

# 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

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



## Notes of the 5th meeting of the Lundy Marine Conservation Zone Advisory Group

(formerly known as the Lundy Marine Nature Reserve Advisory Group, of which this was the 35<sup>th</sup> meeting, and prior to that the Lundy Marine Consultation Group, of which this was the 53<sup>rd</sup> meeting)

held on **Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2012** on board the island's passenger ferry MS *Oldenburg*, berthed alongside the quay at Bideford at 7.00 p.m.

### *Present:*

Keith Hiscock	(KH)	Marine Biological Association – Chair
Robert Irving	(RI)	Lundy Field Society/Marine Conservation Society - Secretary
Derek Green	(DG)	Lundy Manager
Mel Parker	(MP)	Natural England
Andy Bell	(ABel)	UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, Braunton
Andrew Bengey	(ABen)	Obsession Charters
Chris Mandry	(CM)	British Sub-Aqua Club
John Balls	(JB)	Clovelly Fishermen's Association
Chris Hewitt	(CH)	Ilfracombe Sub-Aqua Club
Mike Deaton	(MD)	Appledore Sub-Aqua Club

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: Derren Fox (Lundy Warden); Alison James (English Heritage); Sarah Clark (Devon & Severn Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority); Leigh Hanks (Obsession Charters); Gay Tabor (Torridge District Council); and Clive Pearson (charter skipper - *Jessica Hettie*).

### **2. Notes on the last meeting, held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

Copies of these had been circulated prior to the meeting. 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 25<sup>th</sup> October 2012**

KH, who sits on the Government's national MPAs Science Advisory Panel, informed

the Group that the list of proposed MCZs, as recommended by the Finding Sanctuary project in the South-West, was now with Defra who had asked both Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee for some further details regarding certain sites. A 3-month public consultation period for all of the sites will take place towards the end of 2012. The boundary and the conservation objectives for the Lundy MCZ will be included within the consultation document. There is presently a contract being undertaken by the consultants APBMer in association with the Marine Biological Association to ensure that all existing data have been included in the assessment exercise.

Chris Mandry, a long-standing member of the Ilfracombe Sub-Aqua Club and a Lundy stalwart, has given a number of talks about the Lundy MCZ and its history to various groups in N. Devon. In addition, a display he has created has been on display at Bideford public library and is about to move to Northam public library.

#### **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 26<sup>th</sup> October 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. Andrew Knights is the main contact at Natural England dealing with this. RWE n-power Renewables Ltd. are expecting to complete their Environmental Statement by the end of May and it should be accessible for others to view by the end of July. There is due to be a full public consultation on this during July and August. Most concerns (of Forum members) centre on noise (both during construction and operation phases); visual impact; and various environmental concerns (including birds, seals, cetaceans, fish, benthos etc.). Gill Moore, the company's Offshore Consents Manager, has been invited to give a presentation to the Forum at their next meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2012 on Lundy.
- NS gave what was to be her final Warden's Report (very similar in content to that which she presented to the Advisory Group).
- Verbal report on NE's recent intertidal monitoring and their sea caves location project.
- Archaeological matters by English Heritage.
- An update on the latest activities of the Lundy Field Society (KH).
- The church and its future.
- Staffing matters on the island (see also update below).
- Since the meeting, the volunteer accommodation building on the island ('The Lodge') is now open and already is being used to house various volunteers.

DG informed the Group that, following Nicola Saunders departure from the island at the end of February, a new Warden, Derren Fox, had been appointed in her place. The post of assistant warden was now no longer but had been elevated to Warden status, so the island now has two Wardens. Sophie Wheatley, who had been assistant Warden, has now been appointed to this role. Whilst their jobs will overlap considerably, it is envisaged that Derren will be more of a terrestrial Warden and Sophie will be more of a marine Warden. The latest news, however, is that within the last few days, Sophie Wheatley has resigned her position, so the second Warden post will need to be filled again. Apparently, there were some very good candidates for the original Warden's post, so a number of these will be contacted again and asked if they may still be interested in the second Warden post, without the need to re-advertise.

