

# Glossary of Key Terms

**Abundance** - an estimate of the number of individuals of a species in a population

**Biodiversity** - the number and type of different species in an environment

**Bioaccumulation** - the accumulation of a substance (such as a toxic chemical), in various tissues of a living organism, over time

**Bivalve** - a shellfish with two distinct shells, joined with a hinge

**Data** - information collected from research

**Density** - a measurement of population abundance per unit area

**Ecosystem** - a community of living things and the environment in which they live

**Environmental indicator** - a species whose abundance or presence can be used to help assess changes to the general state of the environment

**Gastropod** - Any of various molluscs of the Class Gastropoda, such as the snail, slug, cowrie, or limpet

**Kaitiakitanga** - the responsibilities of people to take care of the environment

**Monitoring** - repeated comparable surveys over a regular time period

**Natural Population Variation** - the natural increases and decreases in a population size, due to a range of environmental factors that effect reproductive success and mortality, for example temperature, currents that effect food supply

**Quadrat** - a square frame with an exact known area, used for sampling

**Sample** - a part of the population. Counting and measuring all the shellfish on the beach would be impossible. A sample is a representative subset of manageable size. We collect many samples to make estimates about the population's abundance and make up.

**Shellfish** - an animal with a shell, soft body and muscular foot for moving, burying, or attaching, that lives in or near the water

**Species** - traditionally defined as the name for a group of animals or plants that can breed together and produce fertile offspring, now more precise or differing measurements are often used such as similiarity of DNA

**Sustainability** - one definition is "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (the Brundtland Report, Our Common Future, 1987)

**Survey** - a one-off investigation into the number, size or variety of species. A series of comparable surveys could be used for monitoring

**Transect** - a straight line used for surveying a given area, of any length along which samples are taken, usually at regulat intervals

**Trend** - the general direction in which data is seen to change - can go up or down or remain the same, over time or over distance

**Univalve** - a shellfish whose shell is in one piece e.g. snails and limpets

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