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| 1 | Population genetic structure of the European lobster (Homarus gammarus) in the Irish |
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| 2 | Sea and implications for the effectiveness of the first British marine protected area |
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16 Abstract

17 Levels of self-recruitment within and connectivity among populations are key factors influencing marine population persistence and stock sustainability, as well as the 18 19 effectiveness of spatially explicit management strategies such as Marine Protected Areas 20 (MPAs). In the United Kingdom (UK), Lundy Island in the Bristol Channel was designated a 21 No-Take Zone (NTZ) in 2003 and became the UK's first Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) 22 in 2009. This NTZ is expected to represent an additional resource for the sustainable 23 management of the European lobster (Homarus gammarus) fishery. As the first step in a 24 genetic monitoring program, this study aimed to investigate population genetic structure of 25 lobster within and between the Irish Sea and Bristol Channel and in doing so to assess the 26 functioning of the Lundy NTZ in the context of connectivity and other genetic parameters. 27 Analysis of microsatellite data indicated that lobsters within the study area are genetically 28 homogeneous and supports the view of a single panmictic population wherein the Lundy 29 NTZ is highly connected. Levels of genetic variability were universally high with no evidence of differences for the NTZ. Furthermore, there was no evidence of recent genetic 30 31 bottlenecks, and estimates of effective population sizes were infinitely large. The results 32 suggest that if current management and breeding stock sizes are maintained genetic drift will 33 not be strong enough to reduce neutral genetic diversity.

Keywords: Marine protected area; population genetics; sustainability; larval connectivity;
 recruitment; crustacean

36

37 **1. Introduction**

38 Spatial patterns of self-recruitment and connectivity are recognised as key factors 39 shaping the dynamics of marine populations and how they respond to natural and/or human 40 disturbances (Hastings & Botsford 2006). For harvested species, failure to identify 41 independent (non-connected) population units can lead to local overfishing and ultimately, 42 severe declines. Self-recruitment and connectivity also determine the efficacy of management 43 strategies, such as marine protected areas, that are increasingly being implemented as tools to 44 simultaneously achieve both fisheries management and biodiversity conservation objectives 45 (McCook et al. 2009; Gaines et al. 2010; McCook et al. 2010). Specifically, the functioning 46 of marine reserves is dependent on the degree to which MPA individuals contribute to 47 populations within the MPA (Claudet et al. 2008; Fenberg et al. 2012), and through spillover/dispersal, to areas beyond reserve borders (Grüss et al. 2011a; Grüss et al. 2011b; 48 49 Harrison et al. 2012). Connectivity thus influences the extent to which such MPAs may 50 contribute recruits to fished areas, as well as other MPAs (Palumbi 2003).

51 In benthic-orientated marine species, which are often relatively sedentary as adults, 52 connectivity is largely shaped by dispersal during a larval phase (Cowen et al. 2007); the 53 sampling of which is logistically challenging. Combined with a generally poor understanding 54 of the interactions between dispersal and oceanic features, the measurement of marine 55 connectivity remains extremely difficult. In this sense, genetic tools are recognised as an 56 extremely powerful resource to provide indirect estimates of connectivity, and as such to 57 describe population dynamics and to predict, validate and quantify the ecological and 58 economical success of MPAs (Christie et al. 2010b).

59 The European lobster, *Homarus gammarus*, is widely distributed in the northeast 60 Atlantic, with its range extending from the Arctic Circle to Morocco, although it is not 61 present in the Baltic Sea due to lowered salinity and temperature extremes (Triantafyllidis et

62 al. 2005). Population genetic studies of H. gammarus have been performed using 63 microsatellite (Ferguson, unpublished data), mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) (Triantafyllidis et 64 al. 2005), and allozyme (Jørstad et al. 2005) markers but have to date focused on 65 macrogeographical scales. While *H. gammarus* has a long pelagic larval duration offering the potential for extensive dispersal, genetic studies of other marine invertebrates indicate that 66 67 local oceanography, and other physical and biological factors can contribute to fine scale 68 genetic structuring and recruitment variability (Selkoe et al. 2006; Banks et al. 2007; Iacchei 69 et al. 2013). Hence, finer scale genetic studies of *H. gammarus* are required to understand 70 population structure at geographical scales more relevant to the species' fishery, especially in 71 light of signatures of over-exploitation across Europe (Browne et al. 2001).

