

# LUNDY MARINE CONSERVATION ZONE 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 Forum for the island.

Established: 1985

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## Notes of the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Lundy Marine Conservation Zone Advisory Group

(formerly known as the Lundy Marine Nature Reserve Advisory Group, of which this was the 31<sup>st</sup> meeting, and prior to that the Lundy Marine Consultation Group, of which this was the 49<sup>th</sup> meeting)

held on **Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2010** in the Council Chamber, Bideford Town Hall,  
Bideford at 7.00 p.m.

### *Present:*

Keith Hiscock	(KH)	Marine Biological Association/Lundy Field Society – Chair
Robert Irving	(RI)	Lundy Field Society/Marine Conservation Society - Secretary
Anthony Glover	(AG)	Severn Sea Shipping Co. Ltd.
Andrew Bengey	(AB)	<i>Obsession</i> Charters
Maggs Ashton	(MA)	Ilfracombe & N. Devon Sub-Aqua Club
Chris Mandry	(CM)	British Sub-Aqua Club
Clive Pearson	(CP)	Charter skipper 'Jessica Hettie'
Nicola Saunders	(NS)	Lundy Warden
Derek Green	(DG)	Lundy Manager
Andrew Bell	(AB)	UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, Braunton Burrows
Alison Hamer	(AH)	English Heritage
John Butterwith	(JB)	North Devon Fishermen's Association
Sarah Clark	(SC)	Devon Sea Fisheries Committee
Mark Jones	(MJ)	Natural England
Andrew Knights	(AK)	Natural England

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

### **1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from: Mike Deaton (Appledore Sub-Aqua Club); Nick Russell (English Heritage); and Keith Denby (Ilfracombe & N Devon Sub-Aqua Club).

### **2. Declaration of the Lundy Marine Conservation Zone on 12 January 2010**

KH informed the Group that, following the introduction of the Marine and Coastal Access Act at the end of last year, the Marine Nature Reserve (MNR) was no more and its title had now changed to the Lundy Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ). AK explained this was simply a 're-badging' exercise. Lundy was the first such MCZ in the country though many more would follow in the next two years. In the south-west, the identification of possible MCZs was being overseen by the 'Finding Sanctuary' project.

For the time being, the regulations which governed the MNR would continue unaffected, though over the next 18 months there would be an opportunity to consider changes both to the boundaries of the MCZ and to the Conservation Objectives. AK

reassured the Group that possible boundary changes could only be considered which would increase the overall size of the MCZ and not decrease it. Possible changes to the boundaries and the Conservation Objectives would only be undertaken by means of the Finding Sanctuary project (“the only show in town”, as KH put it).

AB, who sits on the Devon Finding Sanctuary sub-group, explained the role of the sub-group. Local groups such as his were being set up all over the country. They were made up of local experts who could share their local knowledge and help to characterise the inshore waters and seabed features of their particular ‘patch’. Their task was to gather as much information as possible and, for the sub-groups in the south-west, pass this information up the line to the Finding Sanctuary Steering Group for consideration.

JB requested that Natural England explain further their role in the establishment of MCZs. He thought the size of the Steering Group for the Finding Sanctuary project (which now stands at 42 members) was too unwieldy. JB sits on one of the project’s two Working Groups looking at offshore fisheries interests. He was unhappy that the establishment of most MCZs was likely to be within the 6 mile limit and would therefore disadvantage inshore fisheries. He also pointed out that fishermen would not wish to see the Lundy MCZ boundary extended to the north and west of the island (to cover bird feeding grounds), as these are also squid fishing grounds too.

AK explained that all possible MCZs (elsewhere in the country) had to be submitted to the appropriate department by the end of 2011. This would include any alterations to the Lundy MCZ boundary, should this be proposed. SC pointed out that a number of the maps being used by Finding Sanctuary regarding commercial fishing interest were inaccurate, and that the fishing industry was under-represented on the Steering Group.

