

LUNDY MARINE NATURE RESERVE ADVISORY GROUP

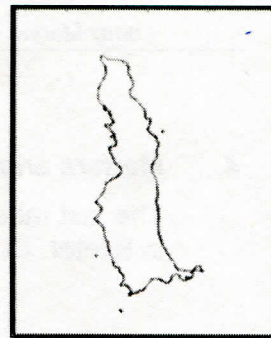
The Aims of the Group are: 1) to provide a nucleus of expertise on the marine habitats and waters surrounding Lundy; 2) to provide a forum for exchanging views on present and proposed activities around Lundy; 3) to safeguard the interests of all those who use the waters around Lundy and its natural resources; and 4) to advise the Management Group for the Reserve / Special Area of Conservation.

Established: 1985

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Notes of the 30th meeting of the Lundy Marine Nature Reserve Advisory Group

(formerly known as the Lundy Marine Consultation Group, of which this was the 48th meeting)

held on **Tuesday, 13th October 2009** in the Committee Room, TDC Offices,
Riverbank House, Chanters Road, Bideford at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Keith Hiscock	(KH)	Marine Biological Association/Lundy Field Society – Chair
Robert Irving	(RI)	Lundy Field Society/Marine Conservation Society - Secretary
Keith Denby	(KD)	Ilfracombe & N Devon Sub-Aqua Club
Mel Parker	(MP)	Natural England
Andrew Knights	(AK)	Natural England
Nicola Saunders	(NS)	Lundy Warden
Derek Green	(DG)	Lundy Manager
Andrew Bengey	(AB)	Obsession Charters
Miles Hoskin	(MH)	CMER Consultants
Steve Ashton	(SA)	Ilfracombe & N Devon Sub-Aqua Club
Chris Mandry	(CM)	British Sub-Aqua Club
Chris Leather	(CL)	Torrige District Council
Sarah Clark	(SC)	Devon Sea Fisheries Committee
Alison Hamer	(AH)	English Heritage

Approved
[Signature]
22/4/10

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting, especially those attending for the first time.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from: John Butterwith (N. Devon Fishermen's Association); Nick Russell (English Heritage); Clive Pearson ('Jessica Hettie'); Colin Eastman ('Lundy Murrelet') and Royston Johns (Torrige District Council).

2. **Notes on the last meeting, held on 4th June 2009**

Copies of these had been circulated prior to the meeting. RI thanked MP for taking the minutes of the meeting in his absence. With a few minor amendments, they were signed by the Chairman.

3. **Matters arising from the previous Lundy MNR Advisory Group Meeting**

KH's paper on the DNA analysis of sunset cup corals (taken from snippets of their tentacles) had been rejected on the grounds that there were too few replicates taken. To amend this, further samples had been taken from individual corals at Lundy (from the Knoll Pins East site – thanks to the Ilfracombe SAC for their help in obtaining these), as well as some from the Isles of Scilly and from Brittany. Phil Watts at Liverpool University is undertaking the DNA analysis for KH.

4. Matters arising from the Lundy Management Forum meeting

The last meeting of the Forum took place on 5 June 2009 at Natural England's offices in Exeter. DG kindly ran through what was discussed.

5. Report from the Reserve

The report attached as Annex A was presented by NS.

6. Updates on Activities and Research

6a. Results from the first 5 years of monitoring the No Take Zone

Dr Miles Hoskin (Consultant, Coast & Marine Environmental Research, based in Falmouth) presented the results of the first five years of the No Take Zone (NTZ), by means of a PowerPoint presentation.

There were three parts to the monitoring programme: the first was looking at the abundance and size of certain crustacean species (lobster, brown crab, velvet swimming crab and spider crab); the second involved assessing sessile faunal species present on reefs, in particular sea fans, branching sponges and certain anemones; and the third investigated the number and size of scallops. The results of the monitoring programme have shown there to be very little variation in overall numbers and size of individuals for both the sessile fauna and for the scallop study. However, for the crustacean species, the lobster population within the NTZ had shown a statistically significant increase both in the number of individuals and also in their overall size, when compared to the control areas.

Miles suggested a possible correlation between lobster and velvet crab numbers. Velvet crabs are large enough to prey on very small lobsters, but once the lobsters have outgrown the crabs, the crabs then become prey to the larger lobsters. This might explain why velvet crab numbers have been declining whilst those of adult lobsters have been increasing.