72 H. gammarus has been a socioeconomically important resource for Irish coastal 73 communities for over a century (Browne et al. 2001). In this time there have been significant 74 fluctuations in landings (>460%) and the relative importance of the fishery has changed with 75 the development of ancillary crustacean fisheries (Browne et al. 2001). The species supports 76 an important fishery in the Irish Sea where it is intensively harvested by both Irish and British 77 fishers (Table S1). High levels of exploitation, by British fishers only, are also reported for 78 the adjoining Bristol Channel (Table S1). A prominent feature of the Bristol Channel fishery 79 is the marine protected area at Lundy Island (off the North Devon coast). This was first 80 designated as a No-Take Zone (NTZ) in 2003 and became the United Kingdom's (UK) first 81 Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) in 2009.

The Irish Sea receives Atlantic water and influences from the Celtic Sea and St. Georges Channel in the south, and via the North Channel and Malin Shelf Sea in the North (Howarth 2005). The semi diurnal tides are the dominant physical process in the region with the North and South tidal streams meeting in a region just south of the Isle of Man, where they form a standing wave (Howarth 2005). The southern emanating tidal streams represent a 87 potential vector for northward larval dispersal, a likely mechanism linking the Bristol Channel and Irish Sea lobster populations. However, hydrodynamic modelling indicates 88 89 patterns of stratification and residual flows that may significantly constrain larval recruitment 90 while models of larval dispersal incorporating different behaviours (time of release and 91 swimming) have reported substantially different patterns of predicted dispersal 92 (http://www.susfish.com/index.php/workPackagesDetails/2). As such, empirical data are needed to assess patterns of connectivity within and between the Irish Sea and Bristol 93 94 Channel, and in doing so to assess the connectivity of the Lundy NTZ.

95 Microsatellites have been shown to be capable of resolving fine scale population 96 structure (McKeown et al. 2015) and were employed in this study to test the general 97 hypothesis of a panmictic population of H. gammarus across the Irish Sea and Bristol 98 Channel against alternatives of inter- and intra-regional structuring. Encapsulated within this 99 was an assessment of the connectivity and other genetic parameters of the Lundy NTZ at 100 local and regional scales. Studies such as this one will provide a baseline for future genetic 101 monitoring of the lobster stock within the area and contribute to holistic assessments of the 102 impact of small marine reserves on fisheries enhancement and sustainability.

103

104 **2. Materials & Methods**

105 2.1. Sample collection, DNA isolation and microsatellite genotyping

Samples were collected from lobsters at Lundy Island from within the NTZ (Lundy
No-Take Zone, LNTZ) and outside the NTZ (Lundy Island Control Zone, LICZ), and from
seven locations within the Irish Sea and Bristol Channel (Table 1, Figure 1). All samples
consisted of mixed cohorts of adults.

Haemolymph was extracted from lobsters using a 2 ml Terumo syringe with a G23x25 mm needle (VWR International Ltd.) and preserved in absolute ethanol (1:8). DNA was extracted using the QIAGEN DNeasy Blood & Tissue Kit (QIAGEN, CA-USA) after an initial centrifugation step of 400 μ l of the haemolymph/ethanol mixture for 5 minutes at 7000 x g in order to precipitate the cells into a pellet easily separated from the alcoholic fraction.

115 Twelve species-specific microsatellite loci (André & Knutsen 2010) were amplified in 116 two multiplex PCR reactions. Amplification was carried out using the QIAGEN Multiplex 117 PCR Kit (QIAGEN, CA-USA) in a final volume of 10 µl. This contained 5 µl of Multiplex 118 Kit Buffer, 1 µl of genomic DNA (~100ng) and 0.2 µl of each forward and reverse primer for 119 the specific multiplex reaction. The PCR cycle involved an initial denaturation step at 95 °C 120 for 15 minutes, followed by 34 cycles of 45 seconds at 94 °C, 45 seconds at 59 °C and 45 121 seconds at 72 °C, and a final extension step at 72 °C for 45 minutes. Products were then run 122 on an ABI 3730 Genetic Analyzer (Applied Biosystems) alongside a GS500LIZ size standard 123 and alleles were inferred using GeneMapper 4.0 (Applied Biosystems).

