

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:

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Notes of the 8th meeting of the Lundy Marine Conservation Zone Advisory Group

(formerly known as the Lundy Marine Nature Reserve Advisory Group, of which this was the 38th meeting, and prior to that the Lundy Marine Consultation Group, of which this was the 56th meeting)

held on **Tuesday 15th October 2013** at 7.00 p.m. at the Ilfracombe Sub-Aqua Club,
Ropery Road, Ilfracombe

Present:

Keith Hiscock	(KH)	Marine Biological Association – Chair
Beccy McDonald	(BM)	Lundy Warden
Derek Green	(DG)	Lundy Manager
Ruth Porter	(RP)	Natural England
Aislinn Mottahedin-Fardo	(AM-F)	Lundy Assistant Warden
Leigh Hanks	(LH)	<i>Obsession</i> Charters
Andrew Bengey	(ABen)	<i>Obsession</i> Charters
Chris Mandry	(CM)	British Sub-Aqua Club
Geoff Huelin	(GH)	Local pot fisherman
Rick Morris	(RM)	MarineLife (observations from <i>Oldenburg</i> crossings)
Robert Durrant	(RD)	Coastwise North Devon
Dave Jenkins	(DJ)	Morte Wildlife Group
Dawn Murphy	(DM)	Morte Wildlife Group
M Legg	(ML)	Choppers Crazy Boat Trips
Sarah Clark	(SC)	Devon & Severn Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority
Steve Ashton	(SA)	Ilfracombe & North Devon Sub-Aqua Club
Chris Hewitt	(CH)	Ilfracombe & North Devon Sub-Aqua Club

The Chairman (KH) welcomed all to the meeting, especially the new attendees. The purpose of the Group, he explained, was to allow the users of the Lundy MCZ to “have their say” and to raise any particular issues they would like to see addressed. Any concerns or matters of importance can then be conveyed to the Lundy Management Forum at their next meeting (usually the following day) by the Group’s Hon. Sec. (or in his absence, the Group’s Chairman). KH also thanked Chris Hewitt for making the Ilfracombe and North Devon Sub-Aqua Club clubhouse available for the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from: Dr Jean-Luc Solandt (Marine Conservation Society); Terry Newman (English Heritage - in place of Alison James on maternity leave); Mike Deaton (Appledore Sub-Aqua Club); Andy Bell (North Devon Coast and Countryside

Service/UNESCO North Devon Biosphere Reserve); Dr Ben Green (Natural England/Environment Agency); Clive Pearson (skipper of charter boat *Jessica Hettie*); John Balls (NDFCA & Clovelly Shellfishermen's Association); John Fanthorpe (*Lundy Castaway Boat Charter*); Martin Davis (local diver); Simon Ingram (University of Plymouth).

2. Notes on the last meeting of the MCZ Advisory Group, held on 29th April 2013

Copies of these notes had been circulated by the Hon. Sec. prior to the meeting. No corrections to these were raised by those present and they were therefore signed by the Chairman as being an accurate record of the meeting. There were no matters arising.

RI made a point of thanking Mel Parker (Natural England) for taking notes during the meeting and for typing these up later.

3. Matters arising from the last Lundy Management Forum meeting

- 3.1. DG summarised the marine highlights of the last LMF meeting on 30th April 2013. The next meeting will be held tomorrow (16th October) in Exeter. The Forum is a partnership of all the stakeholders in Lundy and includes the Devon & Severn IFCA, the Environment Agency, English Heritage, Natural England, Landmark Trust, the Lundy Field Society, the National Trust, the RSPB and the Lundy MCZ Advisory Group.
- 3.2. The Atlantic Array was discussed and DG will give an update on this later in tonight's meeting (see under Item 8).
- 3.3. Matters arising during the previous evening's Advisory Group meeting were presented by KH (in RI's absence).
- 3.4. BM presented her Warden's Report which included news on various monitoring programmes which her Conservation Team undertake on the island.
- 3.5. An update on the island's recycling and waste water (sewage) was given.
- 3.6. Tim Robbins (D&SIFCA) gave a presentation on the IFCA's byelaw review and introduced the concept of a relatively small number of flexible 'permitting byelaws' replacing a large number of existing byelaws. [See also SC's presentation later – Item 6].
- 3.7. English Heritage updated the Forum on their marine protected sites (at Gull Rock and the *Iona II*). A modern-day anchor had been found close to the wreck of the *Iona II* which was of note as no anchoring was allowed close to the wreck site.
- 3.8. KH gave an update on the activities of the Lundy Field Society, including grants awarded to students undertaking projects on or around the island.
- 3.9. David Appleton of Natural England gave a presentation on NE's 'National Character Profile, no. 159,' for Lundy, which highlights the island's special natural features. (<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/publications/nca/lundy.aspx>). DG described the document as being a 'statement of significance' for the island and was proving particularly useful during the on-going Atlantic Array deliberations.