No monitoring has been undertaken this year (2009), but it was hoped that the programme would be continued from 2010 onwards, with possibly some modification to the overall programme. KH asked if the results from the scallop survey really reflected the true number of scallops from both within and outside the NTZ. He queried the method chosen to determine this, namely random sampling using transects, and suggested that fixed position quadrat areas may have been more appropriate. MH disagreed and stated that it was simply a matter of more replicates being required in future.

6b. Update on the DSFC lobster tagging project – year 2

Sarah Clark (Fisheries Officer, Devon Sea Fisheries Committee, based in Brixham) brought the Group up to date with the DSFC lobster tagging project in N. Devon which started in 2008.

In June/July 2009 and September 2009, two further tagging programmes were completed, funded by Natural England. A fishing boat (*Walrus* WY1 – Geoff Huelin) was chartered for the surveys and six strings of 35 pots were placed at locations around Lundy Island within the NTZ and the MNR to replicate the location of survey strings from the previous year. Orange streamer tags were used, each with a unique 4 digit number. In total, 690 lobsters were tagged within the MNR in 2009, with 420

lobsters tagged within the NTZ. (A further 124 lobsters were tagged whilst surveying on board fishing boats along the North Devon coast). During the September survey, 53 lobsters previously tagged in the June survey were recaptured. Some lobsters caught in the NTZ in the June survey showed signs of shell disease and a few were limp and moribund. After discussions with Cefas, it was decided that one of their officers would accompany DSFC on the September tagging survey around Lundy. Haemolymph samples were taken from all tagged lobsters and a few whole lobsters were removed to assess the health of Lundy's lobster population as a whole.

Table showing lobster tagging totals for 2008-2009.

	Total no. of lobsters tagged	No. of males tagged	No. of females tagged	No. of berried females tagged	No. of lobsters tagged with the NTZ	Yellow tags recaptured	Orange tags recaptured
2008	905	444	461	50	272	202	
2009	814	434	380	63	420		61
Totals	1719	878	841	133	692	202 (22.3%)	61 (7.5%)
% of total		51.1%	48.9%	15.8% (of females tagged)	40.2%		

The project is now beginning to show some interesting results, and will continue into 2010 when it is hoped to investigate the spill-over effect of lobsters from the NTZ. One of the project's successes has been the widespread support it has gained from pot fishermen.

KH asked if SC had looked at any models predicting lobster larval movements and pointed out that Prof. Calum Roberts had done some work on this in relation to 'connectivity'. MP was asked to look into this on behalf of Natural England.

6c. Lundy Marine Monitoring Review

Mel Parker (NE) brought the Group up to date with regard to Natural England's proposals for the monitoring of the SAC, NTZ and the intertidal area (whose protection is shared by both SAC and SSSI designations). There had been a pause in the monitoring effort in 2009 so that findings and subsequent priorities could be assessed. There was a 6-year reporting cycle on the conservation status of the SAC, the NTZ and the SSSI, and as yet there was no framework within which this could be undertaken in a co-ordinated manner. A contract to review the various monitoring requirements had recently been advertised and would be awarded next week (late October 2009), with a report due by the end of March 2010. It was planned that monitoring fieldwork would recommence in 2010.

[Note that Haskoning UK have since been awarded the contract to review the marine monitoring programme at Lundy].

6d. Update on sediment biota and biotope mapping study

MP reported that Natural England are still awaiting the report from Ambios, who are in turn waiting for backscatter data from the MCA. MP has been assured that the data will

be available in about two weeks' time. It has now been over 12 months since the data were requested and clearly there are some major difficulties in passing the data on to Ambios.

[Note that Ambios have since submitted their report to Natural England *without* the MCA data: Nunny, R. & Smith, P. *Mapping Lundy's subtidal sedimentary biotopes*. Draft report to Natural England by Ambios Environmental Consultants Ltd. and Aquatronics Ltd.].

6e. Progress towards Marine Conservation Zone status for Lundy

MP informed the Group that the Marine Bill was due to Royal Assent next month [on 12th November 2009] when it would become the UK Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. The Act will allow for the establishment of a network of Marine Conservation Zones around England and Wales (Scotland will have its own Marine Act shortly). In January 2010, the Lundy Marine Nature Reserve will change its name to become the Lundy Marine Conservation Zone, the first such MCZ in the country. A list of other potential MCZs in the south-west is being drawn up by the Finding Sanctuary project. This organisation will also take responsibility for recommending any changes to the Lundy MCZ's boundaries or Conservation Objectives which the organisation considers will be beneficial.

