126	57
<i>Littorina obtusata/fabalis</i>	56	87	114	581	208
<i>Littorina saxatilis</i>	191	152	146	6	23
<i>Melarhaphe neritoides</i>	16				
<i>Mytilus edulis</i>	+		+		
<i>Nucella lapillus</i>	2	46	7	10	10
<i>Patella pellucida</i>	3				
<i>Patella</i> spp.	363	245	20	76	153
<i>Steromphala cineraria</i>	60	9	18	6	27
<i>Polyplacophora</i> spp.		2		3	2
<i>Aplysia punctata</i>				6	
TOTAL MOLLUSCS*	691	541	305	688	423
TOTAL ANIMAL SPECIES	17	13	13	16	20

*discounting *L. littorea*