

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 4th meeting of the Lundy Marine Conservation Zone Advisory Group

(formerly known as the Lundy Marine Nature Reserve Advisory Group, of which this was the 34th meeting, and prior to that the Lundy Marine Consultation Group, of which this was the 52nd meeting)

held on **Tuesday, 25th October 2011** on board the island's passenger ferry MS *Oldenburg*, berthed alongside the quay at Ilfracombe at 7.00 p.m.

Present:

| | | |
|-----------------|------|---|
| Keith Hiscock | (KH) | Marine Biological Association – Chair |
| Robert Irving | (RI) | Lundy Field Society/Marine Conservation Society - Secretary |
| Nick Russell | (NR) | English Heritage |
| Derek Green | (DG) | Lundy Manager |
| Nicola Saunders | (NS) | Lundy Warden |
| Sarah Clark | (SC) | Devon & Severn Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority |
| Mel Parker | (MP) | Natural England |
| Clive Pearson | (CP) | Local charter skipper (<i>Jessica Hettie</i>) |
| Andrew Bengey | (AB) | <i>Obsession</i> Charters |
| Chris Mandry | (CM) | British Sub-Aqua Club |
| John Barbeary | (JB) | Local fisherman |

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting, especially those attending for the first time. He also thanked Derek Green for making the MS *Oldenburg* available for the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from: Andrew Bell (UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, Braunton Burrows); Mike Deaton (Appledore Sub-Aqua Club); Maggs Ashton (Ilfracombe Sub-Aqua Club); and John Balls (local pot fisherman).

2. Notes on the last meeting, held on 19th April 2011

Copies of these had been circulated prior to the meeting. CP pointed out that his name had been omitted from the list of attendees. 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 19th April 2011

KH informed the Group that he had made enquiries via his colleague (Phil Watts) at Liverpool University regarding what was happening with his sunset cup coral samples (taken from Plymouth, the Isles of Scilly and Brittany as well as from Lundy) he had left with him for DNA analysis. He had been told that they were safe and well but that it would cost in the region of £4,500 to have their DNA analysed. In response to this news, MP stated that Natural England did not have that amount of money available; and no-one else was able to suggest any charities or grant-awarding bodies that may be able to assist either. KH suggested he could ask his colleagues at the MBA in Plymouth as to how best to proceed.

RI asked if NS knew whether the proposed wreck survey project by two Bournemouth University M.Sc students had taken place. AB explained that the project had not gone ahead (apparently due to lack of money), but that Dave Prior, a senior lecturer, was keen to promote something similar happening in the future.

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 20th April 2011 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:

- The Atlantic Array windfarm proposals. RI had reported on the presentation made the previous evening at the Advisory Group by two representatives of RWE npower renewables (Gill Moore and Robert Thornhill). MP summarised the Management Forum's concerns and submitted these to RWE in writing. She had since received a long reply back, but that it did not address the concerns adequately.
- NS's Warden's Report (very similar in content to that presented to the Advisory Group).
- Recent reports on intertidal and subtidal monitoring projects.
- Terrestrial monitoring on the island had included assessments of the domestic stock and the rabbit population.
- Shearwater and lobster tagging projects
- The terrestrial Conservation Management Plan by Footprint Ecology consultants, which has now been 'signed off'.
- Sewage and recycling schemes.
- An update on the recently created Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (D&S IFCA)
- An archaeological matters by English Heritage.
- An update on the latest activities of the Lundy Field Society (KH).
- The renewal of the lease of the seabed in the Landing Bay from the Crown estate.
- A proposal to extend the length of the slipway down to the Diver's Beach.

KH suggested that Group members may wish to look at a paper relating to ecological monitoring studies undertaken at a windfarm site off the Dutch coast.

URL: http://iopscience.iop.org/1748-9326/6/3/035101/pdf/1748-9326_6_3_035101.pdf.

