

Lundy MNR Advisory Group Minutes 26th Meeting, 18th October 2007

Chair – Keith Hiscock
Secretary – Chris Davis

App – R Irving, A Bell, DWT, M Briddle, A Benguey, A Glover, S Ashton and J Butterwith

Contaminant levels from EROSIPS project were explained. Chair asked if any future samples could be taken? DG stated that Peter Henderson could take samples.

ACTION – Chair to contact P Henderson.

The re-survey of Prof. Lesley Harvey's 1946/7 studies would not be undertaken this year and it has been postponed to 2008.

KH did take some Sunset Cup coral tentacle cuttings which have been sent to Liverpool.

KH asked if Seasearch could investigate the Sunset Cup coral population at Dead Cow Point.

The Warden read out her report –

Warden's Report (April 2007 – October 2007)

1 Staff

1.1 There have been no staff changes since my last report in October.

2 Human Activity

2.1 **RIB:** The RIB was sent off the island for servicing on 15 March and despite assurances that it would be ready within two weeks it was two and a half months before the work was complete!! It was brought back to the island eventually on 30th May. This marked the beginning of an incredibly frustrating season for RIB activity. The season has been fraught with mechanical problems that are ongoing. Factoring in weather conditions and issues with the batteries it wasn't a great year for the RIB.

2.2 **Fishing and potting activity:** Regular land based patrols continued until May when the RIB was returned and the intention was to commence sea patrols. However with the weather, difficulties with the RIB and work pressures on the island resulted in a lack of MNR patrols over the summer months. Although no 'fishing effort' data was recorded, general boating activity between May and August revealed no infringements within the NTZ.

2.2.1 Incidents that have been recorded throughout the season:

2.2.1.1 26 May – Potential Potting Infringement

On 29 May a charter boat skipper reported pots had been seen inside the NTZ at NE point three days earlier, this was reported to DSFC who phoned known potting vessels. A MNR Patrol was carried out on 29th and pots were observed at the NE point, but just outside the boundary. A further check was made on the RIB on 31st May and no pots were present within the NTZ.

2.2.1.2 16 June – Angling Infringement

The Pride of Bristol, a regular dive charter was seen fishing at Gannets, I spoke to the divers on board and gave them copies of the zoning scheme and requested they pass them on to the skipper and request that he call me. On 18 June the skipper called and apologised he had been unaware of the fishing but advised that the problem was as a charity run boat there were 4 skippers and numerous crew members. I requested that he spoke to all the crew and suggested he came ashore on his next visit so I could provide him with more literature to keep onboard, which he did.

2.2.1.3 28 June – Potential Trawling Infringement

A seasonal volunteer reported a trawler, Our Josie Grace trawling off Tibbett's Point at 6am, I reported this to DSCF and attempted to reach them on VHF but to no avail. I did not hear a response from DSFC as to the outcome. However, I suspect that the trawler was outside the NTZ, it can be very difficult for individuals not familiar with the boundaries of the NTZ to perceive where these are when stood on land.

2.2.1.4 12 August – Angling Infringement

On 13th August a charter boat skipper reported witnessing angling off a vessel 'Predator' at the Knoll Pins the previous day. The skipper went alongside and informed them they were in a NTZ, they claimed not to have landed anything although a Pollock was seen landed. I attempted to find a contact for the vessel through web searches and other means but was unable to find a contact

2.2.1.5 2 September – Potential Potting Infringement

Approximately 3 days after the alleged incident I was informed by a reliable source that a potter Green Isle, was seen hauling pots at least 150m inside the northern end of the NTZ. The vessel then moved position and shot his lines along the edge of the NTZ. I reported this to DSFC who wrote to the skipper, Nick Fox regarding the hauling of pots inside the NTZ. Nick subsequently contacted me and assured me he was not and that he has not been inside the NTZ at any point.

We rely very much on the support of other users informing us of potential problems, and we are very grateful for all the support we receive in helping to enforce the zonation of the MNR

- 2.3 **Pot marker buoys:** Concerns were raised this season regarding small marker buoys that were being used for potting around the island. The buoys are dark green – black and are very small. The concerns were primarily from the hazardous nature of these as their size and colour make them extremely difficult to see and thus increases the chance of entanglement. I was not aware who was using these until last week, 12 Oct when I spotted SU510 – Alexander B potting around the *Carmine Filomena*.
- 2.4 **Entanglement** has been an issue this season and on 2 occasions commercial vessels had to rely on divers on Lundy to cut their props free from lines, so I would ask that ALL buoys are clearly visible and are correctly marked.
- 2.5 **Jet ski's & Cat-ski's** – A new one for me on Lundy!!! There were several incidents with Jet-ski's and Cat-ski's this summer; On at least 3 occasions jet-ski's were across on Lundy and on 8 September – a large group of at least six jet-ski's and several cat-ski's turned up all racing around the Landing Bay performing stunts and behaving recklessly; They all came ashore and I had stern words. As a mode of transport to Lundy with responsible use, I do not

have objection to individuals who wish to visit Lundy arriving on jet-ski's so long as their speed is kept below 7kts.