[Postscript: 9<sup>th</sup> June 2012, Donald Malone was appointed as Joint Warden and would take on marine responsibilities].

KH asked that the Advisory Group's thanks be passed on to Nicola Saunders (and be minuted), for the excellent job she did over the 5+ years she spent on the island.

## **5. Report from the Reserve**

In the absence of Derren Fox, the report attached as Annex A was presented by Derek Green.

One main point was addressed after the Warden's report:

- In light of the comments made about the procedure for judging the Splash-In photos last year, MD offered to make some enquiries with the British Society of Underwater Photographers (BSOUP), of which he is a member, as to how they judge their similar annual event. ABen also asked if a specific weekend could be agreed for each year (such as the third weekend in June), so that he can know this well in advance when taking charter booking enquiries. DG thought this a good idea and agreed to work something out around suitable tides.

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

- 6.1 The survey of the MCZ's subtidal sandbanks (by the Environment Agency in conjunction with Natural England) will take place during the first week in July. This will form part of the EA's statutory monitoring duties under the Water Framework Directive. They will compile a distribution of the biotopes associated with the muddy sand and gravel habitats using grab sampling and drop-down video. KH clarified that 'sandbanks' was a Habitats Directive term that was translated as 'any shallow subtidal sandy sediment'. He asked if species richness will be recorded as that was what mattered from the point-of-view of reporting quality; identifying biotopes would do no more than the surveys undertaken by Ambios Ltd. and they would be very unlikely to change. The selected sample sites were well thought through. MP was hopeful that species richness would be recorded.
- 6.2 The MarClim intertidal monitoring project would be visiting the island's shores again this summer, adding to their data on species distribution and biotope mapping. MarClim has been a multi-partner funded project run by the Marine Biological Association investigating the effects of climatic warming on intertidal biodiversity. The project officially ran from 2001-2005, so this visit will help to extend the timeframe of the data set collected so far.
- 6.3 Two MSc students from the University of Plymouth (Natalie Squires and Katy Hodgson-Ball) will be undertaking a study of Lundy's cetaceans during May and June in order to determine what they are using the Lundy area for. They will be analyzing the audio recordings of cetacean clicks from the two C-PODs which have been in place on the wrecks of the Robert and the Ethel. In addition, Kimberley Bennett, a marine mammal ecologist from the University, is planning to investigate fresh samples of seal scat to find out more about the seals' diet. It is hoped that these studies will provide useful background data for Natural England in assessing the likely impacts of projects such as the proposed Atlantic Array. A third representative from the University, Stephen Voitier, who is a seabird ecologist, is also considering undertaking some research on the island.
- 6.4 It was hoped that monitoring of the No Take Zone (which initially ran from 2003-2007) might have started again in 2012, but this is now more likely to happen in

2013. WWF-UK have expressed interest in helping with funding for this, as has the Devon & Severn IFCA, who are particularly interested to assess spill-over effects. 2013 would be 10 years since the NTZ was established, though it was still not clear whether the project would last 1, 2 or 3 years.

- 6.5 MP has still to write-up the intertidal monitoring work and sea caves location survey which was undertaken by Natural England staff in September 2011.
- 6.6 Natural England have begun the process of inputting all of Lundy's marine data onto the Marine Recorder database. This is being undertaken in-house by Liz Bailey in Cornwall. KH asked if this would include the recently generated Ambios data, which MP confirmed it would. Intertidal data were being inputted first.
- 6.7 A draft Lundy MCZ Management Plan (which would compliment the island's terrestrial Management Plan) would be ready by the autumn of this year for consultation. The final Plan would then be ready for April 2013.
- 6.8 As mentioned at the October 2011 meeting of the Group, MP explained that, in light of the increasing predominance of the southern kelp *Laminaria ochroleuca* within the *Laminaria hyperborea* kelp forests around Lundy, NE were looking into dropping maintaining the ratio of these two species as a conservation objective for the Lundy MCZ as it was clearly "outside management control". Indeed, Jeremy Barker from Natural England was reviewing all of the site's conservation objectives.

