

# Warden's Report (April – October 2011)

## 1 Staff

1.1 Sophie has left Lundy and 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 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 bases 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> June. (Report from OBSII)  
Weird Fish fishing inshore north of the Sugar Loaf on 30<sup>th</sup> July.  
Estella De Mars at Gannets Pinnacle on 2 Sept (Report from OBSII)

On 26<sup>th</sup> 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 umbilicali*), 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.

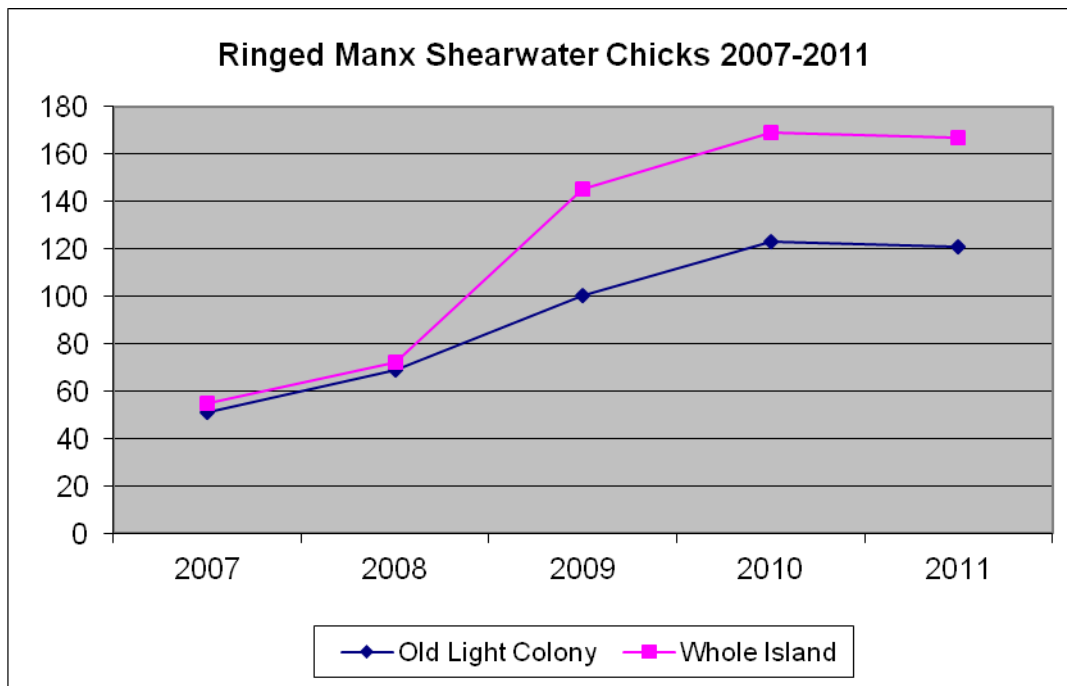
On a positive note the burrow distribution appears to be increasing. Two pairs breed successfully at Long Roost, a first for several years. Two new breeding sites were identified at the southern end of Jenny's Cove (E4 & E3). We had high counts of up to 60 individuals from Mid June onwards

Unfortunately increased numbers seem to have attracted the peregrines, and there have been 6 known puffin predations. On 27<sup>th</sup> May a puffin was seen being fed to Chicks at the eerie in Jenny's Cove. On 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> August and 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

