

Hand Working on the Exe Estuary European Marine Site

Summary of Results from the Hand Working Survey 2016



July 2019

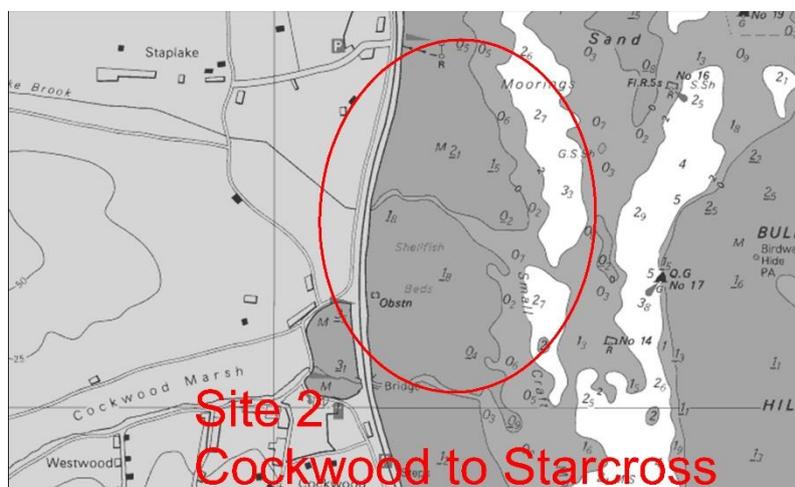


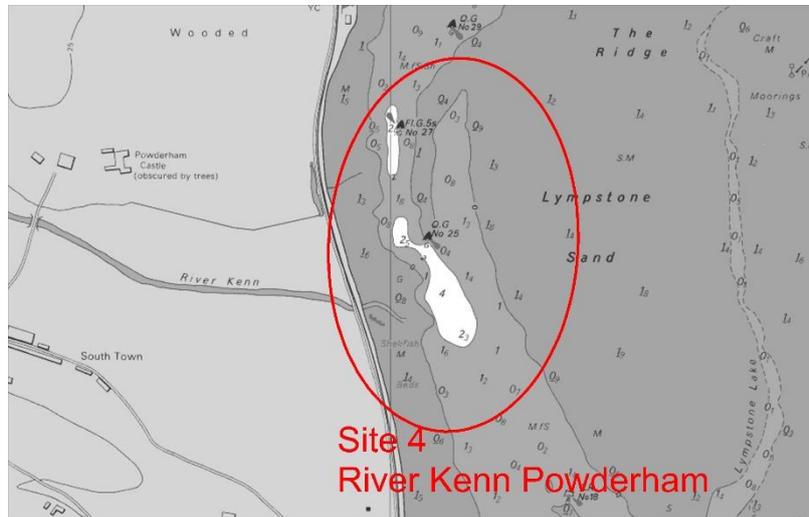
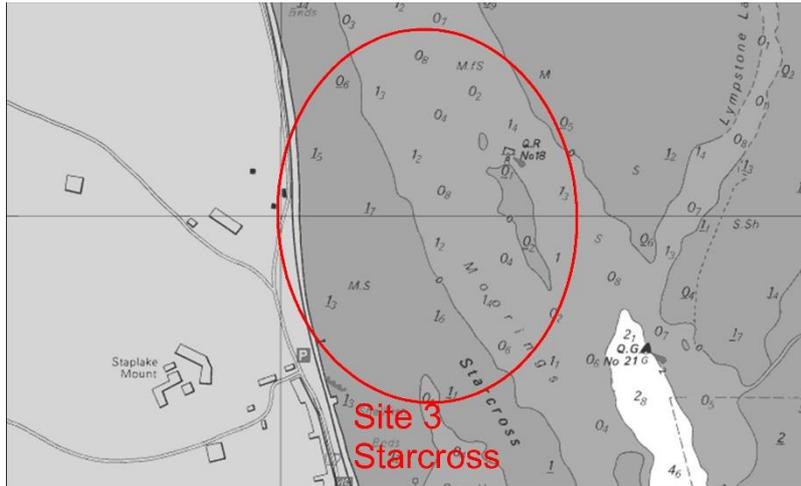
Summary

