

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

Notes of the 5th meeting of the Consultation Group which was held at 7pm on Thursday 16th October 1986 in the Town Hall, Bridge St, Bideford.

Present K.Bower (DSFDC)
R.Broomhead (NT)
D.Clutterbuck (RYA)
P.Cole (LFS/Hon.Sec.)
R.Earll (MCS)
R.Evans (LT)
I.Giddy (TDC)
R.Gomm (NCC)
K.Hiscock (FSC)
L.Hobbs (INDSAC)
R.Kimberley (DFTA/Chairman)
J.Shaw (ADLtd)
C.Sylvester (Fisherman)
C.Tydeman (WWF)
N.Willcox (LCLtd)
W.Worden (DSFDC)

1. Apologies for absence were received from: G.George (MAFF); J.Puddy (LCLtd); J.Lamerton (NCC).

2. Notes of the meeting held on 10th July 1986 were agreed as a true record of that meeting.

3. Matters arising: the Secretary, P.Cole, confirmed that as agreed he had written to the NCC who had said they would give as much leeway as was possible to the views of fishermen who wrote in after the due date. W.Worden (DSFDC) said that boundaries for the proposed reserve had been revised after consultation with the local fishermen. It was confirmed that due consideration had been given to the Admiralty West Coast Pilot in making recommendations for anchoring in the reserve.

4. Progress towards the establishment of a Statutory Marine Nature Reserve around Lundy. R.Gomm (NCC) reported that the formal consultation paper setting out proposals for a Statutory Marine Nature Reserve (SMNR) had been nationally circulated to 130 bodies. 84 had responded; 35 giving support; 21 not opposed; 24 no comment: there had been two objections in principle, one on headed note paper of the Psychology Department of the University of Exeter and one from the National Federation of Fishing Organisations. An objection from local fishing interests had been resolved by an adjustment to boundaries as already reported by Mr Worden. It was also understood that reservations by the Landmark Trust, which included the means by which island inhabitants obtained bait, had now been resolved and this was confirmed by R.Evans (LT). The matter had been with the D of E since 10th Oct and adverts had appeared in today's (16.10.86) papers allowing 30 days for reply and it was thought likely that the SMNR would be designated before the end of the year.

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5. Lundy Marine Reserve, activities 1986/87. K.Hiscock (FSC) confirmed that the annual monitoring about the island had been completed, in general both plant and animal communities were stable; there was no sign of the red band fish. Studies on the boulders off the quarries and on the growth of seaweed showed no increase in turbidity (siltng) in fact there seemed to be more seaweed then in the previous year. It should be remembered, however that observations such as these could only be significant over considerably longer periods. Much was being learned, these Lundy studies as to why variations in the abundance of marine life occurred and recommendations would be welcomed as to what further communities should be studied.

J.Shaw (ADLtd) confirmed that in spite of indifferent weather throughout the year underwater visibility had been good around Lundy. Divers were starting to show more interest in the invironment about the island as against an earlier almost exclusive interest in wrecks. More divers were coming to the island and working from their own boats.

N.Willcox (LCLtd/Warden) was regularly monitoring the temperature of the seawater.

I.Giddy (TDC) asked if the creation of a SMNR would mean the appointment of a 'Big White Chief' to the reserve who could either forbid or regulate diving? He was assured that such regulation was not intended but R.Earll (MCS) considered there would be a need for improved wardening if the SMNR was declared. He asked what steps were being taken about such an appointment? R.Gomm (NCC) said that the Landmark Trust had stressed that there would be a need for improved wardening and a more comprehensive information service. The creation of a statutory reserve would mean that funds would be more readily available for such purposes. N.Willcox (LCLtd/Warden) said it was intended that the Divers Quay would be a source of information for visitors to the reserve.

R.Evans (LT) said that it was the Trusts intention to foster the reserve and in order to give the best facilities to its users it was thought that a marine warden would need to live on the island.

C.Sylvester (Fisherman) had been taking people angling off Lundy for many years, what if they wanted to fish where others were diving? W.Worden (DSFDC) pointed out that the 1883 Act already gave priority to the first man on the ground; the regulation of professional fishermen still come within the aegis of Sea Fisheries Committee. If the reserve was to succeed there would need to be compromise by all users.

I.Giddy (TDC) asked if bye-law 2a forbade line fishing? He was told no but it was suggested that when wrasse were caught they should be put back in the sea.

6. Any other urgent business. In answer to a question R.Gomm (NCC) said he did not know how the SMNR would be launched but he thought that the Minister might want to visit the island. The provision of publications was still under consideration.

L.Hobbs (INDSAC) asked if major changes from the proposals in the consultation document were likely to become part of the reserve package without further consultation? He was told that the only change proposed was a change in the boundaries, he did not know if the D of E intended to reconsult on this but he would distribute charts showing the redefined boundary through the Hon.Sec. of the LMCG.

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7. Date of next meeting. It was agreed that the Lundy Marine Consultation Group should continue to meet at least twice a year, at the end of the Winter and of Summer. The next meeting to be Thursday 30th April 1987 at 7pm in Bideford Town Hall.

PBF Cole. Hon. Sec. LMC G.