

LUNDY MARINE CONSULTATION GROUP

Hon. Sec. R. Irving, 101 Abingdon Road, London W8 6QU
Tel. 071 937 1177

Notes of the 10th Meeting of the Consultation Group which was held on Thursday, 5th July 1990 in the Town Hall, Bridge Street, Bideford at 7.00pm.

Present:

R. Kimberley	(Devon Sea Fisheries Committee, Chair)
K. Bower	(DSFC)
N. Downes	(DSFC)
S. Warman	(Nature Conservancy Council)
A. Gibson	(LT/LC, Warden)
R. Tait	(Devon Trust for Nature Conservation)
S. Taylor	(Bristol Channel Fishermen's Assoc.)
P. Cole	(Lundy Field Soc., retiring Hon. Sec.)
R. Irving	(LFS)

1. Apologies for absence:

J. Puddy	(LT/LC, Lundy Agent)
R. Evans	(LT)
C. Heeps	(Marine Conservation Society)
P. Broomhead	(National Trust)
J. Baker	(Royal Yachting Association)

- Notes of the meeting held on Thursday, 23rd November 1989 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman. An additional point to be raised was that in 3. Matters arising DSFC would seek to be consulted by NCC/LT if day to day Reserve management decisions were made which would affect DSFC's statutory duty as the fisheries byelaw-making authority.
- Matters arising: Robert Irving was welcomed as the new representative from the Lundy Field Society, and agreed to take on the Group's secretarial duties. Peter Cole was thanked for his work in this role over the past few years. The DSFC were unable to give any catch figures of shellfish caught within the Reserve, as skippers were not obliged to list catches within the Reserve separately.
- Report from the Reserve: Andrew Gibson presented this. The six week spell of severe weather earlier this year had led to a large number of boats sheltering in the Roads. A total of 1750 pots have been worked within the Reserve, which indicates a 50% increase in effort since 1988. Most are marked with black flags but without numbers on the buoys. The two main boats working within the Reserve have been an ex-Padstow boat now operating out of Ilfracombe, and another from Brixham. Local diving groups on the island were able to release gear tangled around the props. of two potting boats.

A questionnaire was handed to all diving groups staying on the island (and to as many visiting groups as possible) asking for their observations on u/w conditions. It is hoped this may provide some further information on general pollution levels. Very little plastic litter had been washed up on the shore, and Stephen Taylor pointed out they'd seen none when fishing 10 miles west of the island recently. Andrew Gibson had attended a course for coastal wardens run by the Marine Conservation Society, and had come away with various ideas for promoting the Reserve (possibilities being a snorkel trail and a glass-bottomed boat), all of which would, of course, cost money. The water visibility has been pretty good this year on the whole.

The Ministry of Transport had now notified two wrecks within the Reserve as being of protected status. The "Iona II" lies at 51° 11' 03N; 04° 38' 78W, about 1 km off Tibbetts Point, some 50 m from the more recent and intact wreck of the "Robert". Divers are not allowed within 50m of this wreck unless they have been granted a licence so to do. Full consultation with other government departments (including NCC) was undertaken prior to designation of this wreck. Andrew Gibson is named as licensee of this wreck, though is unable to issue licences to divers wishing to visit the site. The second site is of an unnamed wreck (known as the "cannon site") also off the east coast at 51° 11' 11N; 04° 39' 41W, being some 200m from the Knoll Pins. As far as other members of the Group were aware, no consultation had taken place for this site, the first knowledge Andrew Gibson had had was when he'd seen notice of it in the July issue of Diver magazine. Stephen Warman pointed out that NCC had not known of this designation either, and expressed his intention to open liaison with the DoT on this matter. Concern was generally expressed that the 100 m exclusion zone around the second site may hinder divers visiting the Knoll Pins, which is one of the most scenic underwater areas within the Reserve. The Secretary was asked to write to the MoT to ask for a representative of their department to explain these developments to the next meeting of the Group.

5. Activities 1990/1991: The NCC sublittoral monitoring studies were to be undertaken again this year, later this month. Robert Irving has been contracted to carry out the work and will report to the Group at its next meeting. Studies were not undertaken in 1989 as a result of financial rearrangements at NCC headquarters in Peterborough.

A seal count had been carried out earlier this year when 100 hauled-out seals were counted. Fishermen had reported seeing many seals this year. A count of pups was to be done during the last two weeks in September. It was suggested that pups might be tagged, but this would be difficult within the confines of a dark cave with the mother seal close by. Contact should be made with the Sea Mammal Research Unit in Cambridge to investigate if any studies on the seals could be usefully undertaken.

6. Landing Beach, Lundy; construction work: The work on extending the Beach Road had now been suspended until after the spring tides in September, to see how much of the spoil on the beach

would be washed away. The steps up to the South Light had been brought down by a land slip of the soft shale slope. The plan to put a tunnel through to Lametry had now been dropped. The LFS wished to voice its concern over the amount of disturbance which was accompanying the road building, especially to the rockpools between the Landing beach and the Divers' beach. When construction work had been underway, a sediment plume was visible up the east side of the island.