MP asked members of the Advisory Group to reflect on any changes they may wish to see for the Lundy MCZ, particularly with regard to its boundaries or the Conservation Objectives (which have still to be drawn up). The Finding Sanctuary project is due to report to the Minister (for the Environment) in 2011. MP has a list of individuals covering the north Devon area on behalf of the Finding Sanctuary project.

KH pointed out that the Finding Sanctuary project should be made aware of the expertise present within the Advisory Group, and that members of the Group should be included in any future consultations regarding Lundy.

7. Any Other Business

1. Steve Ashton informed the Group that after three years as Chairman of the Ilfracombe Sub-Aqua Club, he was stepping down and would therefore not be attending future meetings of the Advisory Group, but his successor would. He pointed out the Club was due to celebrate its 50th year of existence next year and that there would be a special event to mark the occasion in April 2010.
2. Keith Denby raised the matter of disseminating information about the No Take Zone (in particular) by means of a web site. He had raised this same issue at the last meeting of the Advisory Group. He had undertaken a search for Lundy No Take Zone using Google, and the website 'LundyNoTakeZone.com', which had been set up by Miles Hoskin in 2003, had come top of the list. However, all of the information on that site was now well out of date. In his defence, MH explained that he had obtained a grant from the Esmée Fairburn Trust to set up the site, but no allowance had been made to maintain the site. KD suggested the LFS would be the best organisation to host such a site, as no one individual would then be responsible for maintaining it, but an organisation would be.

9. **Date of next meeting: Thursday 22nd April 2010 to be held at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber, Bideford Town Hall, Bridge Street, Bideford.**

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF TIME AND VENUE FROM THE LAST MEETING

Annex A

Warden's Report (April 2009 – October 2009)

1 Staff

- 1.1 Michael MacKinnon has been a member of the conservation team in a voluntary capacity since April and will be leaving Lundy at the end of October.

2 Human Activity

- 2.1 RIB – There has been less RIB activity that I would have like this year for a number of reasons, but it was launched in May and spent longer actually in the water than previous years so was on stand by if required. On 8th October it was brought across to the mainland for it's annual service and I am hoping it will be ready to come back to Lundy before the end of the sailing season.
- 2.2 No incidents to report
- 2.3 Diving season has been slightly better this year, although the compressor has caused a few issues over the last month and required an additional service which happened yesterday, so hopefully the problems will be resolved and it will be fully functional for next year.

3 Wildlife

- 3.1 Grey Seals: Stephen Westcote has now completed his seal survey work and we are expecting to receive a full report which we will be made available when completed – in the interim I have a summary to circulate.
- 3.2 Cetaceans Sighting Pack: These we're issued to a number of vessels/clubs including:

MS Oldenburg
Obsession I
Obsession II
Ilfracombe SAC x2
Appledore SAC
Jessica Hettie
Icthus

Once we have collated the data I will give you a full report of this year's sightings, which I hope to be able to do by the next meeting.

We have had forms returned from *Jessica Hettie* and *MS Oldenburg* and initial signs have shown that this method of data collection has already resulted in a huge increase in observation effort and reported sightings are improving.

- 3.3 In June I reported the first Basking shark sighting was on 1st June off the east coast (Clive Pearson). On 3rd June, 3 were seen on the West Coast and another on the East Coast. However, there has been NOTHING since, another poor year for shark sightings, maybe the cetacean sighting reports will throw up some further reports?

3.4 Seabird Productivity Results:

Fulmar:	0.47	30 nest attempts;	14 fledged (Gannets Rock)
Kittiwake*:	0.28	134 nest attempts;	37 fledged (over two sites*)
Guillemots:	0.63	65 nest attempts;	41 fledges (over two survey plots)

* Kittiwake productivity over the two sights was vastly different. The island's largest colony at St Mark's Inlet has a productivity of just 0.17: there were 106 nest attempts with just 18 chicks surviving to fledge. In contrast, Aztec Bay had a productivity rate of 0.68 with 19 fledglings from 28 nest attempts.

- 3.5 The puffin surveys for 2009 produced mixed results. As 2008 identified a new colony at Jenny's Cove, this site was included in this year's survey, resulting in a reduction in the observation effort at the St. Phillips Stone colony.

The survey concluded that only 2 pairs attempted breeding at St. Phillips (compared with 5 pairs in 2008) and no feeds were recorded. Five pairs attempted breeding at Jenny's Cove and feeds were observed at 4 of these burrows.