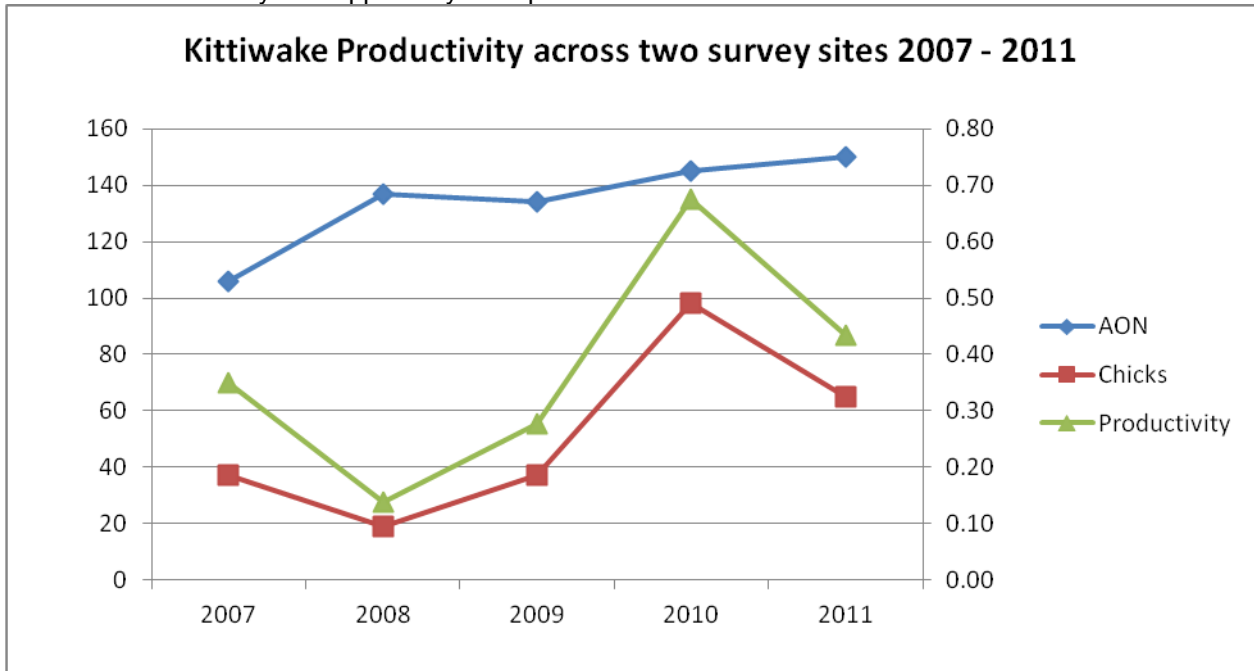
### 3.2.3 Kittiwake

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:



3.3 Bird Rarities:

- Subalpine Warbler:** 24 April
- Little Shearwater:** 24 April – 28<sup>th</sup> & 3 May (3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year) no further reports
- Little Ringed Plover:** 2 May
- Golden Oriole:** 7-10 May
- Trumpeter Finch:** 13-25 May
- 'Partial Albino' Puffin:** 28-29 Jun
- Buff breasted sandpiper:** 2-4 Sept
- Rose Coloured starling:** 24 Sept – 6 Oct
- Pectoral sandpiper:** 24-28 Sept
- Little Bunting:** 29 Sept
- Wryneck:** 1 Oct -
- Greater spotted woodpecker:** 1 Oct – 17 Oct
- Balearic Shearwater:** 2 Oct; 7 on 7<sup>th</sup> Oct
- Ortolan Bunting:** 2 Oct – 17 Oct
- Lapland bunting:** Upto 5 on 7 Oct

3.4 Rats

Monthly checks of the permanent stations continue. A visitor reported a potential 'rat sighting' at Stoneycroft. All the information gathered and site inspection point indicated that it was most likely a young black rabbit. After discussing with the SBRP group it was decided it was a low priority and a small number of bait stations were put out as a precaution.

3.5 Mammal Count Summary:

	Mammal Count (May 2011)	Actual Cull 2011/12 to date
Soay	196 incl 66 lambs	19
Goat	Goat 30	4
Sika	Sika 53; -underestimated	n/a
Rabbit	13,000	

The Sika estimate known to be low, in March there was a count of 79; It has been decided that the National Trust Mammal Counts will be dis-continued. Counts of the Sika and Soay will continue and will be done by the island staff and cull team. Autumn vegetation monitoring will be set up to monitor the grazing and condition assessment.

3.6 Rhododendron: Ropeworks were over on Lundy last week working on the last remaining cliff 'stand' at Area 12; they also managed a couple of days revisiting previously cleared cliff areas to follow up on treatment. More details on Rhodi to follow in this afternoons Cabbage meeting

#### **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 40<sup>th</sup> 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 Leaflet's; 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://www.lundymcz.org.uk)

Nicola Saunders, Lundy Warden