

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

Please reply to the Hon. Secretary:

Mr Robert Irving
Combe Lodge
Bampton
Devon EX16 9LB

Tel. 01398 324218
Mob. 07713 114006
e-mail: Robert@sea-scope.co.uk



Notes of the 2nd meeting of the Lundy Marine Conservation Zone Advisory Group

(formerly known as the Lundy Marine Nature Reserve Advisory Group, of which this was the 32nd meeting, and prior to that the Lundy Marine Consultation Group, of which this was the 50th meeting)

held on **Thursday, 21st October 2010** in the Sixth Form Centre Lecture Theatre,
Kingsley School, Northdown Road, Bideford at 7.00 p.m.

Present:

Keith Hiscock	(KH)	Marine Biological Association – Chair
Robert Irving	(RI)	Lundy Field Society/Marine Conservation Society - Secretary
Andrew Bell	(AB)	UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, Braunton Burrows
Andrew Knights	(AK)	Natural England
Maggs Ashton	(MA)	Ilfracombe & N. Devon Sub-Aqua Club
Leigh Hanks	(LH)	<i>Obsession</i> Charters
Chris Mandry	(CM)	British Sub-Aqua Club
Geoff Huelin	(GH)	Lobster fisherman
David Harvey	(DH)	Sussex Sea Fisheries Committee & Sussex Seasearch
Derek Green	(DG)	Lundy Manager
Mel Parker	(MP)	Natural England
Nicola Saunders	(NS)	Lundy Warden
John Butterwith	(JB)	North Devon Fishermen's Association

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

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from: Sarah Clark and Tim Robbins (Devon Sea Fisheries Committee); Andrew Bengy (Obsession Charters); Keith Denby (Ilfracombe & N Devon Sub-Aqua Club); Clive Pearson (charter boat *Jessica Hettie*); and Alison James (née Hamer) (English Heritage).

2. Notes on the last meeting, held on 22nd April 2010

Copies of these had been circulated prior to the meeting. The only amendment was to insert Andrew Bell's name in the list of attendees, which had inadvertently been missed off. Otherwise those present agreed the notes were a correct representation of the meeting and they were signed as approved by the Chairman.

3. **Matters arising from the meeting held on 22nd April 2010**

AB informed the Group that the RSPB were suggesting that the boundary to the Lundy SAC (& other ones which also had marine bird interest) should be extended to include a buffer zone extending some 4 km all around the island. This would encompass feeding areas for puffins, razorbills, guillemots and kittiwakes in particular. KH added that the principles behind such extensions were being considered at a national level by the Marine Protected Areas Science Advisory Panel on which he sits and that attention had already been drawn to the Lundy proposals by Finding Sanctuary.

KH emphasised the importance of recording 'interesting marine finds' in a systematic way. This was already done for birds, insects, plants and various other groups in logbooks in the Tavern, with verified entries being published in the Lundy Field Society's Annual Report. The suggestion was made that KH could come up with a number of 'Wanted' posters (A5 size) to advertise what to look out for, which could then be placed on appropriate noticeboards and on charter boats. These could include certain BAP species, climate change indicator species and non-native species. One example was the sighting this summer of a triggerfish (a warm water species) on the wreck of the *Carmine Filomena*.

NS added that she had received a report of common eels *Anguilla anguilla* being seen by the jetty and in Devil's Kitchen. Was this likely or a case of mistaken identity? Neither KH nor RI knew if common eels had been recorded from Lundy before. It would certainly be unusual but not impossible to find them in rockpools.

MA reported that the Ilfracombe SAC had had an enjoyable time celebrating their 50th year. On Saturday 26th June they had had dive groups going out to various locations including Lundy.

AB pointed out that the Shoreline Management Plan which included Lundy did indeed include the whole island but that the Landing Bay/jetty was the only area "to support intervention".

4. **Matters arising from the last Lundy Management Forum meeting**

DG summarised the agenda items which were discussed at the last meeting of the Forum which took place on 23rd April 2010 at Natural England's offices in Exeter (the day after the last meeting of the Advisory Group). RI had also been in attendance and had passed on the outcomes of the previous evening's Advisory Group meeting. KH had represented the Lundy Field Society. The main points discussed were:

- Natural England's recent Marine Monitoring report by Haskoning (UK) Ltd.
- Status update on the MCZ by Keith Bower (DSFC) with amendment of byelaws.
- Statutory regulations: sewerage and waste disposal.
- DSFC lobster tagging project.
- Concern from English Heritage about rabbit numbers and damage to archaeological sites.
- The new building(s) being proposed will require consents.
- An appraisal of the latest activities of the Lundy Field Society (KH).
- Short presentation from Jim White of the consultancy Footprint Ecology on their remit for being commissioned to write the Lundy Conservation Management Plan, which would cover the next 15 years. The Plan would not cover marine matters apart from waste water input.
- The Church and its future.
- Raven activity (especially in relation to preying on lambs)

- Opening of the Beach Building on 15th May.