KB drew the discussion to a close and recommended those with concerns about the Finding Sanctuary project should channel them through AB to the appropriate Finding Sanctuary contact.

### **3. Notes on the last meeting, held on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

Copies of these had been circulated prior to the meeting. No amendments were considered necessary by those present, so they were signed as approved by the Chairman.

### **4. Matters arising from the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

- KH informed the Group that a greater number of samples of snips of tentacles from the sunset cup coral *Leptopsammia pruvoti* (taken from Plymouth, the Isles of Scilly and Brittany as well as Lundy) were now being analysed by Phil Watts at Liverpool University to compare their DNA in order to determine if these are all isolated populations.
- Response by Dr Miles Hoskin to KH’s concerns expressed at the end of his presentation re. certain aspects of the NTZ monitoring methodology - Miles Hoskin had written an open paper in reply to these concerns which had been circulated to all members of the Advisory Group by e-mail and as paper copies.

### **5. Matters arising from the last Lundy Management Forum meeting**

The last meeting of the Forum took place on 14 October 2009 at Natural England’s offices in Exeter (the day after the last meeting of the Advisory Group). DG kindly ran through what was discussed. KH was also in attendance and had represented the Group. The main points discussed were:

Completion of the Beach Building & official opening on 15 May 2010.

Kittiwake productivity monitoring.

Rhododendron clearance from the East sidelands – the plan is to clear it all by

2012.

The success of the 'Splash In' in June – the winning photos are on the Lundy website.

A terrestrial Management Plan has been commissioned to come into force from May 2011 and will run for 15 years. This will take over from the Stewardship Agreement.

Updates on marine monitoring and the seal survey.

Classification of feral stock on the island.

Shearwater tracking.

Lobster tagging.

Transition of MNR to MCZ.

Sewage disposal/run-off.

Marine archaeology – infringements on diving the *Iona II*.

Update on Lundy Field Society activities (by KH)

## 6. **40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Lundy Marine Nature Reserve**

KH informed the Group that 2011 would see two anniversaries concerning the Marine Reserve: it would be 40 years since the consultation for a voluntary reserve was undertaken (in 1971) and it would be 25 years since the statutory reserve was designated (1986). Thus there were grounds for some celebrations...!

CM kindly gave a Powerpoint presentation on the history of Lundy's marine nature reserve, detailing the development of initial ideas in 1969 right up to the declaration of the No Take Zone in 2003 and the MCZ in 2010.

Suggestions were invited as to how we could celebrate these anniversaries in 2011. DG offered the *Oldenburg* as a venue for a party, which was much appreciated. Other ideas included adding something extra to the 'Splash-In' and a news/media event of some sort.

## 7. **Report from the Reserve**

The report attached as Annex A was presented by NS.

Points addressed after NS's report:

AH would provide NS with an information sheet concerning the protected wrecks which could be included in the pack sent out to visiting dive groups.

AK informed the Group that Stephen Westcott's report on his study of the grey seals (at about 30 pages long) is available through him at Natural England.

NS passed around drawings of the display panels featured in the newly refurbished Beach Building. This building would be officially re-opened on 15<sup>th</sup> May, when press and persons associated with the MNR would be invited to attend.

JB added his support for ensuring accurate sea water temperature data were obtained. Apparently cold water temperatures will prevent lobsters from moving any distance on the sea bed. He also expressed his concern over the number of seals around the island (estimated at being in the region of 125), which were allowed 'free rein' to plunder fish stocks. Yes they are a tourist attraction, but nationwide they are becoming a big problem for fishermen. The possibility of a cull was raised, but it was thought it would be better to monitor the situation for the time being.

AB mentioned that a Big Beach Clean was going to be happening this summer and he was hoping that Lundy would participate. Volunteer participants were needed!

## **8. The Lundy Marine Monitoring Review – implications**

AK informed the Group that Haskoning UK had submitted their review of monitoring projects within the SAC, the NTZ and the SSSI (which overlapped with the SAC on the foreshore). He handed out copies of the Contents page to those present. Essentially, each of the site's Attributes had been gone through one by one, with their associated Targets, Baselines and recommendations as to how frequently monitoring should be undertaken. A draft copy of the report was sent to KH, RI & to Dr Miles Hoskin for their comments. Natural England are currently reviewing their comments.

