



LUNDY MARINE CONSULTATION GROUP

c/o The Honorary Secretary
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Notes of the 16th Meeting of the Consultation Group

held on Thursday, 25th March 1993 in the Council Chamber,
Town Hall, Bridge Street, Bideford at 7.00 pm.

Present:

Ray Kimberley	Chair
Ian Knight	Torridge District Council
Keith Bower	Devon Sea Fisheries Committee
Paul Knapman	M.A.F.F. (N. Devon)
John Baker	Royal Yachting Association
Sarah Welton	Marine Conservation Society
Chris Mandry	British Sub-Aqua Club
Jane Driver	National Rivers Authority
Andrew Gibson	Lundy Warden
David Townshend	English Nature
Dan Laffoley	English Nature
Robert Irving	Lundy Field Society

1. Apologies for absence:

Steve Mulberry	(National Trust)
Sian Pullen	(Worldwide Fund for Nature)
Joan Edwards	(Devon Wildlife Trust)
Robin Evans	(Landmark Trust)
John Puddy	(Lundy Company)
Laurie Winsborrow	(Local fishing interests)
Mark Winsborrow	(Local fishing interests)

2. Notes on the last meeting, held on Thursday, 24th September 1992. These were accepted as being an accurate account of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising: There were no matters arising.

4. Report from the Reserve: This was presented by Andrew Gibson (see attached summary to these notes).

As an additional comment, Paul Knapman offered to ask Laurie Winsborrow about the line of marker buoys off Tibbetts Point which had been there since before Christmas. Pot fishermen were not obliged to mark their strings of pots with flags, although this would clearly help with identification.

[At this juncture it was decided to leave items 5 & 6 on the Agenda until last].

7. N.Devon/N.Cornwall Marine Forum: In the absence of Joan Edwards, comments were made on the inaugural meeting of this Forum by several others around the table who had been present at the meeting. The meeting was held on 25 February at Clovelly, and had been organised by the Devon Wildlife Trust, Devon County Council and Cornwall County Council. The Hon. Sec. of the Consultation Group had been invited to attend but had been unable to do so and had sent his apologies. Talks were given by a number of individuals including Dan Laffoley from English Nature on the Lundy Marine Nature Reserve. The meeting provided an opportunity for representatives of many different organisations to exchange views. Unfortunately, no particular mention was made of the existence of the Lundy Marine Consultation Group. It was envisaged another meeting of the Forum would be held in a year's time.

8. Administration and running of the Consultation Group: The Hon. Sec. raised the matter of secretarial expenses for the Group. Since its inception in 1985, the Lundy Field Society had met the costs involved with the running of the Group. These included photocopying, stationery, postage and use of telephone. In 1990 these amounted to £27; in 1992 it was £65, plus 5 days' of the Secretary's unpaid time. The LFS felt it could no longer justify this cost and asked if EN would be willing to take it on. If the post of Secretary was to become subsidised (grant funded), the total running costs of the Group were estimated to be in the region of £750. Keith Bower thought that DSFC would be unwilling to contribute to this. David Townshend explained that from now on there would be 3 key bodies involved with the management of the MNR: EN, DSFC and LT. It is envisaged that there would then be a separate Advisory Group, consisting of organisations represented on the Consultation Group, to offer advice to the Management Committee. The exact means by which this management hierarchy would operate would depend upon the acceptance of the Management Plan, at present in draft form (see below).

5. Summary of EN's littoral and sublittoral monitoring studies: Dan Laffoley gave a slide presentation of the findings of the report commissioned by EN on the marine monitoring work (Ref.: Fowler S. and Pilley, G., 1992. Report on the Lundy and Isles of Scilly marine monitoring programmes, 1984-1991). The summary page of this report was included with the notes of the last meeting. The studies showed that many of the organisms under study are extremely slow-growing and long-lived. Sea fans, for instance, grow at a rate of 10 mm/yr, and axinellid sponges may even shrink in certain circumstances. The numbers of yellow cup corals, found at the Knoll Pins and Gannets Rock, appear to be gradually declining in numbers, with little evidence of new recruitment.