5. **Report from the Reserve**

The report attached as Annex A was presented by NS.

Points addressed after NS's report:

KH asked if it was known what the Lundy seals are eating. In the N. Sea it has been determined by the Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU) that grey seals there eat mostly sand eels. JB suggested that they go for monkfish, Dover sole, skates and rays. Elsewhere it's whitefish – particularly cod and pollack. GH pointed out that they like to eat the guts/entrails of these fish and they appear to leave the rest. KH asked if SMRU could be approached to ask if they knew. JB asked if the seal survey would be repeated in 2011. Are their numbers still increasing? NS replied that in 2011 monitoring of pups would take place in late summer and autumn.

JB asked if the cetaceans being counted were a resident population or migratory. Is there a chance that counts have been duplicated? DG replied that in the area of 3-5 miles off Lundy a group of about 100 individual dolphins has been regularly seen by those on board the *Oldenburg*. RI asked if there was a geographical extent to the counts around the island, especially when data from one year are being compared with data from previous years. NS replied that sightings from boats (often dive charter boats) are always accompanied by a GPS fix.

CM informed the Group that he had come across very large numbers of spider crabs *Maja squinado* at the end of August on the seabed north of the wreck of the MV *Robert*. He wondered if this had been reported before. The area they covered was approximately 4 m x 30 m. NS confirmed that large numbers of spider crabs had also been reported from the shallows of Devil's Kitchen and the Landing Beach. [These crab aggregations are a well known occurrence elsewhere, but this could be the first time they have been recorded from Lundy. They may consist of large numbers of males and very few females, or large numbers of females and few males – further research is need to explain why! – RI].

6. **Natural England's interests (AK, Natural England)**

6a. **MCA seabed acoustic surveys**

There have been problems with the analysis of the data from these surveys, particularly with the interpretation of backscatter. The data requires re-processing, a job that will either be done externally or internally at Natural England, depending on the availability of funds. KH pointed out that multi-beam sonar data is usually very good and clear, but that RoxAnn data utilising backscatter imagery often suffers from difficulties with interpretation.

6b. **SAC diving monitoring studies – sunset cup corals and sea fans**

AK invited RI to report on the diving survey he undertook at the end of August/start of September assessing both sunset cup corals and pink sea fans. RI presented a short report (attached as Annex B).

6c. **SAC intertidal monitoring studies**

Seven shore transects around the island were last surveyed by Natural England staff in 2000. Unfortunately, the photographs from this survey have gone missing, so re-locating the same sites was a bit of a challenge. However, the seven sites were re-surveyed and a new site at Devil's Kitchen was surveyed. The presence and extent of

biotopes were noted and photographed.

6d. Sea water temperature monitoring

KH pointed out that he suspects that 2010 was a warmer year at Lundy than usual, taking account of his own records of temperatures during diving and with sightings of a triggerfish on the *Carmine Filomena* but with very few basking sharks apparent. He intends to contact colleagues at the Plymouth Marine Laboratory to see if his suspicions correlate with a possible increase in sea surface temperatures picked up by remote sensing. GH added that quite a few dead triggerfish had been washed up on North Devon beaches this summer. With regard to the island's sea water temperature loggers, RI pointed out that, from his experience of temperature loggers within Welsh SACs, it would be sensible to double-up on the loggers on the *Robert* and on the jetty, in case of failures/floodings. AK/MP agreed this would be sensible. KH added that good temperature data were essential for the interpretation of changes to seabed marine communities.

6e. Sunset cup coral DNA studies & sea fan studies

Snips from the tentacles of sunset cup corals were obtained last year from populations off the Isles of Scilly, the Plymouth drop-off and Brittany to add to those already collected from the Knoll Pins. The intention was to extract and compare the DNA from these separate populations to see how closely they were related. Whilst KH had been involved with the collection of the samples, his colleague Dr Phil Watts at Liverpool University was undertaking the analysis. The latest update on this was that KH's samples had been processed but not yet analysed.