AK pointed out that, as a start to the new monitoring regime, funding had been earmarked this summer for studies to be undertaken on the pink sea fan *Eunicella verrucosa* and the sunset cup coral *Leptopsammia pruvoti*.

Mark Jones, Natural England's recently appointed Marine Officer for the whole of the south-west, explained that Natural England's budget for the year 2011/12 was likely to be cut by 20% but that the MCZ programme would avoid these cuts. In order to try to cut costs, it was likely that, in future, Natural England would be looking to carry out more of their monitoring commitments using 'in house' expertise with fewer external contractors being involved. KH added that general natural history observations made by members of the public could be very useful and certainly cheaper! People should be encouraged to report their sightings.

RI pointed out his surprise that Natural England were willing to distribute the Haskoning report even though a number of concerns had been raised during the consultation phase. For instance, his report on assessing the *Leptopsammia* population at the island in 2007 (funded by Natural England) had not even been made available to the report's authors! In light of this, AK agreed to withdraw his offer of distributing the Haskoning report to all and sundry.

## **9. Sediment biota and biotope mapping study – plans for access to the report**

A draft report from Ambios Consultants had now been received by Natural England and this will be updated when other data becomes available. KH had read through this draft and agreed it provided a good reference and baseline data. He warned that the acoustic ground discrimination data (which was awaited) may not provide the detail and accuracy hoped for, when it eventually becomes available.

## **10. Updates on Activities and Research**

### **10a. Lobster tagging study**

SG handed out a summary sheet of the DSFC lobster tagging project. (A more up-to-date summary of this is given below). Returns have been received from 8 fishermen who pot around Lundy and for these individuals, approximately 40% of their income comes from Lundy lobsters caught during the season.

Summary report from Sarah Clark, DSFC, dated 15 October 2010:

"In summary in 2010 I have undertaken 2 surveys in conjunction with Swansea University who are undertaking an Interreg IV Project 'Susfish' looking at the impacts of climate change on Crustacea shell disease. I discussed with them the work undertaken by Cefas on lobster health and I suggested that they might extend their project area from the Irish Sea to include Lundy Island, which they did! They are currently analysing data. I was able to undertake lobster tagging alongside their work programme. I also deployed some light traps to try to collect lobster larvae and also undertook some plankton netting but unfortunately did not find any lobster larvae though did find plenty of crab larvae. I am currently trying to analyse all data collected

over the past three years and will be happy to present my findings at the next meeting. WWF have indicated that they might be able to provide a small amount of funding to carry out some further work next year, in particular the lobster larval collection.

**10b. Water movements and larval dispersal**

KH reported that Prof. Callum Roberts (York University) has run particle tracking models in the vicinity of Lundy to give an indication of larval dispersal distances and directions.

**11. Any Other Business**

- MA informed the Group that, as part of the Ilfracombe Sub-Aqua Club's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations, a special excursion to the island was planned for June.
- CP pointed out that the Seaflex mooring at Gannets Bay had been damaged and needed fixing. He wondered if the three Seaflex moorings in the Landing Bay would suffer a similar fate?
- KH informed the Group that there was currently a public consultation out on the 'Atlantic Array' – a proposal for a large offshore windfarm to the north and east of Lundy. He was putting together a response on behalf of the Lundy Field Society and asked those present if they were aware of any concerns.

JB pointed out that there was insufficient information on the effects of electromagnetic radiation on marine wildlife. Also, would drilling activity affect u/w visibility at Lundy? Of the two main cables which will come ashore, the route of one is likely to pass close to Lundy.

- AB informed the Group that the revised local (mainland) Shoreline Management Plan was nearing completion. The Landing Bay at Lundy was the only section of the island's coastline which would be included in it.