Chris Mandry asked if these studies could be adapted to show whether there was an increasing amount of silt occurring on the east side of the island, as appeared to be shown in the photographs. Robert Irving pointed out that the monitoring work included one study which looked at the lowest depths certain species of algae grew. This would give some indication of the level of light penetration in the water (and hence turbidity). It was too soon to assess results from

this study. Chris Mandry intends to initiate a programme of underwater secchi disc readings at certain sites this summer.

6.1 The Marine Management Plan for Lundy: David Townshend apologised for the delay in producing this plan. A first draft had now been circulated to DSFC, LT, NT, LFS, and Keith Hiscock, asking for comments by the end of April. A second draft would then be circulated to all Consultation Group members as well as other parties. It was hoped that the Warden's work programme could be implemented this year.

English Nature propose to elevate the status of the Lundy MNR and to use it as their marine conservation "flagship": this was to be widely welcomed.

6.2 Interpretive Review: A consultant was to be commissioned to carry out a 2-month interpretive review for the MNR, starting in May. This will determine the types of material which will best serve the Reserve. It is hoped that the public signs at Bideford and Ilfracombe will be in place this autumn. Groups members offered to help disseminate interpretive material for EN. Ian Knight pointed out that there were to be tourist signs on the M 5 and the N Devon link road indicating "Bideford: ferry terminal for Lundy Island", though permission from the DoT for this request by TDC had so far taken 9 months.

6.3 Remote-operated video: EN have agreed to fund an ROV for the MNR. Andrew Gibson was expecting its arrival imminently. There would be a 300 ft umbilical on the housed camera which would allow its use from the shore, from a boat or with a diver steering it manually. It is hoped this will allow more visitors to the island to appreciate the marine life present below the waves. It could also come in useful for monitoring work.

9. Any other business: Points raised here have been included under other Agenda items as appropriate.

10. Date(s) of the next meetings:

Thursday, 30 September 1993
[Thursday, 24 March 1994 - provisional]

R.H. Kimberley 30/9/93.

LMCG MEETING

March 25th 1993

Wardens notes:

Weather

Up to the end of the year, the weather was wet and windy and since then, it has improved with less than average rainfall and several periods of calm sunny conditions. Very few frosts recorded and just a single sprinkling of snow. Sea conditions have been moderate, water visibility generally poor.

Activities

No diving or snorkelling has been undertaken since the last meeting, although one hardy Lighthouse Keeper has been for several short swims. Three campers on the island were going to have a go at snorkelling today - sea temperature 9 deg.

Occasional yachts have visited - mostly local. One group of canoeists spent several days around the island.

The snorkelling buoys have been take up for the winter and will be repositioned in April.

The same system of marking will be employed this year with minor changes to the length of rope used to support them - the sea had caused a great deal of corrosion to the anchor shackles and stronger fixings will be used.

The Oldenburg had to cancel several sailings owing to the weather and one Jenny's Cove landing was carried out. The Oldenburg underwent her annual dry docking in Appledore in January instead of March which has been a far better month for this operation.

Fishing and potting

Most activity was confined to the West side and appeared to be less than previous years. Since Christmas, there has been few fishing boats recorded until mid March. Foreign fishing boats have used the shelter of the island on several occasions during bad weather but have not landed crew. There is a line of potting buoys on the East side below Tibbetts Point which do not appear to have been serviced since before Christmas and the buoys are now heavily covered with algae - there is no flag or marker. Few potting lines used around the island have marker flags.

Monitoring

Warden has been checking for signs of Sagassum seaweed, which has shown up on other parts of SW coast. Non found yet, but it must be only a case of time. Dr Hiscox completed photographic study of Landing Beach - the beach has lost much of its shingle and at present

there is more sand showing than usual. It was not possible to carry out a full survey of inter tidal caves for seal pups, because of weather conditions at the crucial time, but shore observation points to a good number of surviving pups - pupping was early with the first pup being seen in the water during the last week in August (Gannets Rock).

Activities for 1993

In April we should receive the new Remote-operated video camera and this will be used to demonstrate the marine environment to visitors. A new shore walk leaflet is being produced and we expect to have waterproof guides for snorkellers to carry. The MCS Guide to the Shore book is on sale in the shop.

Our air compressor is being overhauled and should be back in service in time for the first resident diving group booked for the last week in April.

Some of the ideas for the Reserve appear as separate agenda items and are left out of report.

It is hoped that the value and unique nature of the Reserve will be given a higher profile and a number of ideas are being introduced.