KH reported that studies on the genetics of pink sea fans were continuing at Exeter University, but he knew little more than that.

6f. Progress with identifying other MCZs.

There are four regional MCZ projects in England – *Finding Sanctuary* (in the SW); *Irish Sea Conservation Zones* (covering the Irish Sea); *Net Gain* (the North Sea); and *Balanced Seas* (in the SE). [Further information on all of these can be found at:

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/marine/protectandmanage/mpa/mcz/default.aspx>].

Each of these projects reports to the MPAs Science Advisory Panel (on which KH sits). The 'first iteration' of these projects took place in July; the 'second iteration' is due early next month (November).

The Finding Sanctuary Project has Inshore and Offshore Working Groups which hold meetings every five weeks. JB (who sits on the Offshore WG) informed the Group that MCZs can extend out to the 200 nm boundary but that the accompanying restrictions on fishing practices within them will only be relevant to English fishing boats. Most discussions though are presently concerned with the 0-6 nm zone (English boats only allowed to fish here) or the 6-12 nm zones (where other European boats are allowed to fish but will be unrestricted). Consequently, fears have been raised by small local fishing communities should an MCZ be set up on their doorstep. It is not unusual these days to hear of a vessel <10 m long having to fish up to 50 miles offshore for as long as a week!

KH pointed out that the Science Advisory Panel was being made aware of these concerns at a national level. [The Defra MCZ website was very comprehensive should anyone wish to seek further information:

<http://ww2.defra.gov.uk/environment/marine/protect/mcz/>]

KH also mentioned the possibility of extending the boundary to the Lundy MCZ (particularly with regard to RSPB's proposal to include seabird feeding areas to the north and west of the island), but he had heard of no detailed discussion of this

proposal as yet. He queried whether the legal provisions for MCZs allowed for seabirds to be used as a reason for identifying an MCZ but that 'Areas of additional ecological importance' [which include "areas important for behaviours such as foraging, breeding, moulting, loafing, rafting, wintering or resting"] were relevant. JB pointed out that he (and other fishermen) would have no objection to the inclusion of surface waters and the water column, if fishermen are allowed to continue what they have been doing on the sea bed. JB also noted that an area close to the NE point of Lundy was a squid fishery ground. On a related issue, AB added that an area 4 miles off Morte Point called the Morte platform was being investigated by the Finding Sanctuary project who had asked fishermen to assist with further information. Some concern was expressed about possible speed limits being imposed on boats entering an area identified as important for resting birds.

7. Celebratory activities for 2011 (40th/25th Anniversaries)

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).

Suggestions for celebrating these anniversaries include:

- having Lundy's marine life featured in the forthcoming BBC series 'Oceans UK' (likely to be shown in January or February);
- a feature article in '*Natural World*' magazine;
- a feature article in '*Diver*' magazine;
- hosting a celebratory party on board the *Oldenburg* (note that the next meeting of the Advisory Group will take place on board the *Oldenburg* in April);
- a 'cancellation frank' on mail leaving the island;
- RI has proposed a book celebrating the history of marine conservation in the UK which would draw heavily on the Lundy experience. He would co-author this with KH.
- the annual underwater photographic 'Splash-In' (due to take place on 18/19 June 2011) could be re-branded to tie-in with the celebrations;
- offers of talks to local groups;
- participation in a 'Marine Education' event at Bideford College;
- and a news/media event of some sort.

KH suggested that a draft press release be drawn up and agreed by members of the Advisory Group prior to release. AB added that Bideford College were planning a water theme to various activities next year and this might be able to be tied in with a marine/Lundy theme. Other associations which may be interested include Coastwise, the U3A and the Devon Association.

[Subsequent to the meeting, a sub-committee of Keith Hiscock, Robert Irving, Derek Green, Nicola Saunders and Sophie Wheatley was agreed to help progress these suggestions. The sub-committee would welcome any further suggestions.]

8. The Atlantic Array wind farm proposals

The proposal for a large offshore windfarm to be built to the north and east of Lundy was still out for public consultation. KH had written a detailed response on behalf of the

Lundy Field Society (of which he is currently Chairman) to the company concerned 'RWE n-power renewables' [<http://www.rwe.com/web/cms/en/250908/rwe-npower-renewables/>]. However, he had been disappointed not even to have received an acknowledgement to his letter.