1. Survey Sites

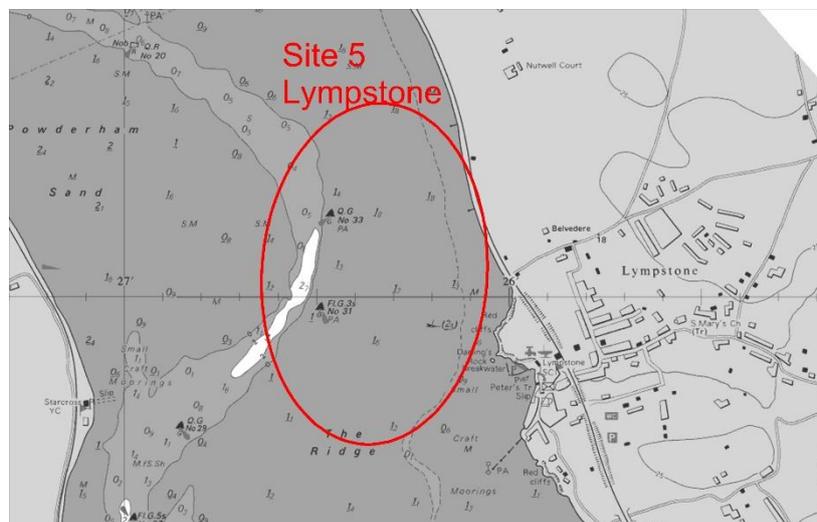
Eight sites were chosen, four on the west shore and four on the east shore of the Exe Estuary to undertake counts of individuals and location of hand working. Hand working includes hand gathering, crab tiling and bait digging activities. Where possible interviews were undertaken to gather more information.

i. West Shore sites:





ii. East Shore sites:





2. Survey Methodology

Surveys were planned on weekends and weekdays, and spring and neap tides. Survey dates were selected randomly to get the best possible and most statistically robust coverage.

A recording form was created used to record information for the hand working survey.

D&S IFCA Intertidal Hand-Gathering Survey Form 2016					
Date _____	Arrival Time _____	Depart. Time _____	Location _____		
Time of LW _____	Min & Max Tide Height _____		Total No. of Hand Gatherers _____		
Details of hand-gathering activity seen:					
Method <small>e.g. digging, raking, hand-picking, crab tiling</small>	Species collected	Coordinates & Time Seen <small>Position of individual, or of whole area they are working (please specify)</small>	Recreational or Commercial	Effort Information <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No. holes dug, area covered, no. tiles lifted• Amount collected (no. bags/buckets, individual numbers, weight)• Duration of activity	Other information <small>e.g. if interviewed: frequency/seasonality they work here, how long they will be working for, how much they hope to collect etc. Seen any bird disturbance?</small>

3. Surveys Results

In total 16 surveys were undertaken during 2016. During the survey the number of individuals undertaken different activities on each shore at the eight surveys sites were recorded. The results have been used to created locations charts and graphs below.

The main areas for shellfish collection are Cockwood and Cockle Sands, where there is very easy access to mussel beds. Some cockles and winkles are also collected in these areas; however the Exe Estuary currently has no classified area for cockle harvesting so this cannot occur commercially (but it does occur recreationally). The surveys looked at shellfish collection, crab tiling, and bait digging. Shellfish collection made up approximately 1/3 of these activities, with slightly higher levels on the eastern shore (around Cockle Sands). The majority of the activity took place on spring tides, with slightly higher levels at weekends than on weekdays, so it is naturally temporally limited. The highest number of people seen working on the estuary at one time was 10, but the average for both shores was approx. 4 people. On the occasion when 10 people were seen, one family collecting cockles recreationally accounted for 6 people (4 adults, 2 children). Commercial activity was

significantly lower than the recreational, with only one or two commercial hand-gatherers operating at any one time on the estuary.

