

# The Effect of Removing Rockweed from the Rocky Intertidal Zone: Four Years Later

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This summer I examined the effect of removing *Ascophyllum nodosum* (rockweed) from the rocky intertidal zone in the Canadian Maritimes, as it is largely unregulated and its long-term ecological impact is still

start collecting data to see how the rocky intertidal communities had bounced back four years post-harvest. Every day at low tide I went out into the intertidal zone and surveyed my plots. Each survey consisted of recording algal data such as frond height and species richness, and the total number of invertebrates found in the innermost 1m<sup>2</sup> of the plots. I surveyed each plot three times over the course of the summer, for a total of 54 surveys.

, DP LQWHUHVWHG LQ KRZ P\ GDWDSIFRPSDUTHE WR & K harvested plots had fewer species of animals and fewer animals overall than the controls did. Of course, she also found that after being cut, the rockweed in the experimental plots was shorter than the controls, but based off of the gro