

# Whelk and coastal biodiversity survey

**Dates:** Early August

**Recurrence:** Bi-annually, since 2005

**Location:** Upper North Shore

**Vessel:** CCGS LEIM



Whelk (*Buccinum undatum*)

## Description

A multi-species survey carried out with a Digby-type scallop dredge. Fixed stations are sampled at a depth of between 7 and 40 m, i.e., 55 stations in Forestville, 26 stations in Pointes-aux-Outardes and 11 stations in Baie-Comeau. There, data are collected on the abundance of whelks and their predators, on juvenile snow crab and on the coastal biodiversity of the seabed. In addition, sensors are deployed in the water column to collect environmental data. This information is then incorporated into stock assessments and provides a database for long-term ecosystem studies in the coastal area.

## Objectives

1. Assessment of the abundance of whelks and their predators;
2. Length measurement and morphometric measurements of whelks;
3. Assessment of the status of marine invertebrate populations;
4. Characterization of the coastal biodiversity of the seabed (invertebrates and fish); and
5. Collection of environmental data in the water column (temperature, salinity, oxygen).



Figure 1: The fixed stations (red dots on the map) of the whelk and coastal biodiversity survey.