**9. Date of next meeting: Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2010 – time and venue to be decided.**

## Annex A

### Warden's Report (October 2009 – April 2010)

#### 1 Staff

- 1.1 Steve Pratt joined the conservation team on 27<sup>th</sup> March as a seasonal volunteer and he will be with us until October

#### 2 Marine

- 2.1 The RIB has not be in the water yet, but it is ready to go.
- 2.2 No incidents to report regarding infringements – potting activity is already high with a substantial number of pots around the island
- 2.3 As you all know Lundy became the UK's first MCZ on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2010. The MCS organised a ministerial visit to Lundy in March. The fisheries minister, Huw Irranca-Davies came over to the island for the day with representatives from NE, MCS & Finding sanctuary.
- 2.4 Diving season is set to be a busy one bookings are high and if we get the summer that has been promised for the last few years it should be a good diving season
- 2.5 The Splash-IN is scheduled for the weekend of 12<sup>th</sup> June. We will be sticking to the same format as last years event with the photography on the Saturday and judging on the Sunday morning. We have added a pre-registration option this year for those who want to guarantee themselves a place. So far we have 15 bookings for the day.

The generosity of our sponsors has again been quite overwhelming and we have over 2.5K of prizes for the event. I have drafted a provisional prize list which is available for those who are interested.

#### 3 Survey & Monitoring

- 3.1 Grey Seals: Stephen Westcott has completed his seal survey which I have forwarded to the Management Group.
- 3.2 **Cetaceans Sighting Pack:** I am still hoping to get more of the 2009 records returned at Thursday's AGM meeting. Of the reports we have so far including the log records we have received 62 records of Common dolphins between 14<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2009, this compares to just 18 reports in 2008!

Whist the data may be slow to arrive it is still important and we will pass all our records on to the appropriate organisations so that it will feed into the national databases. We have also managed to get MapInfo on Lundy and in the long term we hope to record and map all the species we have reported.

We have sent out new forms to all those taking part in the survey for the 2010 season and I am keen to encourage everyone to return them too us as soon as they are completed

2009 Participants:

MS Oldenburg - Returned

Obsession I – Forms Lost  
Obsession II – Forms Lost  
Ilfracombe SAC x2 – Awaiting forms  
Appledore SAC – Awaiting Forms  
Jessica Hettie - Returned  
Ichthus – Awaiting form

John Barbary has started up a new charter with Bluefin and will also be contributing to the 2010 sightings effort.

3.3 With the recent change in our designation to the UK's first MCZ, Sophie and I thought it would be a good opportunity to put together a guidance pack for all the local charter boats and dive clubs. We have made up packs for all the local charter boats and dive clubs, which I have with me. These aim to provide useful information to be kept onboard for reference and includes:

Lundy Marine Code of Conduct - Laminated  
Information on how to behave around seals on Lundy - Laminated  
A laminated reference guide on how to behave around marine wildlife to keep onboard  
As well as a WiSe DVD & Lundy marine nature reserve DVD

We have also include free leaflets for all the charter boats to give out to visitors

3.4 Seabirds:

The first puffin of the year was seen on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, and we have begun surveys. We already we are getting land sightings and have had counts of up to 12 at Jenny, but just 3 at St. Phillip's so far.

Manx Shearwaters have been heard at night since 7<sup>th</sup> April - Tim Guilford is planning to return in July to continue the tracking survey he began last year and hopefully he will retrieve some of the 20 geolocators that left Lundy with the Shearwaters last September which will provide us with details of their winter movements.