DG informed the Group that there was growing interest from cetacean-watching groups (especially the SeaWatch Foundation) to use the *Oldenburg* for obtaining sightings data.

ABen commented that the volunteer diving seabed species and habitat project Seasearch had booked a weekend charter with him later in the summer.

CM pointed out that he had recently met a seaweed 'expert' Sarah Hoskins who was now resident in his hometown of Braunton and who would be interested in becoming involved with any studies of algae at Lundy.

RI pointed out that any proposed collection or disturbance of any marine life within the MCZ had first to be cleared by the Wardens and may possibly require a licence. He also emphasised that the Wardens should be keeping a log of all activities which took place within the MCZ, particularly of projects looking at particular marine species or habitats. The Lundy Field Society was always interested in receiving write-ups of such projects with the view of potential publication in either their Annual Report or their biennial Journal.

KH informed the Group that the recently formed Marine Maritime Organisation (MMO) was responsible for licensing any sampling of the seabed, the cost of which was £160.

## **7. Devon & Severn IFCA's interests (Sarah Clark, D&S IFCA)**

Sarah Clark was unable to attend the meeting at short notice but she did manage to provide a short report covering D&S IFCA's interests at Lundy which follows. This however, arrived too late to be read out at the meeting but it is included below.

"In 2011, D&S IFCA undertook one tagging survey at Lundy in July on board the FV *Our Jenny* with Geoff Huelin skippering. 287 lobsters were tagged using anchor T-bar tags. Unfortunately there hasn't been the same level of recapture of the tagged lobsters using these tags as with the yellow streamer tags. It is unclear whether this is an indication of their lack of durability or the lack of interest from the fishermen in looking for the tags or reporting the data. It was noted that there were

fewer recaptures of these tagged lobsters in the NTZ and therefore it would suggest that they are being lost from the lobsters. Larval light traps were deployed during this survey and a single lobster larva was caught! This is 100% more successful than last year! We felt that perhaps we undertook the survey slightly too late in July missing the planktonic stages of the larvae. Tagging was also undertaken of distant reference sites, in particular around Hartland, with John Balls.

In 2012 we are hoping to undertake two surveys around Lundy – hopefully one in May and one in July - and also surveys of the distant reference sites at Hartland and possibly off Ilfracombe. Two thousand yellow streamer tags will be used this year which will hopefully remove any of the concerns/doubt about the tags used in the last couple of years. Larval collection will be tried again and also we will be looking at collecting smaller juvenile lobsters using specially adapted pots to look at the recruitment from the NTZ. We would like to undertake some underwater film footage within the NTZ and MCZ and also footage of the lobster pots fishing but this will be determined by available funding.

## 8. **Any Other Business**

- A report had been received from Alison James at English Heritage which was read out by the Hon. Sec. This is attached as Annex B.

DG pointed out that the licensing procedure for diving on the MCZ's two protected wrecks was still unclear and he agreed to seek clarification of the process from Alison James. In particular, it was unclear if the boat (& its occupants) was covered by the licence, or if the skipper was. Can the licence be issued retrospectively with a list of the names of those who have dived on the wreck?

- KH brought the Group up to date with the current state of play regarding the booklet which he and RI have been writing entitled *Protecting Lundy's Marine Life – 40 years of science and conservation*. A near-complete draft of the booklet was passed around for those present to view it. He explained that it had been decided to publish the booklet as a limited edition of 300 copies and that the cost of the layout and printing would be in the region of £4,500. The retail price would be in the region of £12.95 - £15.00. Copies should be available from mid summer and would be available for members to purchase at the next meeting of the Group in October. DG thanked KH & RI for the work they had put in on this project.
- ABen asked if there were plans to get the Seaflex mooring in Gannets' Bay put back together again. DG agreed that this could be done very soon.
- ABel informed the Group of a new Fisheries Local Action Group known as 'Northern Devon FLAG', which he had spoken about before. More information is available from the website: <http://www.northdevonplus.com/what-we-do/fisheries.aspx> from where the following is taken:

*Following intensive consultation with local businesses and agencies, the Northern Devon FLAG has announced that market development, education & awareness, diversification & efficiency and long-term development are the objectives for the Northern Devon fishing community.*

*The FLAG committee is made up of members of the fishing community covering all sectors and including fishermen, fish processors, retailers, harbours, food & drink, tourism, District and County Councils, the North Devon Biosphere Reserve and agencies such as Seafish, Seafood Devon and Dorset and the Devon Sea*

*Fisheries Committee. The Northern Devon FLAG has created a Strategy which will be the framework for sustainable development of our fishing communities.*

*For more information please contact the FLAG team on 01237 426 426*

[Note that there is also a local action group promoting the acceptance of a North Devon flag ([www.shop.northdevonflag.com](http://www.shop.northdevonflag.com)) – but this is quite a separate entity!]

For appropriate projects with local communities seeking funding in excess of £1,500, matched funding (of 50%) will be available. The project is to run for 3 years. ABeI thought that the Lundy Company could well benefit from the funding in some way or other.

**10 Date of next meeting: Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2012**

19:00 hrs on board MS *Oldenburg* berthed alongside **Ilfracombe** Quay.

## Annex A

# Warden's Report (October 2011 - April 2012)

## 1 Staff

- 1.1 Over the winter period, Derren Fox was appointed Warden and will be leading on the terrestrial side of the role. Sophie Wheatley has recently handed in her notice and will be leaving in early May. Thanks to her for all her hard work and enthusiasm. A replacement is currently being sourced and will hopefully be in place before too long.

Please note a change to the Warden e-mail addresses. You can contact both Wardens at the [warden@lundyisland.co.uk](mailto:warden@lundyisland.co.uk) e-mail. OR alternatively [wildlife.warden@lundyisland.co.uk](mailto:wildlife.warden@lundyisland.co.uk) will go directly to Derren while the [marine.warden@lundyisland.co.uk](mailto:marine.warden@lundyisland.co.uk) will go directly to the marine Warden.

- 1.2 Andy Robinson has been appointed the seasonal volunteer and joined the team on 29<sup>th</sup> March and works with Steve Pratt the Ranger.

## 2 Marine

- 2.1 RIB Work: The RIB is in good working order and has been used a couple of times this year with no major concerns. Only the radar reflector needs replacing. Derren is now qualified to RYA Power Boat level II.
- 2.2 Cetaceans: One C-POD from the Robert wreck has been recovered and the data sent to Natalie Squires an MSc student at the University of Plymouth who will be analysing the data for us. The other C-POD has yet to be recovered and is still on the Ethel. Natalie will also be visiting Lundy to carry out land based cetacean research during the summer.

On two separate occasions this month (April), while on guided walks – a small group of common dolphin have been spotted. From the tavern log book so far this year visitor sightings include:

- 1<sup>st</sup> April - a pod of 15-20 common dolphin were spotted from Jenny's Cove;
  - 16<sup>th</sup> April - a pod of 100+ common dolphins and one minke whale were observed for over 30 mins. from the Battery on the West coast;
  - 22<sup>nd</sup> April - 2 Harbour porpoise seen off Rat Island;
  - 23<sup>rd</sup> April - one harbour porpoise off the East coast.
- 2.3 Moorings: Mooring licences have been issued to the following boats for 2012/13 season:
- Appledore SAC
  - Obsession II (Andrew Benguey)
  - Jessica Hettie (Clive Pearson)
  - Ilfracombe SAC (2 moorings)
  - Ithcus (Ivan Bate)
  - Willow (Jon Fanthorpe)
  - Frolica (Roy Lancaster)

New applications pending:

- Obsession I
- Flute (James Wright)

- 2.4 Protected Wreck licences: As of 20<sup>th</sup> March 2012, access to the **Gull Rock** and **Iona II** sites is currently limited to visitor licences for: Nicola Saunders (Lundy Warden (as was)); Derek Green (Lundy General Manager); prospectively to charter boat (*Obsession*) skipper Andrew Bengey; and Fiona Hampton-Matthews of BSAC Club Bristol Channel Divers.