DG also asked those present for comments on his plans to add some form of ladder access point at the end of the jetty. This matter had been raised before (particularly by CP), as it was a problem for both charter vessels and for small cruise ships. At times other than at high water, the existing vertical ladder access to the jetty was precarious

and possibly dangerous. DG thought that some kind of fire-escape ladder may be best, or possibly an angled staircase further along the side of the jetty. CP pointed out that what was needed was a definite platform at the end. AB suggested a zig-zag staircase may be considered, though should this have moving parts it may lead to maintenance difficulties. DG added that he would be seeking additional funds to undertake this project.

5. **Report from the Reserve**

The report attached as Annex A was presented by Nicola Saunders.

Points addressed during and after NS's report:

- KH wanted to record the Advisory Group's **thanks** to Sophie Wheatley for her hard work as assistant Warden over the past five years. NS pointed out that a new full-time Warden's post was going to be advertised, and DG confirmed he wanted to see Lundy continuing to lead the way in MCZ management.
- The two **C-pods** (section 2.2) for recording cetacean 'clicks' had been deployed for 3 months and had only just been recovered. NS had found the software for deciphering the data they stored was rather difficult to operate. She was hoping that the data could be studied by students and/or staff at Plymouth University. There was also 4 years of sightings data from charter boats and from the Oldenburg.
- DG mentioned that, after checking the condition of the visitors' **Seaflex mooring** in the Landing Bay, it was set back in position rather too close to the Ilfracombe SAC's second mooring. He agreed that it needed to be moved further away, which he would see was done. The Gannerts' Bay Seaflex mooring was still there albeit with a temporary small buoy tied to it by AB.
- **Diving on the protected wreck** of the *Iona II* was becoming a problem as the licensing system was being abused. Through introducing the licensing system, English Heritage were keen to get back some information on how many divers were visiting the site each month, but the lack of licence applications on a monthly basis was contrary to the numbers known to have been diving the wreck. NR requested that charter skippers and local dive clubs do not abuse the system or otherwise it will be withdrawn.
- NS added to her report that the No Take Zone area on the east side of Lundy was being put forward by Finding Sanctuary as a potential '**Reference Zone**', which, in effect, meant a no disturbance area. It was possible that the Reference Zone would also be a non-anchoring area.

AB and CP both asked how this might affect their practice of dropping shots/anchors on the top of the Gannets' Rock Pinnacle to mark the site for their dive groups. In addition, commercial vessels used Lundy Roads as a safe anchorage during rough weather, so how might this proposal affect them? CM pointed out that he thought most commercial vessels anchored outside the NTZ, but this was disputed by others. KH suggested a form of words which the Advisory Group could agree to: "that the proposal to have the NTZ area as a non-anchoring area seemed impractical; and that a more reasonable approach to minimise the adverse effects of anchoring was required, rather than outright banning". SG added that it was likely to be the Devon & Severn IFCA who would be responsible for introducing any legislation which would be necessary for this policy to be put into place, and the IFCA would require a lot more background knowledge before coming to any conclusions. It was suggested that these points be taken on to the Management Forum meeting the following day (26th October 2011).

- The **infringements to the NTZ** during the summer led to some discussion, particularly where suspected scallop dredging was concerned. KH pointed out that research had shown that 90% of damage to the benthos was caused by the first pass of a dredge. The furrow marks, however, were likely to disappear after the next big storm.

SG added that there had been an increase in scalloping this season, particularly off the N. Devon coast. The perennial problem of the requirement to apprehend a fishing boat whilst actively engaged in an illegal fishing practice was raised and discussed. SG confirmed that the IFCA would be making use of Environment Agency survey vessels in future, which would have warranted officers on board. She also mentioned that it might be possible to introduce a restriction on night-time fishing (i.e. between the hours of 7 pm and 7 am), as had been done for the squid fishery off the S. Devon coast.

- SG also commented on the selling of fish caught from an **unlicensed vessel**. In this case, the vessel in question was a small grey RIB which had been catching bass close in to Montagu steps (south end of west coast), with the catch being sold to local pubs. This was an issue for the MMO (Marine Management Organisation), but that IFCA were awaiting a review of the relevant byelaws.
- Unease was voiced by a number of those present from the diving fraternity regarding the manner and standard of judging for the **Splash-In** competition, which was felt to be not of a sufficiently high standard. In future it was recommended that the majority of categories should be judged by a judging panel and not by the competitors themselves.

