

LUNDY MARINE  
CONSULTATION GROUP

'Friendship', Guineaford, Barnstaple, Devon.  
Weekday tel: 07372 45031

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Note of the 3rd meeting of the Consultation Group which was held at 6.30pm on Thursday 24th April 1986 in the Town Hall, Bridge St. Bideford.

Present K.Bower (DSFDC)  
P.Broomhead (NT)  
D.Clutterbuck (RYA)  
P.Cole (LFS) Hon.Sec.  
T.Crocker (BSAC/SWF)  
R.Earll (MCS)  
R.Gomm (NCC)  
K.Hiscock (FSC)  
J.Lamerton (NCC)  
J.Puddy (LC)  
N.Wilcox (LC)  
H.Worden (DSFDC)  
J.Wybrow (BSAC/NDC)

1. Apologies: Mr.R.Kimberley (DFTA Chairman) (In his absence the chair was taken by Mr.D.Clutterbuck), Mr.C.George (MAFF), Dr.C.Tydeman (WWF).

Neil Wilcox the newly appointed Landmark Trust Warden for Lundy was welcomed to the meeting.

2. Notes of the meeting held 31st Oct 1985. Mr.Crocker (BSAC/SWF) was concerned because the notes did not record that he had reserved his position on the question of a ban on spear fishing and in particular the taking of a fish with a knife. Mr.Worden (DSFDC) said that the Ministry might think that such a ban was discriminatory. The problems of spear fishing really stemmed from the activities of non-affiliated divers. Mr.Wybrow pointed out that the initials of the British Sub-aqua Club had been shown as BSCA instead of BSAC. These amendments were accepted.

Messrs Worden and Bower took temporary leave of the meeting at 7.05pm and it was agreed to hold over items 3 and 4 until their return.

5. Lundy Marine Reserve, activities 1986. Anglia TV were to make a 'Survival' feature in May and July with Mark Deeble and Victoria Stone, the last a most competent photographer and marine biologist.

Mr.Wilcox said that his duties at present were almost entirely terrestrial. The old shop in the High Street on Lundy was being turned into a Visitors' Centre, there would be display boards concerning marine and other island wildlife. There were already 4 NCC marine information leaflets available. Liaison with island based divers would not be difficult, those who used the waters about Lundy but did not land presented a much greater problem but the warden had an inflatable and would visit them. NW. was

not a qualified diver but was working to become one. DW(BSAC/NDC) stressed it would take two years to become a really competent one.

Aquaserve would be operating from the island in their normal way in 1986 but it was understood that they had sold their boat and were looking for another one. This might indicate some change in their policy for the future.

Dr. Earll said that if Lundy became a Statutory Marine Nature Reserve there could be a need for a specific marine warden during the summer months. Duties being mainly interpretative rather than instructional because often newly qualified divers started by looking at wrecks and underwater scenery and later became interested in marine biology. Mr. Puddy questioned how such a post would be funded, transport, accommodation etc? The Landmark Warden was gaining experience all the time and it was hoped that he could draw on the considerable expertise that was available in the Group so that as soon as possible he could progress to the full range of marine as well as terrestrial duties.

As Messrs Warden and Bower had rejoined the meeting discussion moved to:

3. Matters arising. All covered under other items.
4. Progress towards the establishment of a Statutory Marine Nature Reserve around Lundy. Mr. Gomm(NCC) said that the 1981 legislation was exerting positive pressure for marine conservation. The NCC at Peterborough with assistance from the SW Region had now produced a draft 'Consultation Package' for Lundy. This had gone forward to be considered by the NCC Advisory Committee for England, the NCC Directors for England and Wales, the NCC Advisory Committee for Science and then to the full Council of the NCC in May. If the document was then judged to be an appropriate one for public consultation it would be sent out under the signature of the Director of the NCC to those organisations and groups deemed appropriate by the DOE and NCC giving some six weeks for reply. In addition the proposals would be publicised by means of advertising and leaflets. The comments received would be considered by the NCC and, by the autumn, they would recommend to the Secretary of State for the Environment either that he made an Order designating a SMNR around Lundy or that a Public Enquiry be held.

The 'Package' itemised byelaws as follows: as owners of Lundy those of the National Trust already applied to the foreshore: the NCC had drafted byelaws relating to marine plants, animals, the sea bed and the deposition of rubbish: existing byelaws of the Devon Sea Fisheries Committee already applied to Lundy and they had now drafted specific byelaws related to spear fishing, trawling, gill and tangle nets within the area, also banning potting within 100 metres

of the Knoll Pins.

Mr Worden (DSFDC) pointed out that restrictions on trawling etc had been balanced by those on spear fishing so that neither could be said to be discriminatory, he was confident of the understanding and cooperation of divers in this matter. Temporary exemption from byelaws for appropriate research purposes etc could be authorised quite quickly by the issue of a permit. Cooperation of the parties concerned would maximise enjoyment of the reserve by all.

Mr Gomm said there was also a draft 'Code of Conduct for Visitors' which embraced shore visitors, divers, boat operators, anglers, fishermen etc. In answer to a question he said that a group similar to the LMCG would be looked for if an Order was made.

As a marine biologist Dr Hiscock applauded what had been done.

Dr Earll said there was a glorious opportunity for the Marine Reserve to work for the benefit of all the users as already happened off New Zealand.

Mr Crocker was pleased that a reasonable 'one for the pot' would be available for divers.

Mr Wybrow thought the proposals were common sense and to be commended.

Mr Gomm said that success very much depended on the full cooperation of the owners and their tenants on Lundy in addition to that of all users of the reserve.

6. Activities in 1987 were dependent on the outcome of item 5.
7. The meeting had gone well and there was a vote of thanks to the Chairman.
8. Date of next meeting, Thursday 10th July at 6.30pm in Bideford.

P.B.F.Cole.  
Hon.Sec. LMCG 14.6.86.