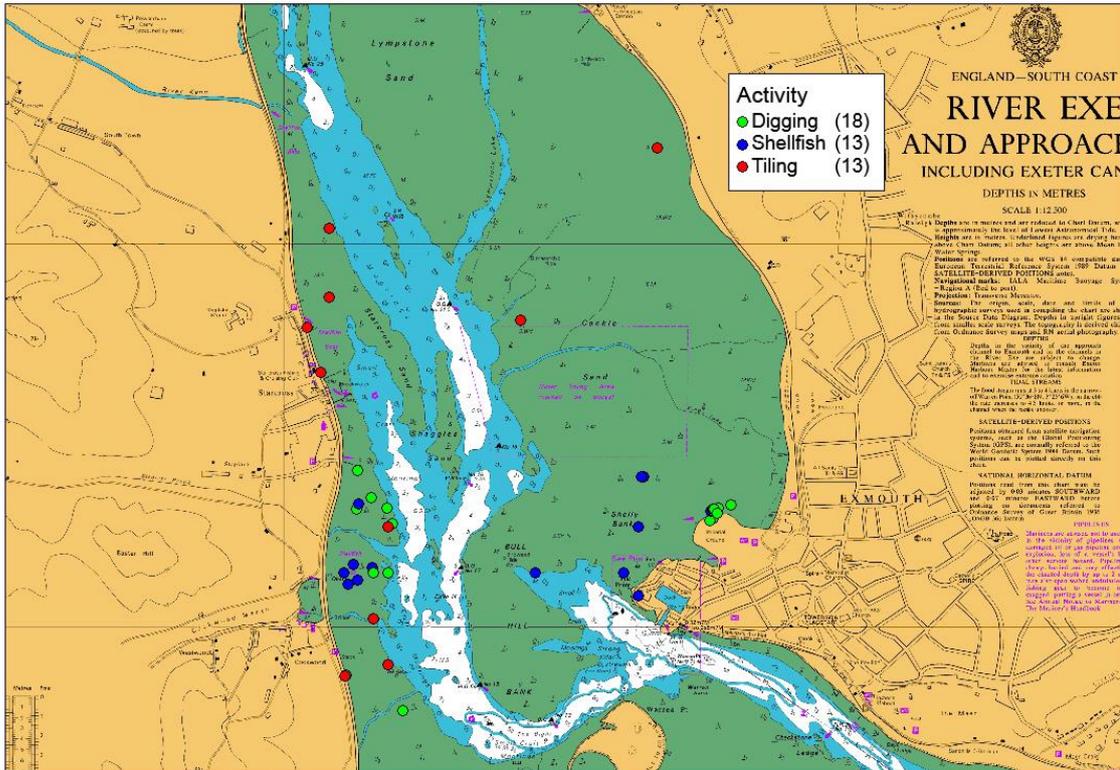


Figure 1: Total number of people observed (recreational & commercial) working in the intertidal area, shown by activity: bait digging, shellfish collection and crab tiling.