6. Natural England's interests (Mel Parker, Natural England)

- 6.1 Fieldwork: The Wardens had re-visited the monitored rockpools in the vicinity of Devil's Kitchen; a team of NE staff had undertaken shore transects at various sites around the island in September, with KH joining them for one day to assist. MP is planning to write up a report of this work in January. Whilst the shore transects were being undertaken, one of the NE staff (Roger Covey) took his kayak and proceeded around the coast, taking GPS positions of all the caves he encountered.
- 6.2 MP informed the Group that the proposed desk-based project to assess the declines in several species of nature conservation importance at Lundy was having to be 'put on hold' as funding was not available for this at present. However, it was intended for the NTZ monitoring to take place again in 2012.
- 6.3 The Environment Agency (in conjunction with Natural England) were planning to conduct a survey of the island's subtidal sandbanks and to compile a distribution of the biotopes present associated with these (particularly the sand and gravel communities). KH asked how close in to the east coast this was likely to go. MP was unsure, but agreed that KH should review a NE map to check this.
- 6.4 A study at Southampton University (and at Plymouth and Aberystwyth?) was being undertaken into the increase in the proportion of the southern kelp *Laminaria ochroleuca* within kelp forests at various sites (including Lundy). Due to its ability to deter other organisms from settling on it, *L. ochroleuca* has far fewer species growing on its stipe and holdfast than the northern kelp *L. hyperborea*, which has in the region of 300 species associated with it. As a consequence, MP explained that NE were looking into dropping maintaining the ratio of these two species as a conservation objective for the Lundy MCZ.
- 6.5 The Finding Sanctuary consultation period had now ended. Their website

(www.findingsanctuary.org.uk) can be checked for the Lundy entries. KH (who sits on the National MPAs Science Advisory Panel) considered that insufficient consideration had gone into the preparation of Lundy's Conservation Objectives, and that several of the most recent references for Lundy had not been consulted.

- 6.6 The draft Lundy MCZ Management Plan was now with NS and it was planned to have it ready by Autumn 2012.
- 6.7 A collaboration between Natural England and the University of Plymouth was being nurtured, especially with regard to student projects which could link with studies undertaken at Lundy. Of particular interest for possible projects in future were the grey seals.
- 6.8 The proposed Atlantic Array windfarm site. This is an on-going saga and is still at a relatively early stage in its development (see paragraphs copied from a letter to Mel Parker, Chair of the Lundy Management Forum, dated 9 September 2011; and also see the link below for the planning timetable). However, DG in particular was very concerned about the visual impact the array of turbines would have on seaviews from Lundy, especially after the developer, RWE Npower Renewables Ltd., had published its mock-up scenarios from various viewpoints around the Bristol Channel. NE will be having a meeting with CCW, JNCC and RSPB next week to discuss their response to the public consultation which was ending on 10th November 2011. KH drew the Group's attention to a paper which reported the impacts on marine wildlife (including seabirds) of a Dutch windfarm (see link below).

CEL (Channel Energy Ltd., a subsidiary to RWE Npower Renewables) has completed the offshore surveys for the proposal, and onshore surveys are planned to be completed by the end of September. In line with this, baseline studies are in the process of being finalised, and impact assessment work has recently commenced with the aim of producing a draft Environmental Statement (ES). The draft ES will be used to support formal consultation with statutory bodies under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008, in early 2012.

The Planning Act also places a duty on the developer to undertake consultation with the public under Section 47 of the Act. In line with guidance for consulting with the general public CEL has produced Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI), a document which will be used as the basis for formal public consultation. The period of public consultation will commence on the 10th September 2011 and close at 5pm 10th November 2011.

<http://www.rwe.com/web/cms/en/354738/rwe-innogy/sites/wind-offshore/developing-sites/atlantic-array-offshore-wind-farm/>

<http://iopscience.iop.org/1748-9326/6/3/035101>

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

KH informed the Group of all the various events and publications celebrating these two (joint) anniversaries, which had taken place over the summer months.