3.5 Bird Rarities:

**Little Bunting:** 22<sup>nd</sup> February – 25<sup>th</sup>

**Red Kite:** 13<sup>th</sup> March – 12<sup>th</sup> April, the first since May 2004; Wing tags identified the bird as "Purple D" ringed as a chick in mid-Wales on 10 June 2007, where she was collected and taken to county Wilcklow and housed in an aviary until her release on 20 July 2007; In 2009 in its thought that she was one of just 2 pairs who attempted (though unsuccessful) to breed in Ireland – the first attempted red kite breeding for over 200yrs

**Hooded Crow:** 25<sup>th</sup> March

**Blue Rock Thrush – Reported:** 16 April on the west coast at three quarter wall and a possible sighting again on 19<sup>th</sup>; VERY rare in the UK with less than 5 sightings ever – detailed provided are unlikely to be sufficient to be accepted into the Devon rarities records

3.6 Temperature loggers: The jetty temperature logger has been replaced and the MV Robert's will be when the opportunity arises. I have finally managed to retrieve the data from the broken logger that was sent to Canada in 2008. I have spent some time reviewing all of the existing data – thank you to those of you who I have pestered for additional help with this!

The first loggers were put in place in 1995, but unfortunately there are some large gaps in the data. I am in the process of writing a summary report, which will also include recommendations for future monitoring to ensure that we have a continuous data set.

3.7 Rhododendron clearance continues, Roger Key and Steve Compton have started to draft a report on the future clearance and recommendations for eradication

3.8 Mammal Summary:

	Mammal Count (May 2009)	Cull Target	Actual Cull 2009/2010
Soay	179 incl 61 lambs	50 – 75	49 ewes; 12 rams
Goat	Goat 27 incl. 13 kids or yearlings	Unspecified – all south of ¼ wall	1 nanny; 2 billies
Sika	Sika 56; -underestimated	15 – 20	8 stags/prickets
Rabbit	~1700	Unspecified	~750

This years count is scheduled between 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> May, when hopefully the weather will be more favourable and return more accurate results; Rabbit numbers appear to have soared and I would not be surprise with an estimated count in the region of 8000

## 4 Interpretation

### 4.1 Leaflet's;

We now have a Lundy Walks leaflet to add to the growing leaflet suite and we are hoping to do a seals & cetaceans leaflet within the next year.

All the pdf leaflet files have been reviewed and updated to reflect the fact that we are now an MCZ, so when print re-runs occur any new leaflets will be up to date. We had approximate 10 000 leaflets in stock which needed updating. Natural England managed to secure some funding to amend all the interpretation which referred to the MNR, but rather than dispose of otherwise perfectly adequate literature it was decided, in the interest of environmentalism, not to waste these so we produced stickers which have 'painstakingly' been added to all of our wildlife & zoning scheme leaflets to highlight our pioneering status!

### 4.2 Lundy MNR DVD

Some of the funding from Natural England when towards updating the MNR DVD that was produced in 2008. The editing process has been completed so that all reference to the MNR has been replace with MCZ. Unfortunately the funding did not stretch to production so we do not have any updated versions available at the moment.

### 4.3 Marine Guide:

In my last report I gave an update on this guide and said we had set ourselves an ambitious target of completing this project by the end of the financial year – I'm afraid it proved to be too ambitious and the project is not complete and will still be some months.

We have since had a re-think on the design of the guide and have made some fairly drastic changes to the format, with these substantial amendments and the more pressing beach building project nearing completion the dive guide took a back seat for a few months, but we will be picking up on the project in the next week or so.

### 4.4 Website:

Recent updates include:

Leaflet downloads – which have now all been updated to reflect the fact we are now a MCZ

Lundy Splash-IN – 2009 summary and slide show of winning images as well as the 2010 event details and sponsors. This will be update within the next few weeks to include the prize list

#### 4.5 Beach Building:

IS COMPLETE!!!! Mike Langham came over to Lundy last weekend and spent two days fixing the new display. I will present as slide show of images in the meeting.

There will be an official opening of the Beach Building on 15<sup>th</sup> May when we will be inviting the press over to cover the event as well as a couple of other Lundy stories which Derek will talk about – ALL welcome!!!!

The interpretation project is still ongoing and the remaining funds will be used to produce mainland display boards and we'll also be doing some displays for the new Helicopter 'departure lounge' at Hartland

Nicola Saunders, Lundy Warden