4. Warden's Report

BM presented her report (attached as Annex A). The following points were raised:

- 4.1. KH asked if anyone diving around the island this summer had looked at the condition of pink sea fans *Eunicella verrucosa*. BM explained that a Marine Conservation Society (MCS) group of divers had planned to visit the island but they were defeated by poor weather. However, BM has been in contact with Chris Wood, the MCS Seasearch Co-ordinator, who is planning a week-long Seasearch visit to the island

next summer (c/o ABen too). The reason for KH's question is that the sea fans at Lundy do not appear to have recovered from their 'bout' of the bacterial *Vibrio* disease in 2001-2003, which decimated the population. KH pointed out that on the south coast of Devon, not only have they recovered but they are also 'invading' Plymouth Sound, where they have not been recorded before. BM did say that the sea fans present at Lundy do appear to be healthy, but KH added that there are far fewer of them than there have been in the past. KH also thought it strange that they have never colonised the wreck of the *Robert*, though he has heard that they are present on the *Iona II*. He asks any diver to look out for new recruits (unbranched or just-beginning-to-branch sea fan stems up to 10 cm tall). BM added that the proposed diver monitoring on the *Iona II* 'trail' should help with this.

- 4.2. KH also pointed out that he had noticed that the patch of scarlet and gold star cup corals observed beneath the jetty in April (which KH had photographed) appeared to be becoming overgrown by pink encrusting algae. He pointed out that there are certain sites on the lower shore at Ilfracombe where these cup corals can still be seen, having first been described there by Phillip Henry Gosse in 1863. However, he conceded that it's probably a species which 'comes and goes', so there's no need to raise the alarm for the disappearance of this Lundy population just yet.
- 4.3. KH asked how difficult it had been to re-locate the rockpools in Devil's Kitchen (originally surveyed by KH & RI in 1984). BM pointed out that it had been a bit tricky, due largely to the cover of wrack seaweeds, but all were successfully relocated and surveyed. GPS fixes had also been obtained for each, so relocation in future would hopefully be easier.
- 4.4. Some of the grey seals are tagged – is it known how many?, asked KH. BM thinks about 3 or 4, though she hasn't seen any for a while. They are tagged by Rescue Centres prior to their release. Two had been seen this summer with orange tags which, it was thought, were RSPCA releases.
- 4.5. RD asked about the increase sediment around the island which BM had mentioned in her report. He pointed out that on the north Devon coast (particularly from Barricane around to Greycliff, Westward Ho!), from March to October (2013), he had noticed an increase in sand cover with many shore habitats being obliterated. DG wondered if it might be due to high rainfall levels last year, washing sediment down the Severn. KH pointed out that there was a difference between the lighter silt fraction and the heavier sediment fraction of any loading. He also added that satellite photos should help show differences in suspended sediment levels over time within the Bristol Channel, and would speak to Tim Smitt of the Remote Sensing Unit of Plymouth Marine Lab. about the matter. [For those wishing to investigate this further, a major study of the movement of sediment within the Bristol Channel was undertaken by Posford Duvivier Environment Ltd. and ABPmer in 2000 as part of a EIA study of aggregate dredging (http://books.google.co.uk/books/about/Bristol_Channel_Marine_Aggregates.html?id=RSDzMwEACAAJ&redir_esc=y); or a more recent study in 2007 by MarLIN *et al.* (<http://www.marlin.ac.uk/obc/details.php>); or an earlier review in 1989 (http://ussher.org.uk/journal/80s/1989/documents/Collins_1989.pdf)].
- 4.6. RM reported seeing no basking sharks over the summer, although there had been sightings in March, which was unusually early in the year. KH pointed out that it was only by ensuring that all sightings were recorded that possible trends in the behaviour of these sharks could be determined. It may be that they are 5 m below the surface (and therefore go unrecorded) because that is where the densest plankton happens to be. It is not known if sightings elsewhere around the south-west and in the Irish Sea were also fewer (or earlier in the year) than in previous years.
- 4.7. With regard to cetacean sightings, there had been about 6 individuals reported per crossing by charter boat skippers. A school of 70-90 common dolphins was witnessed by RM a couple of months ago close to the Landing Bay. KH wondered