- a reception party was hosted by the Lundy Company/Landmark Trust (c/o Derek Green) on board the *Oldenburg* alongside at Bideford Quay on 3rd July. The local MP for Torridge, Geoffrey Cox, said a few words as did Derek Green and Keith Hiscock. In the region of 100 invited guests turned up. Ilfracombe & Appledore dive clubs exhibited their members underwater photos of Lundy's marine life at the event.
- in use since January 2011, a special "Lundy – 40 years of Marine

Conservation” cancellation frank on all mail leaving the island;

- a successful annual underwater photographic ‘Splash-In’ took place on 18/19 June 2011;
- the Marine Field Guides by Nicola Saunders and Sophie Wheatley were officially launched at the event on 3rd July;
- KH had written articles for the Wildlife Trusts’ ‘*Natural World*’ magazine; May’s issue of ‘*Diver*’ magazine, and another for May’s issue of ‘*Dive*’ magazine
- Lundy’s marine life featured in the first programme of the forthcoming BBC series ‘Britain’s Secret Seas’ (to be shown in May).
- Chris Mandry had given Powerpoint presentations to a number of different groups throughout Devon including Coastwise, the U3A and to the Lundy Field Society AGM. A display he had prepared had already been seen at Braunton and Ilfracombe Libraries and was due to be shown at Barnstaple and Bideford Libraries shortly.
- KH and RI have paired up to write a small book on the history of marine conservation at Lundy, which would be published towards the end of the year. They were asking if anyone had photographs of diving activities, charter vessels or of Lundy’s marine life which they could include.

8. **Any Other Business**

- SC reported that her lobster tagging programme had continued during 2011, but on a smaller scale due to a decrease in funding. The tags used in 2010 were found to be not so good as those used earlier. After much persistence, a single lobster larva had been caught by means of a light trap. SC was asked to make a full presentation of her findings at the next meeting of the Advisory Group.
- DG reported that art students of Petroc College had been asked to come up with some stamp designs for Lundy. The various designs were going to be displayed on board the *Oldenburg* this coming Sunday afternoon (30th October) at Appledore.

10 **Date of next meeting: Tuesday 24th April 2012**

19:00 hrs on board MS *Oldenburg* moored alongside **Bideford** Quay.

N.B. It was agreed that for the foreseeable future, meetings would be held on board the MS *Oldenburg*, at Bideford for the Spring meetings and at Ilfracombe for the Autumn meetings.

Annex A

Warden's Report (April 2011 - October 2011)

1 Staff

- 1.1 My assistant Warden, Sophie Wheatley has left Lundy after working on the island for 5 years. An advert for a replacement is being placed this week, with a view to filling the position in January after the 'shut-down' period.
- 1.2 Reece Woolgar has been with us all season as a volunteer and finishes on Friday

2 Marine

- 2.1 **Grey Seals:** Sophie and I did 5 RIB based seal surveys between July and October, with the lowest count of 153 on 1 October and a high count of 242 on 31 Jul.

8 pups have been reported from land based sightings.

- 2.2 **Cetaceans:** Two C-Pods were deployed this year; the first on 25 July on MV Robert on the east coast and the second on 30 July on the Ethel on the South coast. Thank you to ASAC who deployed the Ethel pod and to Obsession charter who recovered the Robert pod last week.

Log book sightings have been good with 47 separate sightings:

| Species | Number of reports | Date Range | Pod size |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------|----------|
| Bottlenose Dolphin | 4 | Apr-Oct | 1-2 |
| Common Dolphin | 16 | Apr-Oct | 5-100+ |
| Dolphin sp. | 4 | Aug | 6-20 |
| Minke Whale | 1 | Apr | 2 |
| Porpoise | 22 | Mar-Oct | 1-15 |

MS Oldenburg recorded 69 cetacean sightings between 14 Apr and 1 Oct

| Species | Number of reports | Date Range | Pod size |
|----------------|-------------------|------------|----------|
| Common Dolphin | 50 | Apr- Oct | 1-150+ |
| Porpoise | 19 | Apr-Aug | 1-9 |

Juvenile Common Dolphins were seen on 12 separate occasions with a high count of 30+ on 15 September with a pod of 150+ individuals. Calves were seen on 28 July and 3 August.