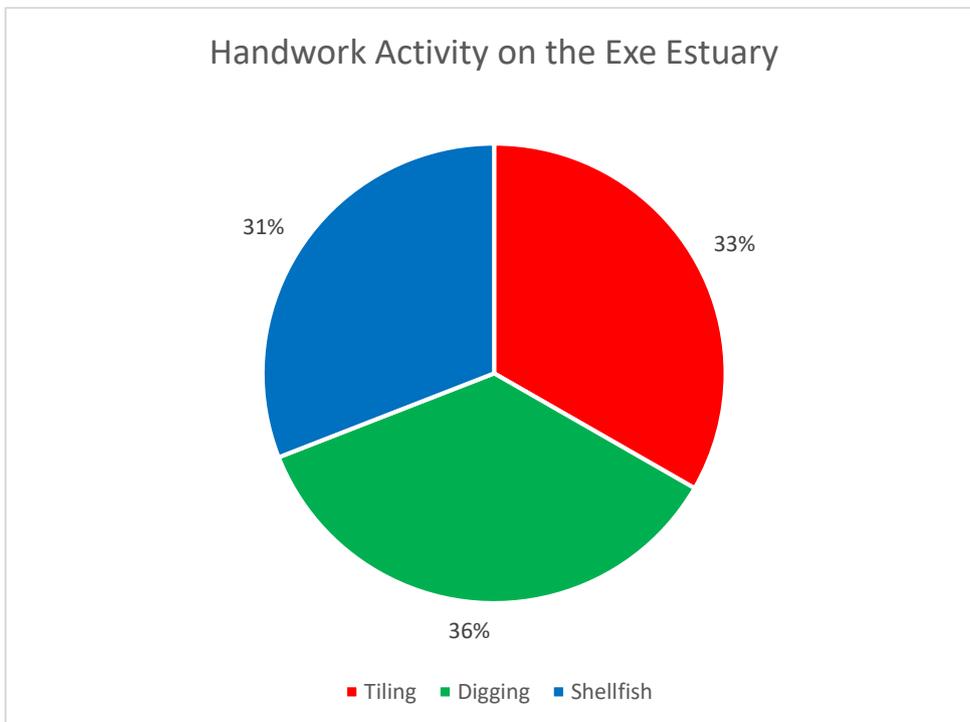


Figure 2: Handwork activity - Percentage of each activity observed

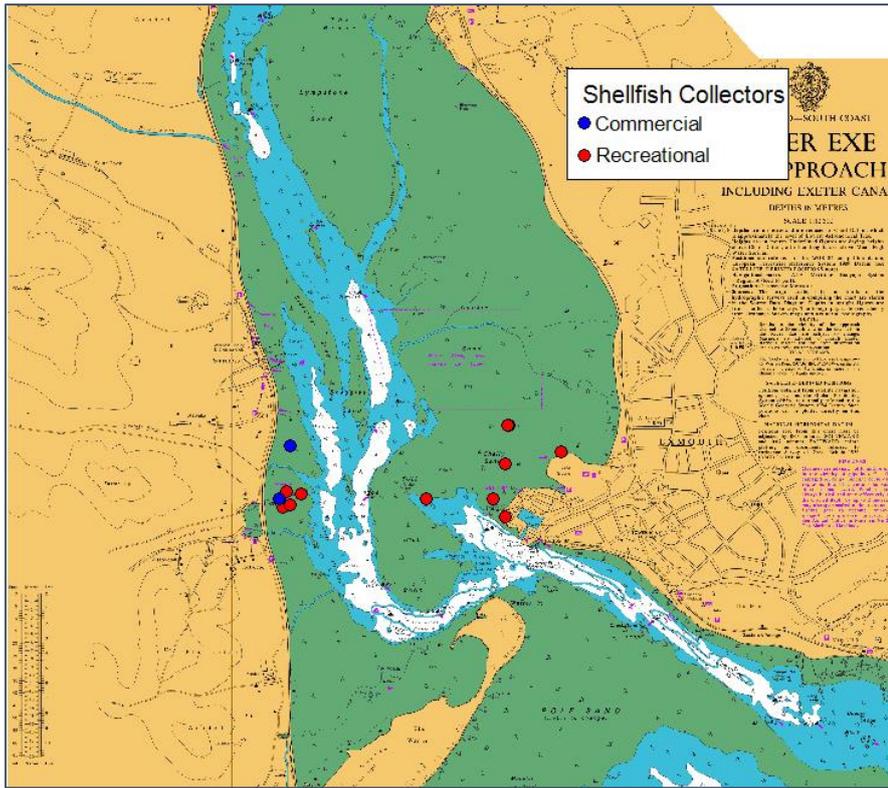