The closest part of the windfarm would be 9 miles (13 km) distant from Lundy's north coast. DG reported that RWE n-power renewable had visited him (on the island) and the Landmark Trust as part of their consultation. One of his main concerns was the alteration to the skyline/horizon from the island. Also the vibration caused by drilling and the noise generated once the turbines were up and running. RWE noted his concerns and would respond to them in due course. DG thought any actual construction was still some way off.

JB commented that he had been approached by RWE and now acted as their fisheries representative. He pointed out that fishermen would be awarded some form of compensation package, but that this would not be forthcoming if the area had already been designated a Marine Protected Area (MPA). He also added that he thought there would be little direct impact of the windfarm on Lundy, but that the strong tides which swept past the island were likely to attract the attention of those involved with subtidal current generators or even wave hubs.

AK added that RWE were coming to the end of a two year consultation which included a study of local bird populations and an assessment of the site(s) where the power cables would be coming onshore. He understood that they would be presenting their findings at a public meeting soon. AB added that the environmental impact assessment was still awaited and that the design of the piles had still not been decided upon.

9. ***Any Other Business***

- KH informed the Group that he had looked into the SSSI citation for Lundy and confirmed that no mention was made of what was found in the intertidal zone, despite the boundary of the SSSI extending down to low water mark. However, the intertidal zone was also included within the SAC and the MCZ, so he thought that "nothing would be gained by re-visiting the SSSI re-notification".
- KH reported that Dr Miles Hoskin had had a second paper accepted by the Journal of Canadian Fisheries and Aquaculture on the outcomes of Lundy's No Take Zone, for whose monitoring he had been in charge.

9. ***Date of next meeting: Tuesday 19th April 2011 – 19:00 hrs on board MS Oldenburg moored alongside Bideford Quay.***

Annex A

Warden's Report (April 2010 – October 2010)

1 Staff

- 1.1 Sophie has been doing a distance learning MSc in Advanced Energy & Environmental Studies and will be taking extended leave over the winter months to focus on her studies. She will be leaving Lundy on 1 November and is scheduled to return to work at the beginning of March.
- 1.2 Steve Pratt has been a member of the conservation team in a voluntary capacity since April and has been a great help and an asset to the team. He has been offered a winter position as a General Assistant and will be working for the Landmark in a maintenance capacity.

2 Survey & Monitoring

- 2.1 RIB – has disappointingly been out of service all season, so has not been available to use. It was sent to the mainland for coding in May, and unfortunately failed a tube test. Funding had to be sourced by Natural England to get the RIB re-tubed and it spent a considerable amount of time on the mainland. The RIB was bought back to Lundy on 12th August, with a broken bilge pump which has meant that it has not had any use this season.
- 2.2 Grey Seals: Without the RIB we have been unable to complete the seal surveys recommended in Stephen Westcotts 2009 survey, this should be marked as a priority for 2011. We have had three confirmed pups on the east coast at Quarry Beach, Ladies Beach and Three-quarter wall bay.
- 2.3 Cetaceans Sightings: A Cetacean Sightings Summary Report (see Annex B) from Sophie includes all the sightings from the Island, *MS Oldenburg* and *Jessica Hettie*.

In 2010 we had the following vessels/groups participating:

***MS Oldenburg* - Returned**
***Jessica Hettie* - Returned**
(*Obsession I* – Awaiting Forms)
(*Obsession II* – Awaiting Forms)
(Ilfracombe SAC x2 – Awaiting Forms)
(Appledore SAC – Awaiting Forms)

- 2.4 Basking shark sightings: More bad news, NO sightings have been reported in 2010! I did here that ASAC & Colin Eastman may have seen one on route to Lundy, but we have had no official reports reach us on Lundy

2.5 Seabird Productivity Results:

Species	2009	Nest Attempts	Fledged	2010	Nest Attempts	Fledged
Fulmar:	0.47	30 (across 2 sites)	14	0.43	82 (across 3 sites)	35
Kittiwake:	0.28*	134	37	0.67	145	98
Guillemots:	0.63	65	41	0.68	79	54

* In 2009 the Kittiwake productivity over the two sights was vastly different; The islands 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.

In 2010 there was a marked increase in the productivity at St. Mark's inlet and an increase in the number of breeding attempts

Kittiwake Site Summary	2009	2010
St Marks Inlet	0.17	0.65
Aztec Bay	0.68	0.76

A full report is available and will hopefully be published in the LFS annual report.

2.6 The puffin surveys and observations for 2010 were very encouraging. A full report is being written to summarise the 2009 & 2010 results.

