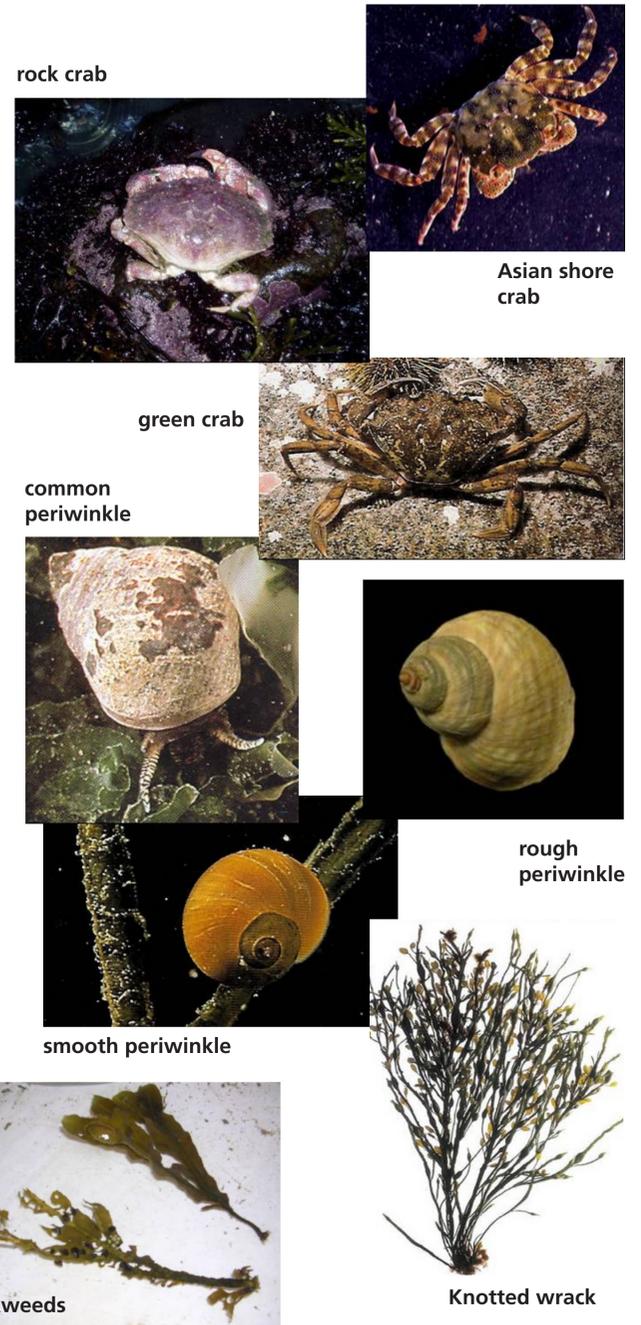




Boston Harbor Islands Rocky Intertidal Monitoring

The Rocky Intertidal communities of Boston Harbor Islands provide an important habitat to marine and terrestrial species. They are also popular places for park visitors. Learning the condition of these unique communities in order to manage them for “the enjoyment of future generations” requires a long-term monitoring plan. The Northeast Temperate Inventory and Monitoring Program (NETN) will begin monitoring of rocky intertidal communities in 2008. This program will rely on a trained volunteer base consisting of high school students, undergraduate students, graduate students, non-student adults, and NPS staff. This citizen science based monitoring program will foster a connection between the community and the park and instill a sense of stewardship that will span several generations.

Islands that will have monitoring sites are Calf Island, Grape Island, Green Island, Middle Brewster Island, Outer Brewster Island, Slate Island, and Snake Island. The long-term sites will be based on areas representing major intertidal ecological communities, areas previously surveyed that can provide historical data, areas of special human interest, and areas with optimum conditions for long-term monitoring. Proposed target species include sea anemones, periwinkle snails, dogwhelks, crabs, barnacles, mussels, limpets, sea urchins, seastars, rockweeds, knotted wrack, Irish moss, Carrageen moss, sea lettuce, gulls, and humans.



blue mussel

frilled sea anemone



dogwhelk



Sea star

barnacles



green urchin

smooth periwinkle



rough periwinkle



Knotted wrack



rockweeds



volunteers



Irish moss



from Calk Island looking at Great Brewster

Projected Target Species

Plants

- Rockweed (*Fucus* spp.)
- Knotted wrack (*Ascophyllum nodosum*)
- Irish moss (*Chondrus crispus*)
- ?Carrageen moss (*Mastocarpus stellatus*)
- Sea lettuce (*Ulva lactuca*)

Invertebrates

- Frilled anemone (*Metridium senile*)
- Blue mussel (*Mytilus edulis*)
- Common periwinkle (*Littorina littorea*)
- Smooth periwinkle (*Littorina obtusata*)
- Rough periwinkle (*Littorina saxatilis*)
- Atlantic dogwhelk (*Nucella lapilus*)
- Plant limpet (*Notoacmea testudinalis*)
- Northern rock barnacle (*Semibalanus balanoides*)
- Jonah/Atlantic rock crab (*Cancer* spp.)
- Green crab (*Carcinus maenas*)
- Asian shore crab (*Hemigrapsus sanguineus*)
- Green urchin (*Strongylocentrotus droebachiensis*)
- Seastar (*Asterias* spp.)

Vertebrates

- Gulls (*Larus* spp.)
- Humans (*Homo sapiens*)

