

EXEMPLAR

Narragansett Bay Studies

Saunderstown Yacht Club

Saunderstown Yacht Club is located in Saunderstown, North Kingstown but on the border of Narragansett. Its off of Ferry Road which is along Boston Neck Road. During the time of the visit to Saunderstown Yacht Club on October 15th it was 51 degrees Fahrenheit with wind up to 5 knots with gusts of 7 knots. The sun was out and a few wispy clouds covered the sky. The water temperature was 52 degrees and at 5:15 the tide was on its way out. Low tide was at 8:53 and high tide was at 2:46. The coastline along the small beach section of the club it's mostly sandy with tons of small rocks naturally strewn about the beach. The rocks cover most of the bottom of the shallow water right off of the beach and then it begins to smooth out into sand. To the left of the beach, on the other side of the dock the coastline is completely covered in rocks of all shapes and sizes. They tend to be larger near the shore and as they get farther away from the water they get smaller. There is no sand here and the rocks extend out into the water and continue to cover the bottom for a few yards. Once the rocks end it becomes smooth and sandy with the occasional bed of seaweed. To the right of the small beach there is a point of rocks almost like a jetty that continues towards the land and turns into grassy land. One of the many animals found at the yacht club is the Portly Spider Crab (*Libinia emarginata*). They are very abundant in the shallow waters along the shore. Another animal found in abundance are periwinkles (*Littorina littorea*). They live all over the rocks that cover the shore. The Northern Sea Star (*Asterias vulgaris*) isn't as easy to spot because they live underwater and in small spaced between the rocks. Blue mussels (*Mytilus edulis*) are found in many places along the beach .

They cover the underside of the docks and can also be found underwater on the floor of the ocean. The moon jellyfish (*Aurelia aurita*) are found in abundance in the deeper waters around the dock and past it. Common barnacles (*Balanus perforatus*) are covering the docks and the rocks along the shoreline. Almost every hard surface is enveloped in a blanket of barnacles. One type of plant that is found growing in the water is eelgrass (*Zostera marina*). A type of green algae (*Cladophora vagabunda*) covers the rocks in a slimey slippery coat. Polysiphonia (*Polysiphonia spp.*) is a type of red seaweed that is found in the water and washed up on the shore. Horned Wrack or Fucus (*Fucus ceranooides*) is a common type of seaweed also found in the water, on the shore, and attached to the docks and rafts. Bull kelp (*Durvillea willana*) is also found off shore in the water.

The site is impacted very much by humans. There is the actual club house that has bathrooms, a kitchen, storage, an open room for events, a basement and many other features. There are two fenced in tennis courts between the club house and the beach. There is also a wide, paved path that leads from the parking lot, down a sloping past the club and tennis courts to the water's edge and turns into a boat ramp. Along the edge of the path on the opposite side of the courts, a rock wall is between the forest and the path. There is also a long dock built with a dingy dock and a larger dock for bigger boats. Along with the dock is a raft off to the side in front of the beach for swimmers. The sand that is on the beach portion of the site was not originally there, it was put there to make the area more suitable for a beach. Also the point to the right of the beach is manmade also. Stillman Saunders had built a hotel in the late 1800's in the area that is now the surrounding neighborhood. It was in the shipyard overlooking the bay. As the century turned many people flocked to Saunderstown for a summer on the water and it began to grow. The unused boat shop below the hotel was turned into the Saunderstown Yacht Club in 1927. From then until now it has offered junior sailing and tennis programs,

club sailboat races, and single, double, and mixed tennis tournaments. It's not just for sailing, many other types of boating occur at the club. It also serves as a place to relax by the water for those who belong to the club. Many events are held in the club house also by the members who rent it out.