A summary of the breeding pairs and productivity on Lundy 2007 – 2010:

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Breeding Pairs	5	5	6	16
Confirmed*	4	4	3	7
Productivity	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.44

* Breeding was confirmed and considered successful on sight of a chick or through provisioning observations.

Mid June saw an influx of puffins with a high count of 74 records on 13 June, and records of 30-60 individuals recorded daily for two weeks. On 25 June there was a count of 50 on land at Jenny's Cove.

2.7 Manx Shearwaters – separate agenda point

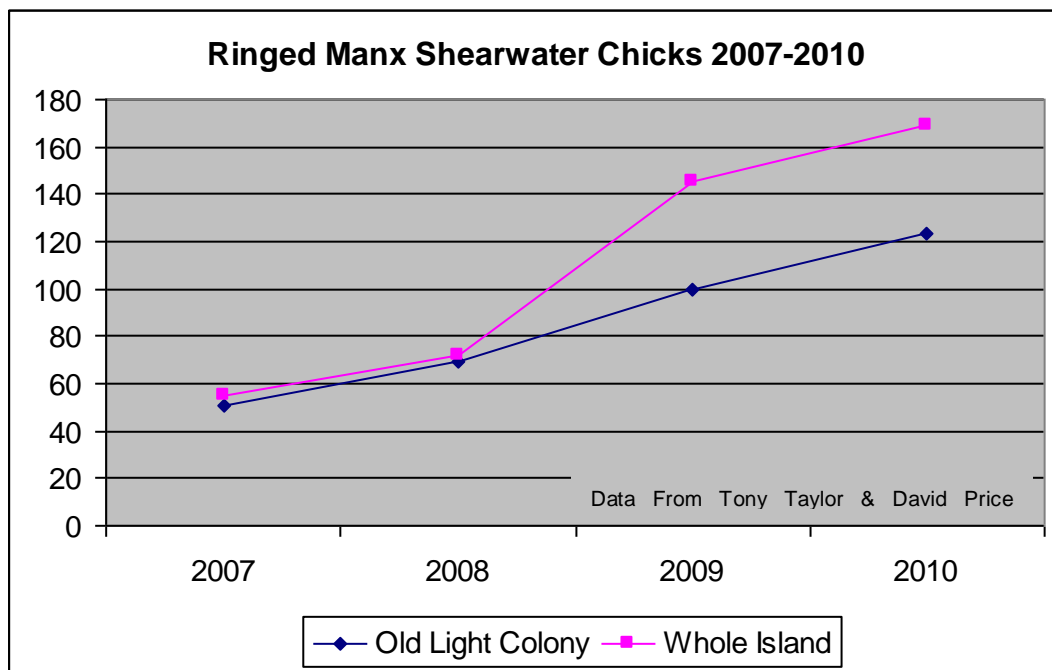
Tracking Survey – Ben Dean lead the tracking survey for this year and deployed and recovered 15 GPS devices a further 3 were deployed, but lost. The survey took place between 10 -23 July, a month earlier than the 2009 survey. The tracks show that many Manx shearwaters breeding on Lundy make short range trips to the waters around the

island, particularly south along the North Devon and Cornish coast, or west of Lundy into the Celtic Sea.

Several birds were recorded making longer range trips north to the Irish Sea Front area between the Isle of Man and Dundalk Bay, an area known to be important to birds from both the Skomer and Copeland colonies. One bird was also recorded making a longer range trip around the Cornish coast and into the English Channel.

Of the 20 Geo-locators deployed in 2009, 15 were recovered. The geolocator data will show migratory movements and non-breeding season locations between 2009 and 2010 from fourteen successful device retrievals in 2010. This will be reported in a further report, once these data have been analysed.

Chick Ringing - Tony Taylor and David Price continued the Manx Shearwater ringing survey at the Old Light colony for the fourth consecutive year, a summary of the number of ringed juveniles is illustrated below:



2.8 Temperature loggers: Monitoring is on going and a report summarizing the existing data is nearly complete.

3 Interpretation

3.1 The Lundy Splash-IN was a success. There was plenty of media coverage for the event in the dive magazines and Local press and one of the images made a half page spread in the Independent and The London Metro <http://e-edition.metro.co.uk/2010/07/14/>

The 2011 event has been scheduled for 18 – 19 June

3.2 Leaflets: No further leaflets have been produced, but options are still under consideration

3.3 Marine Guide: I am hoping to have this completed for the start of the 2011 Dive season – so watch this space!?

3.4 Beach Building: The boards from the beach building will be moving up to Hartland's new 'Helicopter Departure Lounge' next week! New replica boards will be printed and installed into the beach building before next seasons sailing.