- 2.6 **Diving:** The dive season was busy this year with 32 dive groups and over 270 divers between April and October. These figures do not include visiting day boats, such as Appledore SAA and Ilfracombe BSAC, and other day charters. Bad weather resulted in 7 cancellations of group bookings throughout the season.
- 2.7 **Marine litter and other pollution:**
- 2.7.1 Small amounts of litter have been washed ashore especially after Easterlies, regular beach cleans have been done as and when required.
- 2.7.2 On 3 July there was a slick of approximately 200m² in the Landing Bay, two vessels were moored in the bay and I spoke to both on VHF, both checked their vessels and reported it had not come from them. There was a report that a 3rd vessel had been present in the early hours, but neither could confirm its identity. On 6 July, 2 oiled guillemots were washed up in the Landing Bay – see later details.
- 2.7.3 Potential pollution – on 5 August the Coastguard team was mustered as a vessel 'Bruno of Sutton' had run aground on the east coast just north of Quarry Beach. The crew were evacuated and luckily there was little damage, with the help of Appledore lifeboat she was re-floated on the high tide with no pollution.
- 2.7.4 *Oldenburg* – Although I did not witness the incident it was brought to my attention, via a letter to the National Trust, that the *Oldenburg* had allegedly made a discharge into the MNR whilst alongside the jetty. Upon investigation it was found to be a grey water discharge and Derek is going to give further details in the agenda point for the Management Group Forum.

3 **Wildlife**

Grey Seals: One netted seal seen periodically. On 5 October a new-born pup was seen on the Landing Beach and was monitored for a few days. Unfortunately with high tides it kept getting submerged and its health deteriorated with evidence of cuts and weight loss and was last seen on 10 October.

3.1 **Cetaceans:**

- 3.1.1 **Dolphins:** Regular sightings of common dolphin between May and September. 22 separate reports with pods of between 2 and 30. Only one reported sighting of bottlenose dolphins on 7 October when 30 were spotted at the North End. A pod of 6 Risso's dolphins were seen on 14th October.
- 3.1.2 **Porpoise:** Sightings between April and October.
- 3.1.3 **Others:** Minke whale was reported on 10 June NW of Lundy. On 24 June another sighting was recorded, most likely a Minke whale although there was some speculation it may have been a Sei whale. Whichever species it was, it was very obliging, arriving on the first day of National Whale & Dolphin Watch Week and was observed from the Tavern patio by numerous staff and visitors for over an hour. An Orca was seen by Andrew Benguey off Gannets' Rock on 22 September.

3.2 **Basking Sharks:** An extremely poor year for sightings!! Only 7 reported sightings over 3 days in June. The first report was 8th June and on 10th June 3 sightings were reported at Knoll Pins, the North End and off the West coast, all sightings of a shark ~3m. The West coast sighting was from the warden's RIB and the shark was observed for half an hour and it had a remora! Finally the last sightings were on 29th

June when 3 reports were made, Rattles 10:55-11:10, Battery 12:15 and again at 17:00.

3.3 Seabirds:

3.3.1 The puffin season was an exciting one this year. Regular surveys were conducted at the burrow sight of St. Phillips Stone. The surveys showed activity at 7 different burrows. The results suggest that 5 pairs attempted breeding, feeding observations were recorded at 4 burrows, indicating successful breeding. At the fifth burrow activity declined in mid-June suggesting a failed breeding attempt. On 13 July 07 a puffling (puffin chick) was observed at one of the burrows. I will be writing a full report for the LFS journal.

The seasonal seabird volunteer, Sarah Dalrymple started on 15 May and conducted extensive surveys of guillemots, kittiwakes & fulmars. She has produced a full report which will be published in the LFS journal. In brief:

3.3.2 Guillemots: Average productivity of 0.27/pair across 2 survey sites.

3.3.3 Kittiwakes: Average productivity of 0.3/pair across 2 survey sites. With 13 breeding attempts at Long Roost and a final productivity of 0; Compared with 106 nesting attempts at St. Marks inlet where 37 fledgling were recorded final productivity of 0.35.