I have not collated the data from other vessel based sighting forms yet – please pass on any forms I've not yet received.

We have been in contact with Plymouth University who may be able to set up a student project to assist with the data analysis from the vessel based surveys and the C-POD data.

2.3 No **Basking Shark** sightings were reported in 2011

2.4 **Seaflex moorings.** The visitor mooring and wardens mooring have had essential maintenance, with new fixings, replacement mooring rope and new buoys, put in place.

2.5 **Iona II – Scheduled Wreck.**

It appears that due to some confusion on the license procedure for the Iona II, there were a number of illegal dives on the Iona this year. Most individuals concerned are extremely respectful and protective of the site and as soon as the oversight became apparent the necessary licenses were applied for and granted.

Individuals, clubs or charter boats wishing to dive the Iona II or the Gull Rock Wreck site must apply for a license annually and report to English Heritage when the sites has been dived. It is essential licences are in place before the start of next year's dive season, and any unlicensed dives in 2011 will be reported to EH.

2.6 **MCZ Infringements**

There have been a number of incidents reported this season:

13 May: Pacemaker – GY165; seen apparently trawling down the east coast and around SW point inside the refuge zone; Reported to D&SIFCA – advised not trawling

19 Jun: Rising Dawn – present for several days, reported trawling within the refuge zone and possibly the NTZ, by a visiting dive group; images forwarded to D&SIFCA

There appears to have been an increase in general trawling activity along the east coast with reports from early July onwards, some vessels not identified; Scarlet Lou DS4 and Katie Claire PZ87 – seen trawling the East Bank on a regular basis from July onwards. No evidence of infringements, but a number of reports of night time activity very close in shore.

A report on 2 July of an unidentified vessel trawling within the MV Robert buoy at 9pm. On 27th July I received a second hand report that Icthus (Ivan Bates – Tamara fishing) had had a string of pots out along the edge of the NTZ and when he had come to haul them, found a scallop dredger had run through them. Both incidents report to D&SIFCA

Angling Infringements:

Boy Darren fishing at Brazen Ward on 19th June. (Report from OBSII)

Weird Fish fishing inshore north of the Sugar Loaf on 30th July.

Estella De Mars at Gannets Pinnacle on 2 Sept (Report from OBSII)

On 26th July I received an anonymous phone call to say that a non-commercial boat was Bass fishing in large quantities and selling to local restaurants. There were similar reports in 2008 and 2009 and a RIB has been seen fishing on a number of occasions tucked in close to the west coast in the region of Montagu steps. Concerns have been raised by a number of individuals regarding the frequency and intensity of this fishing effort.

3 Survey & Monitoring

3.1 Marine Monitoring

- 3.1.1 MarClim surveys took place in mid- July with a small team from MBA and NE; Surveys of barnacle, Limpet and trochids (*Osilinus lineatus*, & *Gibbula umbilicalis*), were done in Devils Kitchen, Lamentry bay & Brazen Ward. Results will contribute to a national survey on the effects of climatic change on marine biodiversity.
- 3.1.2 The Devils Kitchen rockpool community survey which was established in 1984 was done in April and repeated in September.
- 3.1.3 Temperature Loggers on MV Robert and the Jetty were recovered mid season and I have attached summary graphs and temperature variance tables for each monitoring site.
- 3.1.4 Devils Kitchen cup coral survey was completed in August
- 3.1.5 *Sargassum* clearance of the intertidal areas in Devils Kitchen and the landing bay was ongoing from April – August. Sub-tidal clearance of the jetty area should be considered for 2012 as plants were abundant.

3.2 Seabirds:

3.2.1 Puffin

The Summary report for the Puffin Monitoring in 2009 & 2010 is due to be published in the LFS Journal. 2011 was another promising year, with breeding numbers thought to be equal to or slightly up on 2010. The data requires further scrutiny before I can estimate the number of breeding pairs. There were a total of 23 active burrows recorded through the season, but only we can only confirm breeding at 4 burrows. This is like to be a poor representation of the actual productivity as it is becoming increasingly difficult to get the observational data (provisioning or chick) required to confirm breeding.