124

125 2.2. Statistical analysis of microsatellite data

126 Genetic variation within samples was characterised using number of alleles (N_A), effective number of alleles (AEFF), allelic richness (AR; El Mousadik & Petit 1996), 127 128 observed heterozygosity (H_o), and expected heterozygosity (H_e) (Nei 1978), calculated using 129 GENALEX 6.2 (Peakall & Smouse 2006). Deviations from Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium 130 (HWE) expectations and genotypic linkage equilibrium (LD) between pairs of loci were 131 tested using exact tests (10 000 batches, 5000 iterations) in GENEPOP 3.3 (Raymond & 132 Rousset 1995). Deviations from HWE were measured using F_{IS}, calculated according to Weir & Cockerham (1984) and tested for significance by 10 000 permutations in FSTAT 2.9.3 133

134 (Goudet 1995). Mean pairwise relatedness within samples was calculated using the 135 relatedness estimator, r_{qg} , of Queller & Goodnight (1989) in GENALEX with associated 95% 136 confidence intervals determined by 1000 bootstraps. The 95% confidence intervals for the 137 expected range of r_{qg} under a pannictic model were calculated following 999 permutations of 138 genotypes among samples.

139 Genetic differentiation between and among samples was assessed using pairwise and 140 global (i) F_{ST} values, calculated in FSTAT with significance assessed by 10 000 141 permutations, and (ii) exact tests of allele frequency homogeneity performed in GENEPOP 142 (10 000 batches 5000 iterations). The simulation method implemented in POWSIM (Ryman 143 & Palm 2006) was used to estimate the sample size-dependent Type I and Type II error 144 probabilities of exact tests. F_{ST} values were also calculated using the null allele correction 145 method in FreeNA (Chapuis & Estoup 2007). The assumption of neutrality of the 146 microsatellite loci was assessed using the FDIST outlier test (Beaumont & Nichols 1996) 147 implemented in LOSITAN (Antao et al. 2008). Outlier tests were performed globally and 148 between pairs of samples. F_{ST} matrices were visualised in a Multi-Dimensional Scaling plot 149 constructed in R (R Core Team 2013) with the pcoa function. Genetic relationships were also visualised by a Principal Component Analysis (PCA) performed in PCAGEN (Goudet 1999). 150 151 Mantel tests, implemented in the IBDWS software (Jensen et al. 2005) were used to test for 152 correlation between pairwise F_{ST} and geographical distances between sample sites (i.e. 153 isolation by distance). Geographical distances were calculated as the shortest sea distances 154 between approximate centres of sampling locations using NETPAS 2.5. Genetic structure 155 was also investigated without a priori sample information included using the Bayesian 156 clustering analysis implemented in the program STRUCTURE (Pritchard et al. 2000; Falush 157 et al. 2003, 2007). Following recommendations by Hubisz et al. (2009) analyses were replicated for both the original 'no locprior' and new 'with locprior' models. Each run consisted of a burn-in of 1 000 000 steps followed by 5 x 1 000 000 steps.

160 To investigate asymmetric dispersal patterns (source-sink recruitment) recent 161 migration rates were inferred using the Bayesian inference approach implemented in the 162 program BAYESASS 3.0.3 (Wilson & Rannala 2003). Simulations with a unique seed value were run for 10 000 000 iterations with MCMC chains sampled every 1 000 iterations, 163 164 following an initial burn-in of 1 000 000 iterations. As suggested in the program 165 documentation, the five mixing parameters were adjusted to ensure acceptance rates between 166 20% and 60%, with ΔM , ΔA and ΔF set to 0.70. In order to examine convergence, the posterior mean parameter estimates of multiple runs were compared. 167