It is a requirement for any charter boat skippers and individuals who hold a licence to pass on names of all divers that accessed the sites to English Heritage and supply an annual report of the wreck's condition. The Wardens will be closely monitoring diving activity on the wrecks to make sure that only licence holders are diving on the wreck.

- 2.5 NTZ infringements: There have been no observed or reported infringements of the NTZ over the winter.
- 2.6 Entangled seals: We have had reports of 2 entangled seals this season. One in fishing net and one with a probable packing band injury. These are being recorded locally, but should they be reported elsewhere?
- 2.7 Oiled seabirds: We had an incidence of oiled seabirds (3 guillemots and 1 razorbill on 25/26<sup>th</sup> April), all seen around the Devil's Kitchen area.

### 3 Terrestrial

- 3.1 Feral Stock. These are now to be carried out by Lundy staff and volunteers. A full island count was carried out in early March.

Rabbit culling has continued with ~5000 culled over the last 12 months. There has been a myxomatosis outbreak on the island, starting in late January that is still ongoing, and this has had a dramatic impact on the island's rabbit population.

Goats continue to encroach south of Quarter Wall. The fencing and wall will be reassessed to see if they can be made more stock proof and the culling of some of the goats is under consideration.

*Figures from March 2012 count:*

Soay	170	Goats	66	Sika	80
Rams	29	Billies	15	Stags	4
Ewes	141	Nannies	30	Prickets	6
		Kids	21	Hinds	70

Soay Lamb count on 22<sup>nd</sup> April – 33 lambs and 2 corpses

- 3.2 Vegetation monitoring: The stock enclosures around the island have been expanded to allow a comparison of the grazing regime during the 10 year HLS scheme. The enclosures keep all stock out of the vegetation in one half and all but rabbits in the other, and have been in place for ~10 years already.

The NT vegetation monitoring that is being set-up at the moment (Janet Lister) and to be carried out in July will allow us to better coordinate the feral stock culls with habitat targets to achieve the favourable SSSI condition and fulfil our HLS targets.

- 3.3 Rhododendron: Several working parties have been over during the winter period. Tasks included burning some of the accumulated brash and clearing some regrowth and accessible areas. The conservation team have been spraying and treating areas of regrowth. Removal and control work goes well.

An invitation to tender is currently being drawn up for the next phase of the roped access work on the cliffs, with a mind to the work being carried out in October.

- 3.4 Slow worm sighting by visitor staying on the island.

#### **4 Survey & monitoring**

- 4.1 Grey seals: The first seal survey has been completed for this year, and the aim is carry out twice monthly counts by RIB. The most recent April count was of 177 seals.

The Wardens will be assisting in collecting seal scat samples for Kimberley Bennett at Plymouth Uni. in effect to start a data source for potential future honours projects at the University to do with diets of seals on Lundy and ingestion of plastics by grey seals. MP (Natural England) is leading the contact with Kimberley.

- 4.2 Seabirds: The first puffin of the year was seen by Grant on 25<sup>th</sup> March, on the water at Jenny's Cove. Population counts will commence shortly to assess the number of AOBs on the island.

Tim Guilford's team are returning to continue the tracking work in August (10<sup>th</sup>) and the usual chick ringing by Tony Taylor will follow on after.

Annual productivity surveys will be carried out this year on kittiwakes, guillemots and fulmars, with a view to doing less intensive surveys than in previous years, to allow time to cover a wider range of seabird and some key terrestrial species that have been under recorded in the recent past.

- 4.3 Rats: There have been no rat related incidents or sightings in the period from October to April. The current rat boxes around the south of the island are checked monthly.