how numbers were/are recorded. RM explained that MarineLife recorded all cetacean, seabirds and other marine life that were seen during crossings to and from the island once a month. These records are published as pages on their website (e.g. <http://www.marine-life.org.uk/ilfracombe-or-bideford-lundy/2013/08/31>) and also on the Lundy Marine Life Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Lundy-Conservation-Team/438541079566390>). They are also entered onto the organization's database (the largest of such observations in Europe), with the data also being passed on to Natural England, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and others. Charter skippers also pass on their sightings to RM. GH commented that as far as he was concerned it had been a 'quiet year' for cetacean sightings. RM pointed out that it has been useful to tie-in all of these cetacean sightings with the underwater noise records from the CPODs.

5. Natural England's Interests

- 5.1. Various monitoring studies have been continued by Beccy and Aislinn on the island as part of their work programme. These have included assessments of seal numbers, intertidal cup coral monitoring, rockpool monitoring, etc. All of these are part of Natural England's statutory obligation to monitor the named 'features' within the SAC (established under the EC Habitats Directive). This summer, there have been no additional surveys (by NE staff or contractors) taking place.
- 5.2. Next week, RP will be going across to the island with two NE colleagues to repeat the survey of a number of intertidal transects, with the help of BM and AM-F. These were first assessed in 2000, and then again in 2010/11. Catherine Dawson of Natural England is also using the opportunity to fine-tune NE's 'standard' methodology for intertidal monitoring surveys.
- 5.3. Next year (2014) there is due to be a repeat of the subtidal reefs survey (diving & drop video) within the SAC, though this has still to be confirmed.
- 5.4. By the end of March 2014, Natural England are required to report on the numbers of grey seals *Halichoerus grypus* around the island. (Grey seals are an Annex II listed featured species for Lundy). No new survey work will be required for this as it will take into account the counts undertaken by BM and AM-F this summer.
- 5.5. Natural England are currently reviewing all of their Marine Protected Areas' Conservation Advice packages (which, for SACs, have been referred to as 'Regulation 33' documents). The plan is to make the Advice more user-friendly and Lundy will be one of the first sites to be reviewed. A pilot for this review (featuring the sandbanks of the Humber Estuary) can currently be viewed on the Natural England website (<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/marine/mpa/ems/mpaadvicepilot.aspx>).
- 5.6. Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) – Since the last Advisory Group meeting, Defra have been reviewing responses which they had received following a consultation period which ended on 31st March 2013, regarding MCZs. [KH had submitted a response about Lundy]. As all will know, Lundy is already an MCZ (and remains the only one, so far), though its features have yet to be agreed. An announcement from Defra as to which sites will be designated as MCZs is due by the end of the year.

*[Note: an announcement was made by Defra on 21 November 2013 that 27 MCZs have now been included in a 'first wave' of designations for England and Wales (a number which includes Lundy). What is peculiar about the Lundy specification is that it has been designated for just one feature – its spiny lobster *Palinurus elephas* population! The reason for this will no doubt be discussed at the next Advisory Group meeting. The full Ministerial Order is attached to the e-mail accompanying these notes.]*

- 5.7. A Management Plan for the ‘top’ of the island was completed a couple of years ago, but the marine section of this has still to be completed. RP assured the Group that this will be done when the Conservation Advice package for the MCZ has been agreed, and is one of BM’s work priorities. BM pointed out that the Management Plan not only has to take into account the legislative requirements of the MCZ, but also the SAC and the SSSI (which covers intertidal areas). All of these are subtly different and have different requirements.
- 5.8. Natural England are currently looking at whether there is funding to allow for a ‘one-off’ re-survey (i.e. another monitoring visit) of the No Take Zone.

KH pointed out that, whilst he agreed another round of monitoring of the NTZ was to be welcomed, he didn’t think this would show any great improvements in the overall ‘health’ of the sessile fauna present. He mentioned that he thought it worthwhile for the results of surveys from the mid-1980s to be revisited (particularly in comparing abundances of certain conspicuous species). It was around this time that Lundy appeared to be affected by a naturally-occurring ‘regime change’ (i.e. from one dominant community to another) which affected the whole Bristol Channel area and which, it is thought, led to declines in some of Lundy’s colourful and charismatic species.