168 Effective population sizes (Ne) were estimated using LDNE (Waples & Do 2008), in 169 which a random mating model was assumed. To test for recent effective population size reductions, BOTTLENECK 1.2 (Piry et al. 1999) was utilised using 10 000 permutations for 170 171 the Infinite Allele (IAM) (Crow & Kimura 1970), Stepwise Mutation (SMM) (Ohta & 172 Kimura 1973) and Two-Phase Mutation (TPM) (Di Rienzo et al. 1994) models of microsatellite evolution. Approximately 90% of microsatellite mutations are single step 173 174 (Garza & Williamson 2001), thus the parameters of the TPM model were set to run at 90% of single step mutations with a variance of 10 among multiple steps. The Wilcoxon test was 175 176 used to determine whether any of the sample sites show an excess of heterozygosity, which is 177 expected after a severe bottleneck (Cornuet & Luikart 1996). In addition, the graphical mode-178 shift test was incorporated to detect shifts from the normal L-shaped distribution of allele 179 frequencies that are expected at equilibrium (Luikart et al. 1998). A second approach to 180 assess for evidence of a population bottleneck was the *M*-ratio between the total number of alleles (k) and the overall range in allele size (r) (Garza & Williamson 2001). M was 181 182 calculated in ARLEQUIN 3.5 (Excoffier & Lischer 2010) by taking the mean population value from the modified Garza-Williamson (GW) index computation. The modification of the GW index avoids a division by zero when a gene sample is fixed for a single allele (Excoffier et al. 2005). Values of M < 0.68 were considered as a sign of a recent population bottleneck (Garza & Williamson 2001), as described in Coscia et al. (2012).

187

188 **3. Results**

189 The total number of alleles per locus ranged from seven to $17 \pmod{17}$ (mean = 10.17) and 190 levels of genetic variability were highly similar among all samples (Table 1; Table S2; Figure 191 S1). Three locus-pairings were found to be in global linkage disequilibrium: HGD106 & 192 HGC131b (P = 0.025); HGC129 & HGC118 (P = 0.019); and HGD111 & HGC103 (P = 193 However, these test results became non-significant after Bonferroni correction. 0.042). 194 Furthermore, significant global test results were due to significant results occurring only in 195 one or two samples in each case (HGD106 & HGC131b locus-pairing: WEX, P = 0.003; 196 HGC129 & HGC118 locus-pairing: LNTZ, P = 0.043, and; HGD111 & HGC103 locus-197 pairing: SW, P = 0.002; NW, P = 0.016) and became non-significant upon omission of these 198 samples. All deviations from HWE were due to heterozygote deficits. Eight out of a total 108 199 individual locus/sample tests exhibited deviations from HWE (at P < 0.05), with two 200 remaining significant after Bonferroni correction: LNTZ and LICZ at locus HGA8 (P < 201 0.0005). Multilocus deviations from HWE were reported for the Waterford (WF) and North 202 Dublin (ND) samples from Ireland and both Lundy samples from the Bristol Channel (LNTZ, 203 LICZ) with LNTZ exhibiting the largest F_{IS} value (Table 1). In all cases these were due to 204 single locus deviations occurring at HGA8, and became non-significant after omission of this 205 locus. Mean kinship values were within ranges predicted for a panmictic model but there 206 were significant differences between samples (Figure 2).

207 A global exact test of genic homogeneity was non-significant (P = 0.727) as were all 208 pairwise comparisons except that between LNTZ and SW (P < 0.05) (Table 2). Simulation 209 analysis performed in POWSIM indicated that the locus polymorphism and sample sizes 210 used in this study would have conferred sufficient power for tests to detect even low levels of 211 'true' genetic structuring (estimated probability of 0.99 that the data would identify 212 differentiation at true $F_{ST} = 0.01$) while retaining a low Type I error probability (P = 0.04). Similarly, global F_{ST} (-0.000; 95% CI: -0.002 – 0.001) and all pairwise F_{ST} s were non-213 214 significant for both unedited and null allele corrected data sets (Table S3). LOSITAN 215 confirmed the neutrality of the 12 microsatellite markers that were used, with none being 216 selected as candidates for balancing or positive selection in global or pairwise tests. 217 Visualisation of pairwise F_{ST} using MDS revealed no geographic pattern (Figure 3) and there 218 was not significant IBD (r = 0.057, P = 0.35). Bayesian clustering analysis did not provide 219 evidence of population structuring, with all runs unanimously supporting a model of K=1. 220 Inconsistencies between the posterior mean parameter estimates for the BAYEASS 221 simulations indicated there was insufficient information in the data to accurately infer recent 222 migration rates among LNTZ, SW, DEV, and WF, WEX. Estimates of Ne suggest that the sampled populations were very large, with upper 95% confidence intervals including infinity 223 224 (Table 1). BOTTLENECK reported significant results under the IAM for the SW (P = 0.032) 225 and DEV (P = 0.017) samples but all tests assuming a TPM or SMM were not significant. 226 Allele frequency distributions revealed no mode shifts for any sample (i.e. standard L shapes 227 detected). The *M*-ratio values for all samples suggested historical population size reductions.