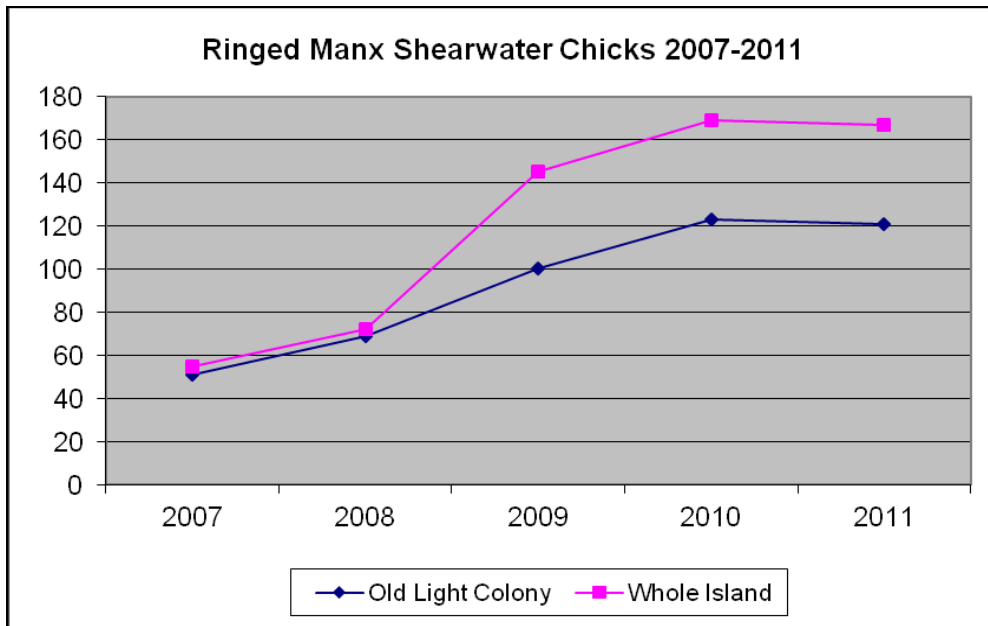
On a positive note the burrow distribution appears to be increasing. Two pairs breed successfully at Long Roost, a first for several years. Two new breeding sites were identified at the southern end of Jenny's Cove (E4 & E3). We had high counts of up to 60 individuals from Mid June onwards

Unfortunately increased numbers seem to have attracted the peregrines, and there have been 6 known puffin predations. On 27th May a puffin was seen being fed to Chicks at the eerie in Jenny's Cove. On 22nd June I witnessed a puffin kill by an adult who passed the carcass to two young fledglings. Three Puffin carcass were found at Gannets Bay in early July and a puffin bill was brought in by climbers at the North End.

3.2.2 Manx Shearwater

Tracking Survey – continued in 2011; Oxford University who run the project hope to be able to provide us with a summary poster detailing the preliminary results before too long.

Chick ringing - Tony Taylor & David Price continued the chick ringing on Lundy between 20th August and 5th September. A total of 167 chicks were ringed, 121 at the Old Light Colony. The last three days proved problematic with strong winds, whilst the ringed chick numbers were slightly down on 2010, the perception was that there were more birds present than 2010 with more still to emerge from their burrows.



Tony also recovered TWO adults that had been previously ringed as chicks in 2008 – an extremely exciting and positive find – the first known returning Lundy-bred birds since the rat eradication!

Manx Shearwaters also seem to have taken a hit from the Jenny’s Cove peregrines this year, with at least 8 carcasses found in June.

