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# Scottish 'no take zone' sees big impacts on local biodiversity

By [Undercurrent News](#)

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 Lamlash Bay, on the shores of the Isle of Arran. Credit: [Dunnock\\_D](#)

The implementation of a no-take zone (NTZ) in the waters off the Scottish Isle of Arran has resulted in a four-fold increase in the numbers of lobster and scallop since the scheme was implemented 12 years ago.

The NTZ now sits within a 280-square-kilometer marine protected area in Lamlash Bay, which has also begun to show pronounced biodiversity recovery after just three and a half years.

Interestingly, the creation of the NTZ has also resulted in a spillover effect, as commercial species figures in the areas immediately around the zone have also risen.

Diving surveys taken by a team from the University of York in collaboration with the NGO COAST have also shown that the seabed is recovering from years of trawl and dredge activity. Nursery habitats have shown particularly strong

recovery, which is encouraging for local commercially important fish species.

According to Bryce Stewart, a professor from the University of York who served as one of the leads on the project, the evidence taken from the Lamlash Bay NTZ has already been used in favor of developing marine protected areas both in the UK and overseas.

"Local communities around the UK have looked at the story unfolding in Lamlash Bay and -- like COAST -- have decided to take the destiny of their coastal waters into their own hands," he said.



📷 University of York researcher Éilís Crimmins, with a lobster

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