228

229 **4. Discussion**

230 Microsatellite markers represent powerful tools to investigate demographic processes 231 that may be beyond the resolution of other genetic marker types (Shaw et al. 2004). This 232 study is the first to employ microsatellites to look at fine scale population processes in H. 233 gammarus. Simulation analysis indicated that marker polymorphism and sample sizes in this 234 study conferred considerable power to detect even low levels of genetic differentiation 235 between samples. Global and pairwise (F_{ST} and exact) tests provided no evidence of significant differentiation among samples. This pattern of genetic homogeneity was also 236 237 replicated for analysis of sex partitioned samples. For many marine species, estimates of 238 genetic structure may be compromised by adult dispersal (resulting in mechanical mixing of 239 differentiated populations) (Nielsen et al. 2004). However, as *H. gammarus* adults are largely 240 sedentary (Jensen et al. 1993; Bannister et al. 1994; Smith et al. 2001; Moland et al. 2011; 241 Øresland & Ulmestrand 2013), postlarval dispersal is unlikely to influence results. 242 Furthermore, Bayesian clustering analysis provided no evidence of genetic structuring, a 243 pattern which is typical of lobsters (Tolley et al. 2005; García-Rodríguez & Perez-Enriquez 244 2008; Naro-Maciel et al. 2011) except where gene flow is restricted by conspicuous physical 245 drivers (e.g. oceanography; geographic barriers) (Gopal et al. 2006; Palero et al. 2008). The 246 lack of population structure indicates high levels of gene flow and connectivity within and 247 between the Irish Sea and Bristol Channel.

248 The overall genetic homogeneity is also consistent with connectivity of the Lundy 249 NTZ. Samples collected outside of the Lundy NTZ reported similar levels of genetic diversity 250 to the Lundy NTZ sample, which is also compatible with a lack of isolation for the Lundy 251 NTZ. Calò et al. (2016) reported similar levels of genetic diversity for protected and 252 unprotected areas in the saddled sea bream (Oblada melanura). This pattern differs from the 253 study including two MPAs in the western Mediterranean by Pérez-Ruzafa et al. (2006) that 254 reported higher values of total and standardised allelic richness in protected populations of 255 Diplodus sargus than in unprotected ones.

256 The similar levels of genetic diversity between MPA and non-MPA sites observed for 257 H. gammarus may be a combination of (i) the high level of connectivity throughout the 258 studied area and (ii) a lack of fishery induced genetic erosion. The significant M-ratio test 259 results obtained for all *H. gammarus* samples likely reflect ancestral bottlenecks common to 260 all populations within the study area (Girod et al. 2011). Similar genetic signatures of 261 ancestral population size changes associated with historical climate change events such as the 262 Pleistocene glaciations have been detected in a range of lobster species (Gopal et al. 2006; 263 García-Rodríguez & Perez-Enriquez 2008; Naro-Maciel et al. 2011). No compelling evidence 264 of more recent bottlenecks was discovered in any H. gammarus sample. Although the Gower 265 (SW) and Ilfracombe (DEV) samples revealed significant bottleneck signatures using the 266 Wilcoxon sign rank test, this is not considered as strong evidence for a bottleneck, as test 267 results were only significant under the IAM, a mutation model deemed unlikely for 268 microsatellites (Piry et al. 1999), and it is recommended to use the SMM to be statistically 269 conservative when testing for recent bottlenecks (Luikart & Cornuet 1998). This was further 270 confirmed by the lack of L-mode shifts, intrasample relatedness values within expected 271 ranges for a panmictic population, and estimates of N_e which included infinity. Levels of intrasample variation (H_o, H_e, N_A) were also comparable to values reported for putative 'non-272 273 bottlenecked' populations sampled from other regions (Ferguson, unpublished data) 274 indicating that *H. gammarus* has not undergone any recent genetic erosion due to fishing 275 activities within the Irish Sea or Bristol Channel and retains a high level of genetic variation.