Figure 3: Total number of shellfish collectors observed, shown by intent

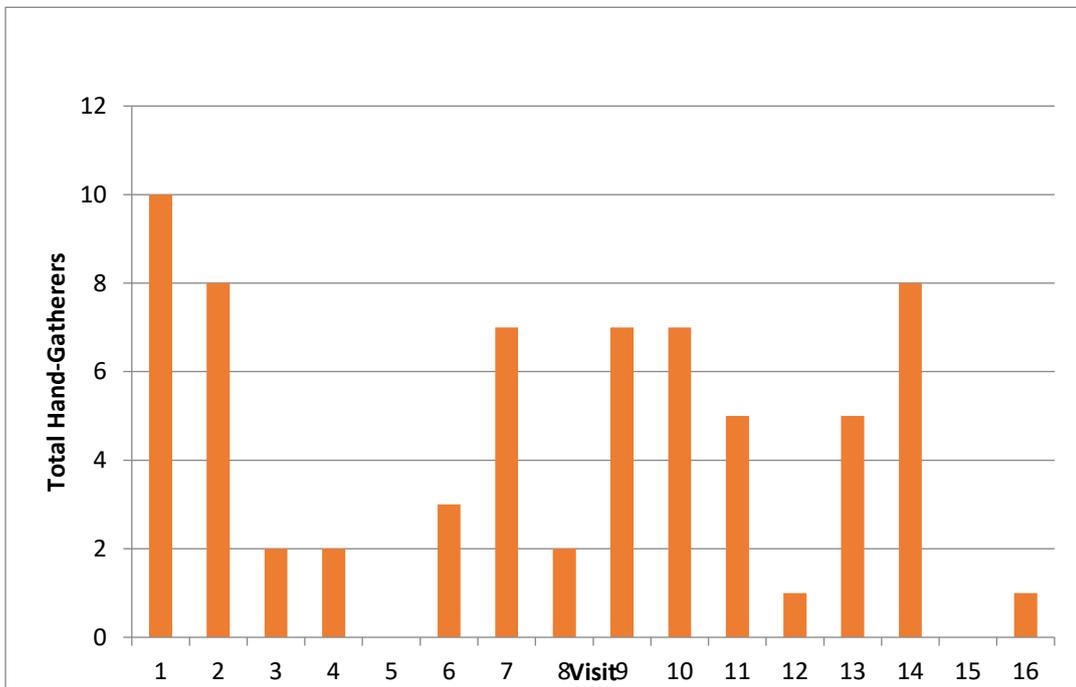
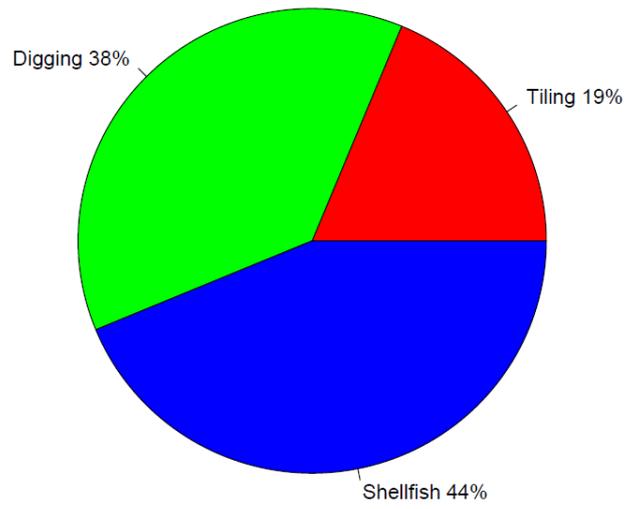