6. Devon and Severn IFCA’s interests

- 6.1. SC started by explaining various issues to do with Devon & Severn IFCA’s management role with regard to fisheries and conservation. She pointed out that there are six European Marine Sites (EMSs) within the Devon & Severn IFCA’s district [EMSs include both Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs), the latter being primarily designated on account of their bird interest]. Much of this SC kindly explained at the last meeting, and members are asked to refer to the notes of that meeting, held on 29th April 2013.

The specified feature of the Lundy EMS which falls within D&SIFCA’s remit is ‘reefs’ and the most damaging activity in terms of fishing is mobile gear. D&SIFCA have had a year (to the end of December 2013) to assess background reef data, draw maps of the extent of the feature and to formulate new byelaws.

Two (of the six new) byelaws will be relevant to the Lundy EMS: (1) Mobile gear; and (2) Potting and shellfish. These have now been submitted to the Marine Management Organization (MMO) prior to being passed on to the Minister for declaration. The intention is that by 1st January 2014 the mobile gear byelaw will be in place, and by 1st March 2014, the potting and shellfish byelaw will be in place.

- 6.2. SC showed those present a map of the Lundy EMS which highlighted those areas where reef occurs (according to Natural England), together with a surrounding buffer area. D&SIFCA are going down the route of “permitting” byelaws, a system which Defra are now recommending to other IFCAs. These will allow modifications to be made to the permit within the byelaw in future, should new data come to the fore which shows that modifications are necessary. The “old” byelaw system did not allow for such modifications – the byelaw first had to be revoked and then renewed, a process which could take up to two years to complete. Besides ‘reefs’, Lundy also has ‘sandbanks’ as a feature of the site. The permitting byelaw which covers these will come under the ‘mobile gear’ byelaw. The permits will be reviewed regularly to ensure they are protecting these features adequately.

The map showed that the new ‘no mobile gear/one’ extends beyond the present extent of the ‘refuge zone’.

- 6.3. Any fisherman wishing to work within the D&SIFCA’s district will require a permit to fish, specific to any one byelaw. They will have access to charts which will show

where they are allowed to fish and where they are not. Assessments of the likely significant effect of all fishing methods on the designated ‘feature’ in question are required and these must be completed by D&SIFCA by the end of 2016. This is a very daunting task. Ultimately, risks will be graded by a traffic light system – red (high risk); amber (moderate risk); and green (low risk). Lundy should be relatively straightforward to assess, but the Severn Estuary, for instance, has 16 features, all of which require assessing.

- 6.4. The potting and shellfish byelaw will introduce a new restriction on ‘personal’ catches of shellfish for recreational fishers including divers. Essentially, this will amount to (per person): 2 lobsters; 3 (edible) crabs; and 15 scallops. Up until now, there has been no byelaw to restrict personal catches, merely the MCZ’s Code of Conduct. This permit system will include ‘recreational’ potting and should also allow for a much better understanding of the overall catch per unit effort being expended throughout the district. Regarding crawfish, there will be a ban on landing crawfish within the Lundy MCZ.
- 6.5. On a related matter, the rule will be that “if you are fishing within the D&SIFCA district, then what catch you have on board will be deemed to have been caught within the district”. This particularly relates to egg-bearing (‘berried’) lobsters, whose catch is prohibited within the D&SIFCA district.
- 6.6. D&SIFCA intend to introduce an inshore vessel monitoring system, based on mobile phone technology. Various systems are currently being looked at on a national scale by the MMO and once one particular system has been agreed upon, this will be rolled out nationwide. The system will allow movements of all inshore fishing boats to be tracked. A grant from the European Fishery Fund (EFF) is being sought to assist with the implementation of this.
- 6.7. RI asked if the current NTZ byelaw (excluding all fishing from the NTZ) would remain in place. SC explained that it wouldn’t, but that the NTZ would be mentioned in all of the relevant new permitting byelaws. There would still be no fishing allowed within the NTZ. CM asked if the area in which scallop dredging was not currently allowed would continue as the same, but SC explained that this would in fact now be a larger area. [It is hoped that a map showing these different areas will be available for the next meeting of the Group which could be circulated with the notes of the meeting].
- 6.8. Lobster tagging – this has been a very interesting year for returns of tags. On 4th June SC went out on GH’s potting boat when the water temperature was just 12°C and thick with plankton, so she was not expecting to catch many lobsters. However, just under 200 individuals were tagged and there were 23 recaptures. They also came across lobster larvae and cuttlefish larvae in amongst the plankton. During a second foray in July, 430 lobsters were tagged with 73 recaptures. They even caught a lobster which had been tagged in 2008! The tags seem to be remaining in place, which was good news (SC had had a number of failures with one set of tags in the past). D&SIFCA have recently employed an assistant for SC who will be able to analyze the data over this coming winter.