An important consideration is that the high background levels of genetic diversity may make any MPA associated increase in diversity difficult to detect. Moreover, any genetic changes, positive or negative, associated with the NTZ may not be detectable for a number of generations and thus may not be apparent due to its recent establishment. As such, this study must form part of an ongoing genetic monitoring program. 281 In this study significant heterozygote deficits were reported for the Irish Waterford 282 and North Dublin samples and the two Lundy samples, with the Lundy NTZ exhibiting the 283 largest deficit. In all cases these deficits were driven by a single locus (HGA8), indicating a 284 null allele effect. However, in light of the low level of genetic structure throughout the studied area, the restriction of such heterozygote deficits to particular samples, with the 285 286 largest deficit reported for the NTZ, suggests there may be some biological component. 287 Significant heterozygote deficits are a common feature among marine invertebrates with 288 biological drivers including inbreeding, selection and Wahlund effects (Addison & Hart 289 2005). Inbreeding can be discounted as values of relatedness for all samples are in line with 290 expectations of panmixia and provide no evidence that closely related individuals have been 291 sampled. Selection against heterozygotes has rarely been documented (Teske et al. 2013) and 292 outlier tests reported no evidence of selection effects at the employed loci. Based on the low 293 level of genetic structure throughout the studied region spatial Wahlund effects due to the 294 sampling of mixtures of individuals derived from genetically differentiated populations can 295 also be discounted. However, for many highly fecund marine species with pelagic larval 296 stages, large variances in reproductive success occur among individuals (sweepstakes 297 recruitment) such that in any reproductive event only a small fraction of adults contributes to 298 the next generation (Hedgecock 1994). This can generate genetic differences within and 299 between cohorts (cohort Wahlund) (Ruzzante et al. 1996) without restricted gene flow where 300 recruitment is temporally or spatially variable (Johnson et al. 1993). By a process of 301 elimination, sweepstakes effects as a component of overall localised recruitment stochasticity, represents the most plausible biological mechanism for generating the reported 302 303 heterozygote deficits. Palero et al. (2011) suggested that for the lobster *Palinurus elephas*, the 304 biased exploitation of large individuals led to a reduction in the number of large females and 305 a consequent reduction in variance in reproductive success. In the case of the Lundy NTZ, the

predicted persistence of larger females (Wootton et al. 2012) may increase the scope for 306 307 variance in reproductive success. Furthermore, a paternity study in the American lobster, H. 308 *americanus*, reported evidence of high levels of multiple paternity at exploited sites but single 309 paternity at the only unexploited site (Gosselin et al. 2005). Similar fishery associated 310 reduction in multiple paternity at the Lundy NTZ would serve to increase variance in 311 reproductive success compared to other multiple paternity areas (McKeown & Shaw 2008). 312 Confirmation and identification of any such NTZ effects is vital and will require comparative 313 analysis of other species and ideally comparisons of intraspecific patterns associated with 314 other NTZs.

315 In conclusion, the data indicate that within the studied area, H. gammarus, including 316 those within the NTZ, belong to a single panmictic population. Comparable levels of genetic diversity within the Irish Sea and with other regions indicate that the species retains high 317 318 levels of neutral genetic diversity despite being heavily exploited. Spatial genetic 319 homogeneity and large effective population size estimates suggest that if current breeding 320 stock sizes are maintained, loss of neutral genetic variation within the Irish Sea and Bristol 321 Channel is unlikely. The high connectivity throughout the studied area emphasises the need 322 for cooperation between British and Irish fishery managers and also has implications for the 323 spatial distribution of future MPAs and the establishment of a MPA connected network 324 (Larson & Julian 1999). Future research aimed at describing even finer elements of 325 demographic connectivity would benefit from employing genome wide SNP analyses. These 326 offer the potential to assay a huge number of loci for use in isolation-with-migration models, 327 and may reveal asymmetric gene flow dynamics (Wang & Hey 2010; Marko & Hart 2011) that were beyond the resolution of the current data set, as indicated by the simulations 328 329 performed for BAYEASS. Additionally, direct estimates of dispersal could be obtained through genetic parentage analysis of new recruits (Jones et al. 2005; Planes et al. 2009;
Christie et al. 2010a; Saenz-Agudelo et al. 2011; Buston et al. 2012; D'Aloia et al. 2013).