A single house mouse was found in a box of apples delivered to the island on 27<sup>th</sup> Jan. It was trapped dealt with and the rest of the stock thoroughly checked.

- 4.4 Temperature loggers: These will shortly be retrieved and redeployed on the jetty and MV Robert. DG to help with this April/May. We now have a complete temperature log from August 2007 to present and incomplete data back to 1998.

#### **5 Interpretation & Events**

- 5.1 The 2012 Lundy Splash-IN has been scheduled for 7<sup>th</sup> July. We have once again received generous sponsorship. This year there will be an independent panel of judges deciding the winning images.

- 5.2 The 2013 Calendar is now out and available to purchase.

## 6 Media

- 6.1 Lundy recently appeared in the spring 2012 issue of Exmoor magazine, as well as a short piece on marine conservation on BBC Newsround. Coast have been in contact about coming to Lundy again, to look more at the archaeological aspects of the island.
- 6.2 The University of Glamorgan are planning a visit on April 28<sup>th</sup> to produce a series of short films on different aspects of Lundy life including:

**Lundy Marine Conservation Zone:** The history, monitoring programme and results, leading the way in the U.K.;

**A day in the life of a Volunteer:** Fly-on-the-wall featuring the new building, seasonal and short term 'vollies';

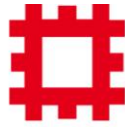
**Day trip to Lundy:** Boat trip from Ilfracombe, dolphins, seabirds, arrival, Millcombe, Castle, Tavern, Shop, Old Light, Church;

**Holiday cottages to let:** Portfolio of all the Landmark properties on the island.

Derren Fox and Sophie Wheatley

Lundy Wardens

## Annex B



# ENGLISH HERITAGE

## English Heritage Update for LMCZAG Meeting, Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2012

### Licensing

As LMCZAG members are aware Lundy has two sites designated under the Protection of Wrecks Act 1973; *Iona II* and Gull Rock. The Protection of Wrecks Act allows the Government to designate a wreck to prevent uncontrolled interference. Designated sites are identified as being likely to contain the remains of a vessel, or its contents, which are of historical, artistic or archaeological importance. It is a criminal offence to do any of the following in a designated area without a licence granted by the appropriate Secretary of State:

- tamper with, damage or remove any part of a vessel lying wrecked on or in the seabed or any object formerly contained in such a vessel
- carry out diving or salvage operations directed to the exploration of any wreck or to removing objects from it or from the seabed, or uses equipment constructed or adapted for any purpose of diving or salvage operations. This is likely to include deployment of remotely operated vehicles
- deposit anything including anchors and fishing gear which, if it were to fall on the site, would obliterate, obstruct access to, or damage any part of the site

It is also an offence to cause or permit any of the above activities to be carried out by others, without a licence, in a restricted area.

For 2012 the following licences have been issued and last until 30<sup>th</sup> November 2012:  
Gull Rock

- Derek Green
- Nicola Saunders
- Andrew Bengey

*Iona II*

- Derek Green
- Nicola Saunders
- Andrew Bengey
- Fiona Hampton-Matthews

Any diving by a charter boat taking place on the site without a licence is illegal. English Heritage would like to remind LMCZAG members that a licence is needed for any divers on the sites and is keen to encourage local charter boats to make sure they hold the required licences.

### **Planned Fieldwork for 2012**

English Heritage have tasked Wessex Archaeology with undertaking a diver survey of the *Iona II* under the Contract for Services in Support of the Protection of Wrecks Act. It is anticipated fieldwork will take place for five days commencing the 17<sup>th</sup> June. For more information please contact Alison James.

### **Bournemouth University**

Bournemouth University have a number of possible research projects planned around Lundy primarily focused on the two protected wreck sites. They have recently received some funding that will allow this work to progress. Fieldwork is planned for later this summer on the Gull Rock site with the aim of undertaking a diver survey of the site and investigating anomalies identified in the 2009 geophysical survey.

### **Alison James, April 2012**

[Alison.james@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:Alison.james@english-heritage.org.uk)

Tel: 07770 736095