A student from Bangor University (N. Wales) came out on the June survey, and she is looking into lobster genetics, in particular how the Lundy population differs from those found in N. Cornwall and S. Wales. A new project is also starting with CEFAS who are looking at natural lobster mortality – relevant because of the NTZ at Lundy.

GH confirmed that he was catching more tagged lobsters further offshore (up to 5 miles east of the island) than in the past. This would imply there are now more ‘nomadic’ lobsters venturing out of the NTZ. GH was also able to confirm that it had been a good year for lobster fishing around the island, though off the N. Devon coast it hadn’t been so good.

SC was asked if there would be any restrictions on catching lobsters with gaffs (i.e.

on the shore). SC explained that they would be looking at shore-based activities in due course, so it's a matter of watch this space.

7. The fate of Lundy's marine data – Keith Hiscock

- 7.1. Data that has been collected from Lundy, which includes that from grab surveys and intertidal surveys, have occasionally ended in 'dead ends' and yet they are potentially extremely useful for various purposes. What has helped make the data more accessible is the VALMER project, with which Andrew Bell (UNESCO North Devon Biosphere Reserve) has been much involved (<http://www.valmer.eu/case-studies-overview/north-devon>). The project, which spans France and England, is looking at the ecosystem services provided by the sea, and the Bristol Channel and North Devon (including Lundy) is one of six pilot areas. Colleagues of KH's at the Marine Biological Association have been busy chasing datasets. The main ones which they tracked down which had still to be entered onto Marine Recorder (or other databases) were the Ambios sediment survey (2007); the Lundy fauna lists (1970s/80s) published in the Annual Reports of the LFS; the Environment Agency sediment survey (2012); and Natural England's surveys of rocky shores (BM confirmed that this last dataset will be entered onto Marine Recorder by the end of March 2014).

Prior to the start of the meeting, KH had passed around a photocopy of a paper he has come across from 1848, the data from which is also being entered as part of the VALMER project. He is looking forward to having these data compared with the more recent Environment Agency/Natural England subtidal sediment surveys, especially with regard to the suite of species present. Such reference points are very useful in seeing how marine communities can change over time.

8. Proposed Atlantic Array Windfarm – current position – Derek Green

- 8.1. There was a 'registration of interest' period which ended on 16th September 2013. 1,775 registrations were received, either from individuals or organizations. This is a particularly high number – the previously highest number for a similar project was 212. All of these registrations are available to view on-line, and it would appear that of all of them, only 3% are in favour of the project going ahead. (Note, however, that this does not mean that 97% have stated their objection to the project).
- 8.2. A date has now been set for the Preliminary Meeting (mid December in Bristol) and those who have registered an interest will be invited to that meeting. At the meeting, the developers will set out all of the aspects they intend to look into further. They will have 6 months to complete this process. At the end of that period, their conclusions will be drawn up and their recommendations will be submitted to the Secretary of State, who then will have a further 3 months to make a decision as to whether the project should go ahead or not. His decision is then debated in Parliament, during another 3 month period.
- 8.3. DG found out today that the Planning Inspectors will be visiting Lundy next week. He was pleased to have heard this as he wishes for them to appreciate the visual impact of the scheme in particular – and he hopes it won't be foggy!
- 8.4. For those unfamiliar with what is being proposed, the project consists of 240 turbines, the closest of which will be 9 miles to the NE of Lundy. The height of each turbine will be 110 m (to the blade tip). DG pointed out that the developer (RWE) will be building the project in phases, as the income generated by the phase 1 turbines will be required for the building of phase 2.
- 8.5. DG confirmed that more information about the project (and the Landmark Trust's

objections to it) will be posted on the Lundy website (<http://www.lundyisland.co.uk>) and the LT website (<http://www.landmarktrust.org.uk>) over the next 12 months.

- 8.6. There followed some discussion as to how the turbines would be constructed. DG thought it had been decided each would be pile-driven into the seabed, but KH & GH had heard that each base would be surrounded by piles of massive boulders.