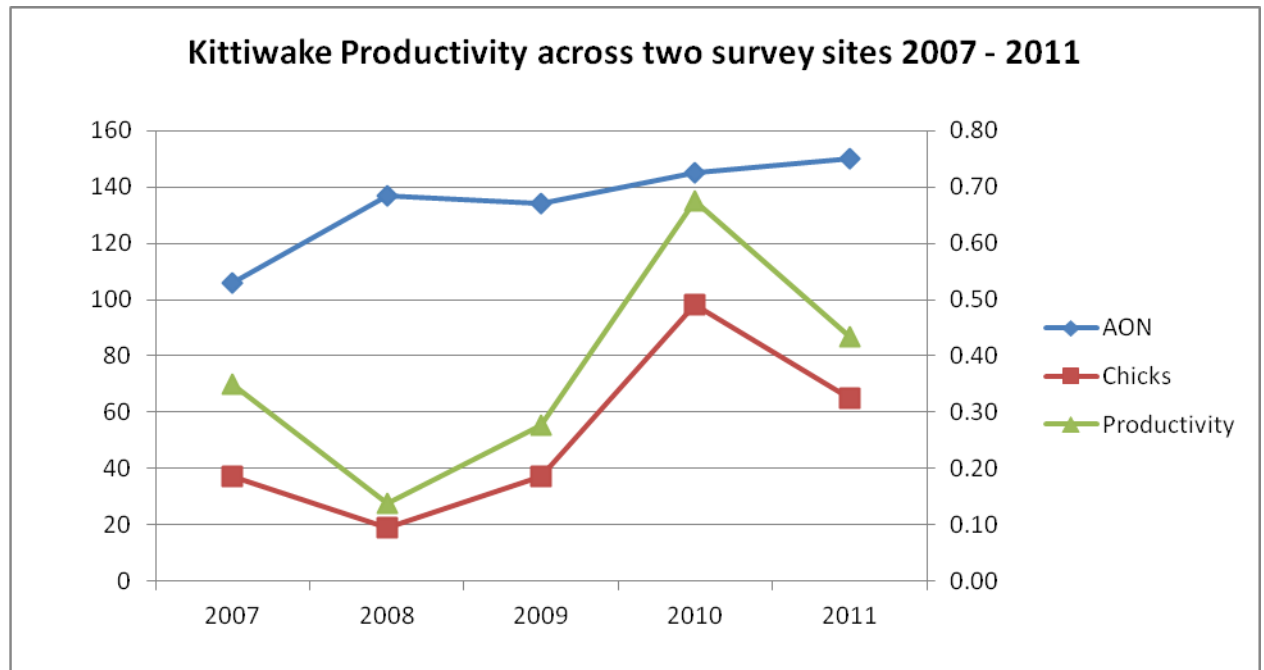
3.2.3 Kittiwake

Kittiwake Productivity surveys were done at Three Quarter Wall Bay and Aztec Bay. Again there was a noticeable difference in the success rate between the two sites. Overall productivity was down from 0.68 in 2010 to 0.43 in 2011. In contrast to previous years the larger of the two colonies at three quarterwall bay fared better in 2011. On a positive note the breeding population at each site appears to be stable, with a slight increase in numbers over the last five years

Kittiwake Productivity across two survey sites:

| Productivity | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
|---------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Three Quarter | 0.35 | 0.12 | 0.17 | 0.65 | 0.51 |
| Aztec | --- | 0.29 | 0.68 | 0.76 | 0.21 |
| Total | 0.35 | 0.14 | 0.28 | 0.68 | 0.43 |

Combined Productivity and Apparently Occupied Nests:



4 Interpretation & Events

- 4.1 The 2011 Lundy **Splash-IN** was a success with an increase in participants – the event was scheduled for June, but had to be cancelled due to adverse weather, but was re-scheduled for the bank holiday August weekend. We received almost 3K of sponsorship and managed to get media coverage in the Gazette, North Devon Journal & the Guardian online. Dive Magazine has an 8 page spread on Lundy this month, covering the 40th anniversary and the Splash-IN. Diver Magazine did a joint article “One Weekend 2 Splash-Ins” covering the Lundy and St Abbs Splash-Ins
- 4.2 **Leaflets:** Sophie completed the production on the Seal Leaflet which is now available to buy from the shop.
- 4.3 **Marine Guide:** The Marine Guide was launched on 3rd July and has been selling well and is also available to buy from online books stores including Amazon, Blackwells and Waterstones.
- 4.4 The **MCZ Website** was launched in early September. Feedback has been good to date and it is very much a work in progress with scope to build on the content and develop the site further. www.lundymcz.org.uk

Nicola Saunders, Lundy Warden