The second week of July brought saw an exciting development with a huge increase in puffin attendance at both colonies. St. Phillips Stone had a peak of 11 puffins sighted on 7th July and over 20 puffins were recorded at Jenny's Cove on a number of occasions. This would suggest that immature birds are visiting Lundy prospecting for burrows and may return in future years to breed.

Despite the low breeding numbers at St. Phillips it was not all bad news as there were up to 6 individuals in attendance at the colony from mid May who did not attempt to breed. This is too early in the season for immature, so may suggest that they are 4th year birds who have chosen their breeding colony and were preparing burrows for next year.

3.6 Manx Shearwaters – separate agenda point

Tracking Survey – Tim Guilford completed a tracking survey in August. 15 GPS devices were deployed on shearwaters during the chick rearing stage, these were configured to record position fixed every five minutes. Of the 15 deployed 10 were successfully retrieved and provided data of foraging trips. The foraging trips of these birds lasted between 3 and 10 days – most of the birds spent this time reasonably close to Lundy, and Tim's results suggest that an area to the NW of Lundy is a key foraging area for the breeding shearwaters. There were also examples of birds making longer trips – one travelling up to the Irish Sea!

20 Geolocators were also fixed to manx shearwaters which will be retrieved next season to provide data on their movements over the winter months.

The Shearwater ringing also produced good results with 144 chick's ringed; 98 of which were at the Old Light colony.

4 Monitoring

- 4.1 Temperature loggers: despite intentions to do so I have not replaced the temperature loggers on the jetty or MV Robert. If the opportunity arises I will do so before the end of the season although it is not urgent as they have a battery live of 5 years and have only been in place for just over a year.
- 4.2 Devon Sea Fisheries Committee have done further lobster tagging which Sarah will report on (agenda point 6b)

5 Raising Awareness/Events

- 5.1 Media Interest: Lundy has featured heavily in the media this year with programmes including BBC Coast, The One Show and Countryfile. As well as articles in British Wildlife Magazines and wide coverage from Diving magazines
- 5.2 The first Lundy Splash-IN was a great success. We only had a small number of entrants, but given the weather conditions and the fact it was our first event we were not at all disappointed. We had some amazing images submitted and overwhelming support from sponsors. The total prize fund came to over £2000 and the overall winner left with prize to the value of £700.

The event attracted some good publicity to promote the MNR and was featured in 2 dive magazines as well as local press and various websites. We have scheduled the 2010 splash-IN for Saturday 12th June.

6 Interpretation

6.1 Leaflets:

- 6.1.1 The Code of Conduct leaflet has been completed and is now available. The new leaflet series is coming along well and we now have:

Lundy Wildlife
Lundy Birds
Lundy Codes

- 6.1.2 A new Lundy Walks leaflet is underway and should be complete within the next month and we will then begin working on Lundy Seals which will reflect some of Stephen Westcott's survey results.

6.2 Marine Guide:

I last reported on this in October 2007 when work was underway to re-do the existing Divers Guide and create a new 'Marine Guide' which would include diving, snorkelling and rockpooling and therefore appeal to a wider audience. The revised text was completed in early 2008, but unfortunately, due to circumstance beyond our control the project had to be put on hold as a result of corporate branding issues.

I am pleased to report that these have now been resolved and the project is once again underway – the text and pictures are currently with our designer and we should get a first draft pdf before Christmas. We have set ourselves the ambitious target of completing this project by the end of the financial year.

6.3 Beach Building:

The Beach Building project is underway and we have secured £8,000 of funding from NE. The Landmark Trust launched a new funding appeal in October and will be raising the additional funds from the appeal and bids to charitable bodies.

Display Boards:

Sophie and I have drafted some text based on the original panels within the Beach Building – we have updated the content and made some changes. There will be six panels in total:

1. LUNDY - A large scale Lundy Map
2. EXPLORE - Introduction to Lundy
3. DISCOVER - Many different aspects of Lundy
4. CONSERVE - MNR board
5. PROTECT - Terrestrial board
6. CONTRIBUTE - Lundy Fund board

This is a Natural England project and whilst we have touched on the various aspects of Lundy its aim is to focus on the islands wildlife conservation, as there are locations on the island for other interpretation projects.

Murals, Etched Panels and bespoke interactives:

Beneath the graphic panels will be wooden panels sandblasted with images of the island's wildlife. Mike Langman has been contracted for this phase of the project and many of you will be familiar with his work at Dawlish Warren, Slapton Ley and Goodrington Sands. I have brought along very rough drafts of the proposals.

The art work for the centre piece display (East Wall Mural) has been completed and should arrive on the island for review this week.

Nicola Saunders, Lundy Warden