[Please note that on 25 November 2013, RWE Npower Renewables Ltd. gave public notice that they are withdrawing from the development of the proposed Atlantic Array offshore wind project on account of “technical challenges specific to the area, coupled with market conditions”. A letter to this effect was received by the Hon. Sec. from RWE on 26 November 2013, a copy of which is attached as Annex B. The Crown Estate have said that they have “no plans to undertake further work on the Bristol Channel Zone for the foreseeable future”.]

9. Any Other Business

- 9.1. BM wished to express her thanks to all for the support they have given her since February when she took up her post as Warden. It has been much appreciated. DG also wanted to say thank to AM-F who has been assisting BM during the summer and has done a great job.
- 9.2. CM pointed out that the lecture room at the Ilfracombe Dive Club clubhouse could be made available to anyone wishing to make a presentation. The room has a digital projector and screen.
- 9.3. SC wanted to thank KH and RI on their book as she had found it an invaluable source of information for a talk she had to give recently to the Blue Marine conference (which was centred on Lyme Bay and the S. Devon coast). KH added that he had PowerPoint presentations available for anyone to use for talks on Lundy. There were still copies of the book *Protecting Lundy's Marine Life – 40 years of science and conservation* available to buy – further details from the LFS website (<http://www.lundy.org.uk/publications/#40years>).
- 9.4. RM encouraged charter boat skippers to note down their marine life sightings on the standard form which his organisation uses. He would liaise directly with ABen about this.
- 9.5. Terry Newman (English Heritage) had asked for the following to be mentioned:

Iona II - Diver Trail

A tender board convened on 30th August 2013 to consider three bids for this project. The winning bid was submitted by Wessex Archaeology. Updates to follow.

Licences - 1st December 2012 to 14th October 2013

A total of eight *visit* licences were issued during the above period with a total of 69 additional named divers.

10. **Date of next meeting:** Wednesday, 2 April 2014 at 19:00 hrs on board the MS *Oldenburg* alongside Bideford Quay.

Annex A. **Warden's report (April 2013-September 2013)**

1. Staff

- 1.1 There have been no staff changes within the Conservation Team since the previous report.

2. Marine - general & monitoring

- 2.1 The RIB has been out of action for the monitoring season due to necessary repairs. This has not hindered the monitoring programme as other means have been available and utilised.

- 2.2 MARINELife monthly surveys have continued since the last report and have been circulated to Lundy Conservation Team Facebook page viewers.

MARINELife's Wildlife Officer programme for MS *Oldenburg* has been a success with many visitors interacting with the Officer throughout the sailing and whilst on Lundy. The Officers are providing an invaluable resource and we will be continuing this collaboration in 2014.

To support the collaboration, an A4 waterproof ID guide containing details of seabirds, marine mammals and fish which are likely to be seen on the sailing and surround the island has been produced. There have been some technical issues with its production. However, it will be available to support the scheme next year.

- 2.3 A new Lundy Marine Life Logbook has been produced and is being well used by visitors (and staff). The logbook was developed as, although the LFS logbook provided space for details, the information is more useful in a collated format and also, the Seal Logbook needed renewing.

The logbook has specific chapters on Seals, Other Marine Mammals, Basking sharks, Rocky shore and Below the tide line. Divers will be made aware of its presence in the new 2014 Lundy Dive Information booklet to try and encourage its use.

- 2.4 NTZ Infringements – all infringements have been reported to Devon and Severn IFCA and it is hoped that the new scheme that they are developing will support the enforcement of this area. However, occasional infringements by smaller private owned boats are of concern – suggestions welcome.

- 2.5 Seals – Twice monthly observations of the seal population around Lundy have been undertaken either on MS *Oldenburg*, *Jessica Hettie* or *Lundy Castaway*. The highest population count to date this year has been 180 individuals on the 26th June. Seven pups have been noted during the surveys and through the Marine Life Logbook outside the pupping season. At the time writing, two pups have appeared around the Landing Bay area and specific locations have been closed until further notice.

Libby Abbott, a volunteer, spent one week dedicated to the grey seal photo identification database and made excellent progress, identifying 98 seals from the plethora of images. Libby will be returning in the winter to continue this valuable work and there will be two other volunteers assisting before the end of the year. Throughout this process, images will be shared with Sue Sayer of the Cornwall Seal Group. [See also <http://www.flickr.com/groups/lundyseals/>].