Work is on going on the mainland interpretation boards which will also be completed and in place for the next sailing season!

Nicola Saunders, Lundy Warden

Annex B

Lundy Cetacean Sightings Summary 2010

Lundy's Cetacean sightings this year have come from a variety of sources including visitors staying on Lundy, a local dive charter boat, but most of all from the crew of the island's passenger ship MS *Oldenburg*, which makes almost daily trips to Lundy throughout the summer season.

The first sighting of the year was recorded on April 4th, and the most recent recorded in this summary was from October 10th. During this time, 2295 cetaceans have been spotted around the island, from a total of 157 sightings.

The majority of these sightings are identified as Common dolphins and Harbour porpoise. To summarise, from 2295 sightings of cetaceans, 2169 (95%) were identified as dolphin species and of these, 2101 (97%) were positively identified as Common dolphins, 2 Risso's and 8 Bottlenosed, leaving 58 as unidentified dolphin species. Harbour porpoise and Minke whale were more elusive with only 116 and 10 sightings recorded respectfully.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to contribute their cetacean sightings. It is really helping us get a better idea of which marine animals are around our shores. Let's hope we can top this number next year!

Just a reminder to all...

So far this season we have received completed cetacean packs from Clive Pearson and the *Oldenburg*, with additional sightings being added to by the Tavern logbook sightings. Please can anyone with forms return them a.s.a.p. so that we can send the data off to the SeaWatch Foundation and include them in our annual findings?

Sophie Wheatley

Annex C

Lundy Diving Monitoring Studies: 31 August – 3 September 2010

Two featured species of the SAC, for which Natural England has obligations to monitor under the Habitats Directive, are the pink sea fan *Eunicella verrucosa* and the sunset cup coral *Leptopsammia pruvoti*. Following the review of the marine monitoring programme by Haskoning UK at the start of this year, it was recommended that the status of these two species should be re-assessed in 2010.

A contract to undertake this monitoring was let in early summer and was won by Sea-Scope Marine Environmental Consultants. The original proposal for this project was to spend two separate weeks (10 working days) at Lundy with a team of four divers – two contractors and two Natural England staff. In the end, the number of working days was reduced from 10 to 4, and the size of the dive team was increased from 4 to 8. The 8 included myself and Keith Hiscock as two of the four contractors, two divers from Natural England and two volunteer divers. We operated from Andrew Bengey's boat *Obsession I*, a day boat out of Ilfracombe skippered by Leigh Hanks. The four days of survey diving were between 31st August and 3rd September.

All of our dive sites were off the island's east coast. The weather during the four days did not prevent us diving, but it could have been a little better, being easterly force 4-5 for most of the week. We attempted 4 projects, all of which had successful outcomes. The 'primary' ones were:

1. To assess the presence and abundance of the sunset cup coral *Leptopsammia pruvoti*; and
2. To assess the presence, abundance and condition of the pink sea fan *Eunicella verrucosa*.

The two 'secondary' projects (which were to be undertaken if time and resources allowed) were:

3. To assess the composition of kelp species within kelp biotopes; and
4. To assess the distribution of the algal community at specific locations.

The data from these studies are still being analysed so I am unable to report any findings as yet. However, I can briefly explain how we set about obtaining these data.

For the sunset cup coral studies, diver counts of individual corals were undertaken at the Knoll Pins, Gannets Rock Pinnacle and at Anchor Pinnacle/Pete's Pinnacle. Overlapping photographs were taken of limited areas of rock face at 3 sites on the Knoll Pins and at 1 site at Gannets Rock Pinnacle.

Inspection of individual sea fans was undertaken at North Quarries, off Gull Rock and at Gannets' Bay along a series of 10m x 4m long belt transects. The condition of each sea fan was scored using a scale of 1 (pristine) to 5 (heavily colonised by weed/other organisms).

Kelp species were counted at Gannet's Bay and on the north side of Rat Island using 1m quadrats. The proportion of *Laminaria hyperborea* to *L. ochroleuca* was noted.

The deepest depth of the ecological upper circalittoral, lower infralittoral and upper infralittoral zones was noted and photographed at the Knoll Pins.

Robert Irving, Sea-Scope 21 October 2010