

# Lundy Island No Take Zone

## North Devon, England

May 2009



**Location:** Lundy Island No Take Zone, North Devon, England

**Site:** The Lundy No Take Zone is a small patch of the Bristol Channel off Lundy's east coast in which all fishing has been banned for reasons of nature conservation. It is the first legally enforced no-fishing area in UK waters.

Whilst the No Take Zone is modest in size, about 4 square kilometres, it contains a great variety of habitats and species, many of which are nationally important. Commercially important species such as lobsters and scallops occur within the marine reserve.

The zone was set up in 2003 and is being monitored by a team of professional scientists who, over a five-year study period, are looking into the effects of the zone on the habitats and species it is designed to protect.

**Benefits:** Tourism and fisheries are the two economic sectors which stand to benefit most from the Lundy No Take Zone designation.

On the tourism side, Andrew Benguey started his business 'Obsession Boat Charters' in 2003, the same year that the Lundy No Take Zone was designated. Over the past five years he has seen his business grow significantly, so much

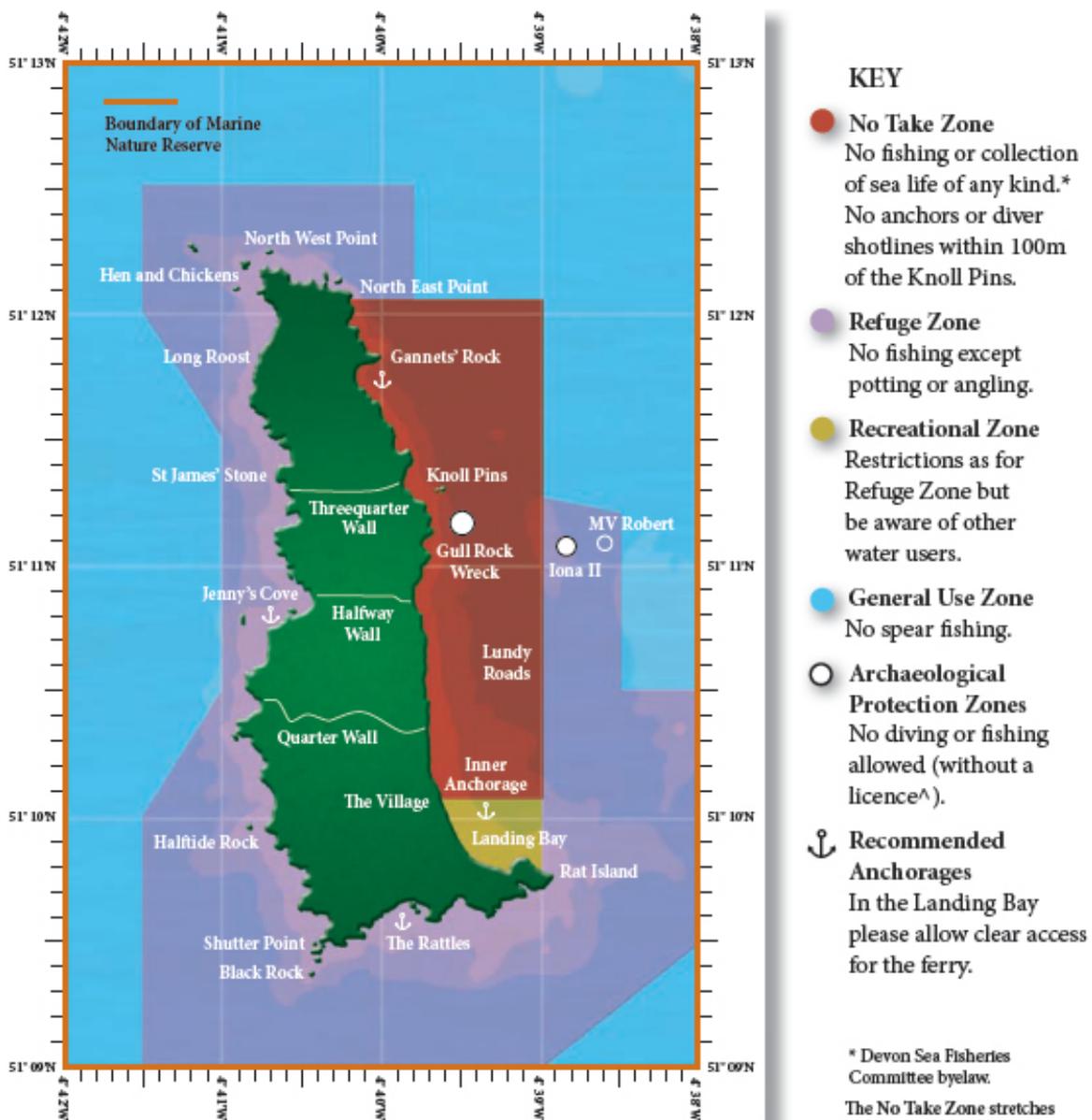
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that two years ago he doubled his capacity by purchasing a second boat, and still he is often fully booked up to 12 months in advance. Mr Benguey attributes this success to the increased publicity surrounding Lundy and the marine reserve as a result of its designation. Divers, anglers and sightseers are the core of his business and with more people finding out about Lundy and all it has to offer, tourist numbers are on the up.

Although it is still early in the life of the Lundy No Take Zone, professional surveys of the ecological effects in the first 5 years have found an increase in abundance and average size of landable-sized lobsters, both within

and adjacent to the protected area. An increase in the abundance of under-sized lobsters in the NTZ and in the sites adjacent to the protected area has also been observed. In addition to providing long-term benefits for Lundy's marine wildlife, these preliminary survey results suggest that populations of commercial species protected by the No Take Zone designation, such as lobsters, should also help replenish stocks in surrounding areas with benefits for local fishing communities..

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