Concerns have been raised regarding snorkeler and diver conduct towards seals, particularly those seals that are hauled out. Therefore in response to this a code of conduct poster has been developed and is now being displayed on local charter boats, and used during their dive briefings to raise awareness.

- 2.6 Two students from Plymouth University, Rosie Graham and John Mellor, spent 6 weeks on the island monitoring the movements of cetaceans around the island. As part of their project, they will be analysing historic and recent C-POD data and we are expecting the reports shortly. Unfortunately, the 2012 students have yet to complete and submit their reports. Two C-PODs have been deployed throughout the summer on the MV *Robert* and the *Ethel* wrecks. One of these C-PODs belongs to Simon Ingram (Plymouth university lecturer) as his students required the data from both areas.

At the last meeting of the LMF, we had just discovered that the C-POD attached to the *Ethel* was missing. It travelled to Galway, Ireland and was retrieved in August. However, it was found to be too damaged for future use. Through discussions with Chelonia, a new C-POD has arrived and there are plans to deploy it and the remaining original C-POD before the end of September.

Retrieval will then occur once conditions are suitable in 2014. The data collected will be assisting Nick Tregenza with further development of the system and their understanding of the different signatures produced by the dolphin species that travel around Lundy.

2.7 All historical marine monitoring data has been collated as part of the NE Conservation Advice Review and will be analysed and reported on before the next LMF meeting.

2.8 Seabirds – it has been an amazing year for seabirds on Lundy with most species having increased further since 2004, reflecting the success of the island’s Rat Eradication programme. Gull species are however on the decline, as has been noted across the UK.

Species	No. counted in 2013	No. counted in 2008	No. counted in 2004	Percentage increase since 2004 (post rat eradication)
Guillemot	4,114	3,302	2,321	+77%
Razorbill	1,324	1,045	841	+57%
Puffins	80	14	5	+1500%
Kittiwakes	127	151	148	-14%
Fulmars	209	170	178	+17%
Shags	112	63	63	+78%

It is possible that the numbers are higher as on one occasion we counted 120+ puffins on our monitoring slope (Jenny’s Cove) in July. One solitary Puffin was also observed, during a seal survey, defending a burrow on the East coast close to Tibbett’s Point.

Productivity monitoring was carried out for Kittiwakes, Puffins and Guillemots with the following results:

- Guillemots
 - St Mark’s Stone: 19 fledged from 27 active sites (productivity = 0.70)
 - Inland of St.Mark’s Stone: 7 fledged from 13 active sites (productivity = 0.59)
- Kittiwakes – Data under analysis
- Puffins
 - Jenny’s Cove site: 22 successful sites from 31 occupied nests (productivity = 0.70)

The Manx Shearwater survey (playback calls), led by Helen Booker and David Price, was undertaken in June. The population increase has surpassed all expectations as the estimated 1,105 pairs of 2008 have now increased to an estimated 3,155 breeding pairs; an increase of 179%.

The island’s climbing restrictions, put in place to reduce disturbance to seabird colonies, were extended this year as many chicks were still occupying nests well into August. Therefore the restrictions remained in place until the end of August with the support of many of the island’s regular climbers who have chosen to come to the island in September instead.

2.9 Cup corals: The population beneath the Jetty has been monitored since May to determine the variability in the population throughout the year. This will continue until May 2014. However, it has become apparent that there are issues with the monitoring of this species due to siltation, as individuals cannot be found from one month to the next. There are also concerns that should this siltation continue, it may have long-term implications for the populations.

The annual survey of the Devil’s Kitchen populations took place in August and those visible were counted and measured:

	2013		2012	
	No. of Scarlet & Gold Star cup corals	No. of Devonshire cup corals	No. of Scarlet & Gold Star cup corals	No. of Devonshire cup corals
Site 1	23	3	33	6
Site 2	86	5	94	None

The counts suggest that the population of Scarlet and Gold Star cup corals have decreased at sites 1 and 2 since last year, and that the number of Devonshire cup corals has increased at site 2 but decreased at site 1. It is possible that individuals were not visible due to siltation as a count of Scarlet and Gold Star cup corals by RM and KH in April found only 15 at site 1 and 61 at site 2.

A site of 70+ Scarlet and Gold Star cup corals was found by KH under the Jetty in April. This has now diminished to approx. 10 individuals as the site has been colonised by kelp and other seaweeds. This site will be visited over the winter (weather permitting) to see if the colony re-establishes itself over the period.