332

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560 Tables

Table 1. Sample information and summary statistics of *Homarus gammarus* in the Irish Sea: H_e expected heterozygosity, H_o observed heterozygosity, N_A number of alleles, AEFF effective number of alleles, A_R allelic richness, F_{IS} inbreeding coefficient, and N_e estimates of effective population size with 95% confidence intervals (parametric). Significant values of F_{IS} are denoted by * (P < 0.05) or *** (P<0.001).

| Sampling Location | Code | Coordinates | N | H _e | H _o | N _A | AEFF | A _R | F _{IS} | N _e (95% CI) |
|----------------------|------|-------------|----|----------------|----------------|----------------|------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Howth, | ND | 53.469° N, | 36 | 0.69 | 0.68 | 7.25 | 3.44 | 6.99 | 0.016 | -272.7 |
| Dublin | | 6.084° W | | | | | | | | (474.0 - ∞) |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Carne, | WEX | 52.184° N, | 29 | 0.67 | 0.64 | 7.00 | 3.42 | 7.00 | 0.037 | 677.7 (98.3 |
| Wexford | | 6.302° W | | | | | | | | - ∞) |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dunmore | WF | 52.085° N, | 48 | 0.68 | 0.64 | 7.92 | 3.59 | 7.24 | 0.050* | -768.4 |
| East, | | 7.033° W | | | | | | | | (400.7 - ∞) |
| Waterford | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| North Llŷn | NW | 52.806° N, | 40 | 0.67 | 0.64 | 7.92 | 3.47 | 7.30 | 0.049* | 2407.4 |
| Peninsula, | | 4.823° W | | | | | | | | (187.2 - ∞) |
| Gwynedd | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Aberystwyth, | CB | 52.415° N, | 44 | 0.67 | 0.66 | 7.58 | 3.34 | 7.07 | 0.012 | -1234.9 |
| Ceredigion | | 4.236° W | | | | | | | | (253.3 - ∞) |

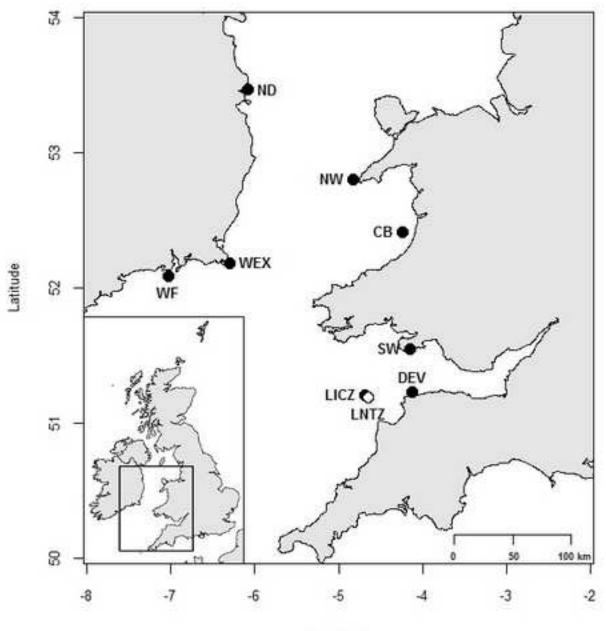
| Gower, | SW | 51.550° N, | 48 | 0.68 | 0.69 | 7.83 | 3.62 | 7.15 | -0.017 | -924.1 |
|--------------|------|------------|----|------|------|------|------|------|----------|--------------------|
| Swansea | | 4.144° W | | | | | | | | (378.0 - ∞) |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lundy Island | LICZ | 51.205° N, | 44 | 0.68 | 0.65 | 8.00 | 3.66 | 7.42 | 0.046* | 1252.1 |
| (outside | | 4.682° W | | | | | | | | (175.6 - ∞) |
| NTZ) | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lundy Island | LNTZ | 51.189° N, | 48 | 0.69 | 0.64 | 7.75 | 3.61 | 7.17 | 0.072*** | -406.8 |
| NTZ | | 4.649° W | | | | | | | | (642.2 - ∞) |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ilfracombe, | DEV | 51.228° N, | 48 | 0.69 | 0.68 | 7.50 | 3.65 | 6.97 | 0.014 | -916.0 |
| Devon | | 4.125° W | | | | | | | | (363.0 - ∞) |
| | | | | | | | | | | |