3.3.4 Fulmars: Average productivity of 0.54/pair across 2 sites.

3.3.5 Manx Shearwaters: Sophie, Sarah & I checked the Old Light colony for occupied burrows in May & June and recorded 64 apparently occupied burrows. In September a number of RSPB volunteers returned to Lundy to complete the survey through mark-recapture and 51 juveniles were ringed. Helen Booker will be preparing a paper for the LFS journal on this productivity work, with Tony Taylor and David Price.

4 Monitoring

4.1 Temperature loggers: Temperature loggers are finally in place at the Robert and under the Jetty, apologies for the delay!

4.2 The new weather station has had several technical glitches since its arrival, but is finally running smoothly. Unfortunately there is still some work to be done before we can consider a live connection to the web, as it requires a huge memory capacity to store the data on a PC and has unfortunately 'killed' 2 laptops so until this is resolved we will have to postpone the Lundy website weather page.

4.3 *Sargassum* clearance this season was not a great success. We did clear a considerable amount, but unfortunately it was a bit too late in the season and we were unable to keep on top of it – lesson learnt to start EARLIER in the season!! I have to report that I also discovered 2 rogue plants in Devils Kitchen which, until this year, we'd believed to have been clear.

5 Raising Awareness

5.1 Events on the Island continue as usual, and we've had over 1500 participants to date this year. Sophie and I changed the format of our snorkel safaris this summer so that visitors get longer in the water and we had a 23% increase in the number of visitors taking part.

- 5.2 School Visits: The Education Days we scheduled on Lundy were not a huge success, but this was mostly circumstantial: we had several cancellations due to weather, and Lundy's closure due to the Norwalk virus. But we will not be deterred and have organised more Education Days for 2008. Visits to schools on the mainland is going ahead again this year, Sophie is off for a week in October and will be visiting 5 schools, and I will be across on the mainland for school visits in February. Since January we have involved over 500 school children and community groups in educational activities either on or about Lundy.
- 5.3 Interpretation – following on from the Interpretation Review that was produced there are 2 projects currently underway:
- 5.3.1 Marine Guide. Paul Kay's SCUBA Divers Guide to Lundy MNR is being re-done. In conjunction with Paul; the guide is going to be updated and changed so that it is a generic guide to marine life around Lundy and will encompass rockpooling and snorkelling activities. As a result we have been looking at the existing 'Code of Conduct' that is in the current addition and would like to review this.
- 5.3.2 Production of a leaflet template in the 'Lundy Style' has started. This will be used for all future leaflet productions so that interpretation is streamlined and we have leaflet series.
- 5.3.3 The leaflet template will have standardised fonts and formats and have the same design on the front page for each leaflet. It is intended that the back page remains fairly constant with contact details for Lundy Shore Office and Landmark Trust and 2 further spaces for contacts details depending on leaflet content and authors. On the back of every leaflet there will be a strip of logo's for all the partners of the Management Group Forum – can I please request that these are sent through to Lesley as we are still missing quite a few.
- 5.3.3.1 The old 'English Nature' Lundy's Wildlife needs updating and will hopefully be the first leaflet to be produced in the new leaflet series run.
- 5.4 A new DVD of Lundy's underwater wildlife is in production, Doug Anderson spent a week on Lundy in August filming and managed to get some great footage.

Nicola Saunders, Lundy Warden

Other matters

Nick Fox had on two occasions been seen within the NTZ. DSFC have written to him
ACTION – DSFC to follow up. ACTION – DSFC to contact CSFC to see if they could undertake a patrol at the end of May.

Clive – divers discovered 30-40 dead bull huss off the rattles. Do not know where they have come from but a lot of dead dog fish have also been seen. **ACTION – DSFC to follow up.**

'Alexander B' has been fishing with small dan buoys. DSFC explained that the marking of gear is a difficult issue. **ACTION – DSFC to chase with Alex B.**

Diving – Ilfrcombe and Bideford dive clubs to provide records for trips to the island.

Issue of grey water from the Oldenburg was resolved.

Sargassum appeared to have increased this year.

Interpretation review – NS to send out. Three main areas this year, update of marine guide, leaflet and DVD.

NTZ – Increase in potting effort, concern over ncreaseed potting effort. **ACTION – TR to discuss issue of controlling fishing effort in light of the effects of the NTZ.**

Chair asked in dive clubs could look out for small seafan next year.


NE support for mini conference.

Code of Conduct – general support expressed. ACTION – NS to e-mail COC.

Seaflex – 3 mooring brought (1 for Appledore, 1 warden and 1 for visitors). CM wouldlike one for Frolica when funding allows. Total of 6 moorings in the bay. DG thinks that it is probably enough.

AOB

CM – has concern about ladders and access on to the island.


23/10/08