

Warden's Report (October 2009 – April 2010)

1 Staff

- 1.1 Steve Pratt joined the conservation team on 27th 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 12th 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 12th 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 14th May – 23rd 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
Icthus – Awaiting form

John Barbary has started up an 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 to get 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 puffin first puffins of the year was seen on 23rd 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 7th 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: 22nd February – 25th

Red Kite: 13th March – 12th 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: 25th March

Blue Rock Thrush – Reported: 16 April on the west coast at three quarter wall and a possible sighting again on 19th; 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 5th – 8th 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 15th 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