Table 2. Genetic differentiation of *Homarus gammarus* samples from the Irish Sea and569Bristol Channel. F_{ST} pairwise comparisons (lower diagonal) and exact G tests (upper570diagonal). * denotes significant G-tests (P < 0.05).</td>

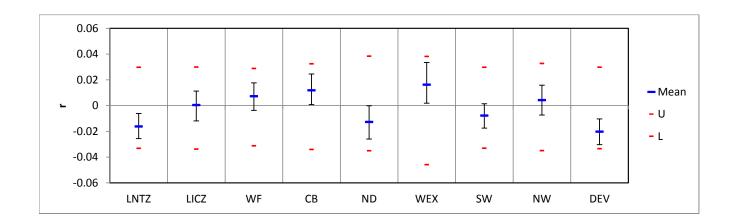
| | LNTZ | LICZ | WF | СВ | ND | WEX | SW | NW | DEV |
|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|
| LNTZ | | 21.057 | 23.444 | 25.968 | 24.981 | 19.784 | 36.454* | 24.002 | 31.472 |
| LICZ | -0.002 | | 20.833 | 26.380 | 23.484 | 21.954 | 20.792 | 17.966 | 17.061 |
| WF | 0.002 | -0.002 | | 23.220 | 27.522 | 23.410 | 25.288 | 27.539 | 17.068 |
| CB | 0.000 | 0.001 | 0.002 | | 30.277 | 22.052 | 23.771 | 15.187 | 23.773 |
| ND | -0.002 | -0.001 | 0.004 | -0.001 | | 23.467 | 24.216 | 18.863 | 24.525 |
| WEX | -0.001 | 0.001 | 0.004 | 0.000 | 0.003 | | 24.576 | 18.967 | 23.904 |
| SW | 0.001 | -0.002 | 0.000 | -0.001 | 0.000 | 0.001 | | 14.771 | 17.262 |
| NW | 0.000 | -0.002 | 0.004 | -0.004 | -0.003 | 0.001 | -0.002 | | 11.897 |
| DEV | 0.000 | -0.001 | 0.000 | -0.001 | -0.002 | 0.003 | -0.003 | -0.004 | |

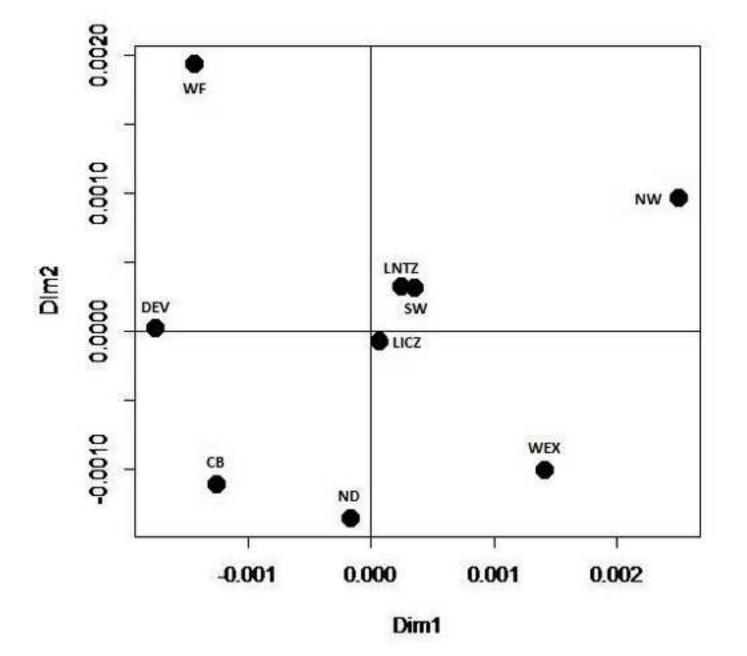
573 Figure legends

- Figure 1. Sampling locations of the European lobster, *Homarus gammarus*, in the Irish Sea,
 highlighting the marine protected (white circle) and non-protected (black circle) areas.
- 576 Figure 2. Mean within-sample pairwise relatedness, r_{qg} , and associated 95% confidence
- 577 intervals derived from bootstrap resampling. Grey bars are the 95% upper and lower expected
- 578 values for a null distribution generated from 999 permutations of data from all samples.
- 579 **Figure 3.** MDS plot of pairwise F_{ST} values of *Homarus gammarus* in the Irish Sea.



Longitude





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