Figure 4: Total number of people observed collecting shellfish during each visit

A Hand-Gathering Activities on East Shore



B Hand-Gathering Activities on West Shore

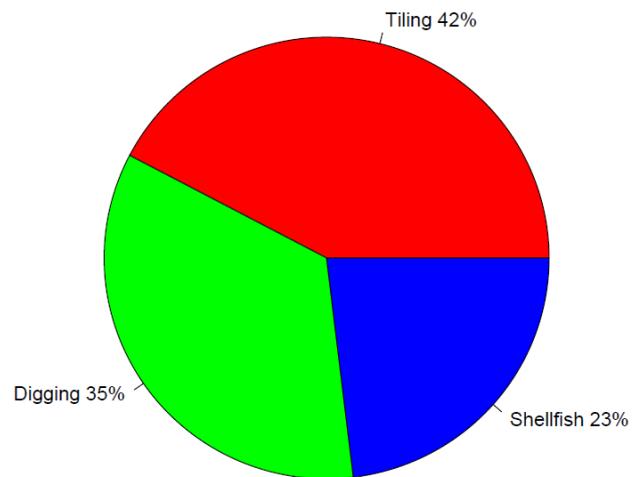


Figure 5: Proportion of each activity on the West Shore (A) and East Shore (B)

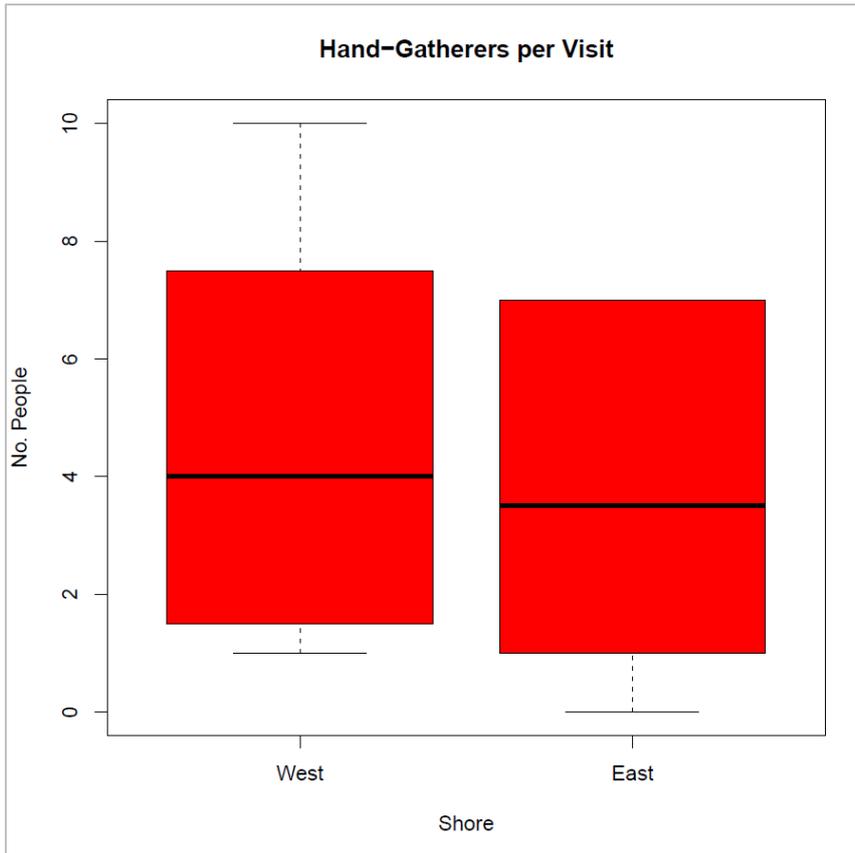


Figure 6: Number of hand gatherers on each shore per visit

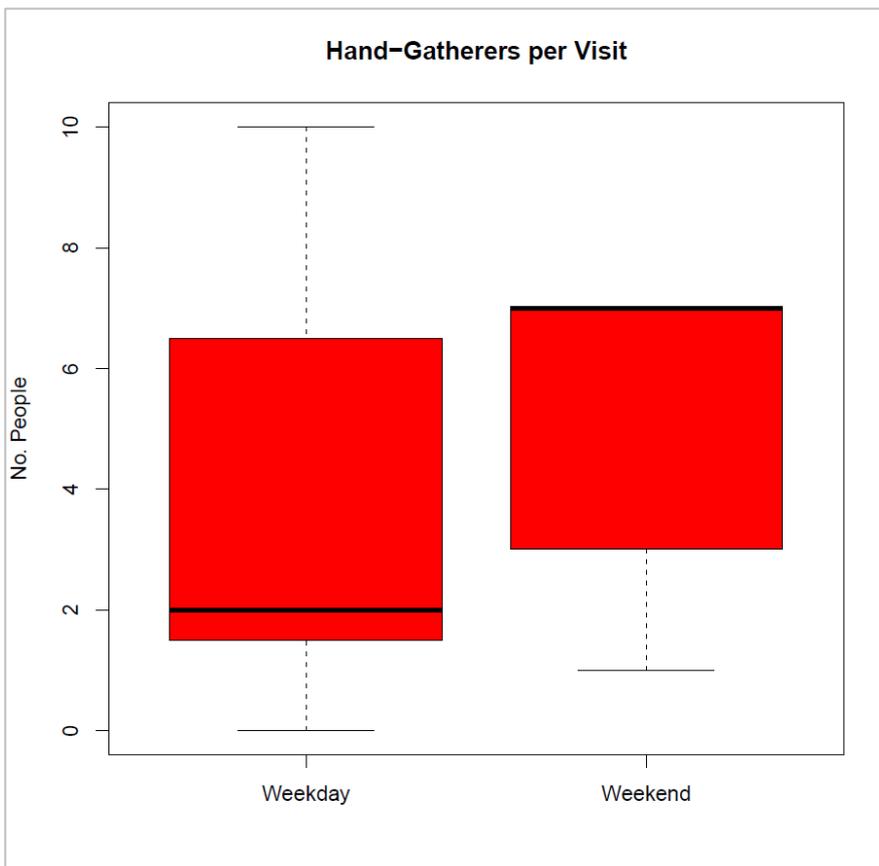


Figure 7: Number of hand gatherers present during weekdays and weekends

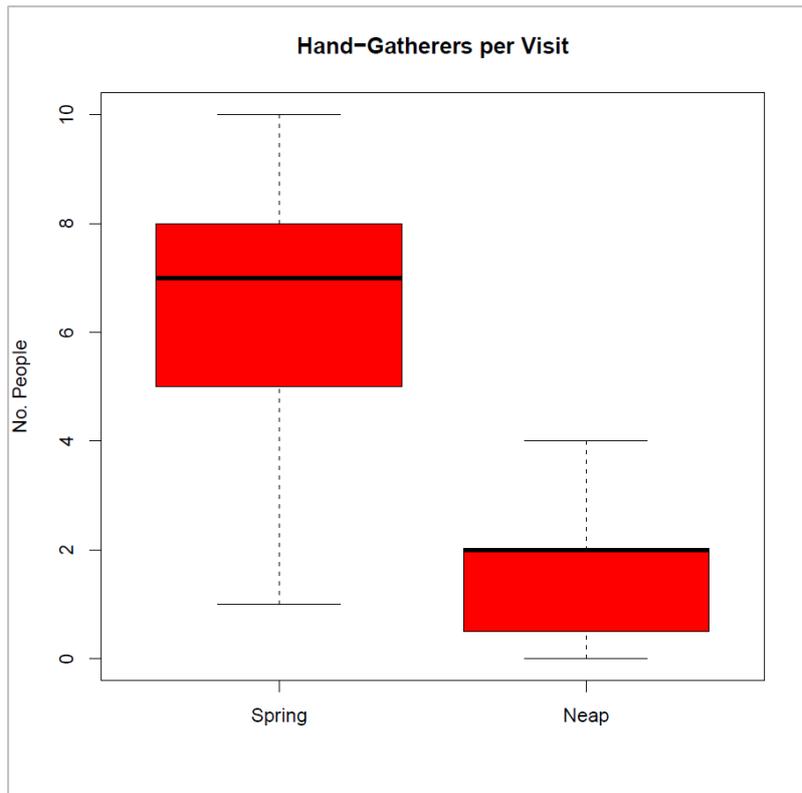


Figure 8: Number of hand gatherers present during spring and neap tides