7. Any other business: A wayward murrelet (a seabird normally confined to the Aleutian islands of the north Pacific) had arrived off the island in May, leading to large numbers of birdwatchers (approx. 3000) visiting the island.
8. Date of next meeting: 22nd Nov.1990, 7.00pm in Bideford Town Hall.

Correct.
R. W. Remberley 22/11/90.

DIVER NEWS

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DIVER's coverage of news aims to keep you widely informed. Deadline for news copy is the first of the month preceding publication.

Why not host an AGM?

Want to put your branch on the diving map? The BS-AC's new chairman Deric Ellerby is inviting branches which would like to stage next year's AGM weekend to contact him via BS-AC HQ.

This new initiative marks a return to the old-style BS-AC AGM weekends (following May's AGM in Weston-super-Mare hosted by Wessfed) which used to be a major feature of the diving year. Divers attended from all over Britain on a combined business-and-pleasure basis.

The AGM weekends were hosted each year by a different branch, in a different part of the country. They were so popular that DIVER magazine used to lay on special trains to carry divers to the venues. The competition to stage the event was keen and it was often booked several years ahead.

Basic content of the weekend, says Deric Ellerby, should be a get-together on the Friday night, possibly with a civic reception, the AGM to be held on Saturday and a dinner with dancing on the Saturday night. Sunday could be used for film shows and wet or dry diving presentations.

BS-AC HQ will help with advice and back-up to branches which take the job on. Offers for the AGM of May 1991 should be made as soon as possible.

Instructing the handicapped

The Handicapped Divers Association (HDA) exists to help the disabled train and then actively participate in diving.

In the Autumn the Association will be running its Instructor Training Course which takes place at the Welsh National Watersports Centre at Plas Menai, near Caernarfon, over September 28-30. If you are a diving instructor interested in developing skills working with the disabled in diving, here's the opportunity. The course fee of £130 includes four lectures, two pool and three boat training sessions, exams and full board at the centre. The exam qualification is recognised by the British Sports Association for the Disabled.

For further details and an application form, contact the HDA chairman Ray Hill, 64 Stroud Crescent, Putney Vale, London SW15 3EJ (tel. 081 789 5158).



Middle Eastern diver Hans Peter Henneberg had all the help he wanted on his last holiday at Tulamben in Bali. You name it, they carry it. For here the wreck of the USS Liberty pulls in both the dive parties and the locals keen to make a bit on the side. You think wading in off the beach is enough with tank and weight belt on? These folk are fit, that's for sure.

New protected site off Lundy

Stone cannon balls, wrought-iron breech blocks and a wrought-iron cannon believed to date from the 16th century are the only indications of the ancient shipwreck under the sand which is the latest site to be designated this year under the Protection of Wrecks Act of 1973.

The site, off Lundy Island, North Devon, is at 51° 11' 11N; 04° 39' 41W and the area within 100m of that

position is protected.

This is the second Lundy site to be protected by the Secretary of State for Transport this year. On January 3, an order protecting the paddlesteamer *Iona*, sunk in 1864, came into force. The steamer, which was wrecked when setting off to be an American Civil War blockade runner, lies at 51° 11' 03N; 04° 38' 78W, and an area within 50m is protected.

● Queen Conch, that giant mollusc much loved by Caribbean chefs, is being farmed in the Turks and Caicos islands in an attempt to repair the damage from overfishing and shell sales to tourists. All over the Caribbean restrictions are now being placed on fishing the queen conch (pronounce it "conk"), whose firm, white meat can be eaten raw or cooked, fried or in stews. The Caicos Conch Farm has about 250,000 baby conch in pens.

Photographic competition beckons

The Wildlife Photographer of the Year 1990 competition, organised by BBC Wildlife Magazine and The Natural History Museum in association with the Fauna and Flora Preservation Society, closes on 10 July. So if you have pictures you think are worth entering, get moving!

Sponsored by British Gas, the competition promises to be bigger and better than ever, attracting thousands of entries from amateurs and professionals. Fourteen categories allow photos of every subject and style from sea or land, and involved with the competition are such celebrities as Sir David Attenborough, Julian Pettifer, Bill Oddie and Virginia McKenna.

The award ceremony will be at the Natural History Museum on November 28, immediately after which the winning photos will go on display at the museum before embarking on a nationwide tour. Winning pictures will be published in a souvenir supplement in the December issue of BBC Wildlife.

Competition Manager, c/o BBC Wildlife Magazine, Broadcasting House, Whiteladies Road, Bristol, Avon BS8 2LR (tel. 0272 238166).

● Have you dived the submarine wrecks at Pendennis Point, near Falmouth, Cornwall recently? If so and you lost your torch, Ian Postlethwaite, of 101 Harwoods Road, Watford, Herts WD1 7RQ, may be able to return it to you.



THE CAPITAL COMBINATION

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