- 2.10** Composition of rockpool communities: The rockpool locations in Devil's Kitchen have been determined and GPS positions taken for each pool. The survey was undertaken over the September spring tides and many of the species seen in previous years were found along with other species. A full report on the communities will be produced over the winter.
- 2.11** Divers: Due to the excellent weather we have had this dive season, 38 dive groups have used the facilities and stayed on the island. Many more groups have come over on day trips.
- Feedback from charter skippers regarding the organisation of the dive services offered by the island (RM & JA) has been very positive and we look forward to another good season next year.
- 2.12** Historic wrecks: Alison James is now on maternity leave from English Heritage and her position is now in the hands of Terence Newman, who can be contacted on terence.newman@english-heritage.org.uk

English Heritage are developing a dive trail for the Iona II wreck and the tender for this has been awarded to Wessex Archaeology. To develop the trail, they will be working closely with RM and Terence Newman to ensure that the trail contains elements that are of assistance to the monitoring of the wreck itself and its marine life. Licensing for visiting the wreck will remain the same. However, divers can register their details with RM on the island in order to dive the wreck at short notice.

3. Education, interpretation & events

3.1 Warden events:

- "Above and below the waves" – the 24 visitor talks have been well attended throughout the season. The majority have been delivered by AMF in order to develop her interpretation experience.
- Guided walks – many visitors have participated in the 25 walks provided by AMF, SD and RM.
- Rockpool Rambles – not many of these events (6) have taken place this summer due to the tides and the overwhelming popularity of the Snorkel Safaris. When the Rambles have gone ahead they have been either well attended or with no attendance at all which is probably due to timing. This will be taken into consideration when planning the events for 2014.
- Snorkel Safaris – all but two of these events (10 in total) went ahead this summer season. All were fully attended and normally oversubscribed. Also there has been a demand for them on sailing days. When we are planning summer 2014's events, more Snorkel Safaris will be made available and on sailing days when possible.

3.2 Education programme:

- SD has continued to offer outreach talks to schools and other groups. During this HLS year, he has delivered 7 to schools and 14 to other groups.
- RM, AMF and SD have delivered 11 island activities to visiting school groups during the same period.
- RM has completed a CEVAS course as required by the HLS.
- To develop the education programme offered by the island, RM is working with local schools to produce activities that are appropriate to their learning objectives and curriculum requirement. Alongside this, RM is developing a Teachers information pack with teaching and learning resources to support their visits.
- RM is developing educational/research visits with two groups from PETROC, Falmouth Marine School.

3.3 Splash In!:

- Splash In! 2013: This years' event was an amazing success with 21 participants. Winners were as follows:
 - Marine Ambience:
 - Marine Abstract:
 - Mega to Macro – Mike Deaton (see photo on right)
 - Overall winner: Mike Deaton



- Splash In! 2014: The date has been set for June 14th and 16 spaces have already been booked.

3.4 The Seabird interpretation board produced by Chris Baillie (LFS) with assistance from RM, Tim Davis, Richard Campey, Anna Taylor and Andy Lester is now displayed in the church. CB has plans for further boards that are currently under further discussion.

3.5 The Bird Ringing leaflet is now available for visitors from the Tavern, shop and shore offices.

3.6 Grant Sherman provided visitors with an astronomical experience in August through an illustrated talk and opportunities to view the Perseid meteor shower in August.

3.7 The Lundy Calendar 2014 is now available to buy from the shop and the shore offices and entries for the 2015 Calendar are being received ready for judging in January.

3.8 Lundy Olympics: The ranger team organised the activities which included individual and team games such as Rhody Quoits and a four-legged race. The events were run by the Conservation Team plus Emily (Head Housekeeper) and Pete Lambden (Maintenance). The overall winner was Aaron Jones (Cargo & Maintenance).

3.9 Lundy Conservation Team Facebook page: At the time of writing, the page had 315 likes. However, we are aware that there are a large number of people who regularly check the page who are not Facebook members. Luckily Facebook is able to track this and the largest number of people to view any one post was 706.

4. Media

4.1 The 'Letter from Lundy' has been printed every month in the North Devon Gazette since the last report. It has also been made available on the lundymcz.org.uk website to reach a wider audience.

4.2 TV & Radio:

- BBC Spotlight – Matt Woodley from BBC Radio Devon visited the island for the first time (with a crew in tow) and recorded a piece about his first visit with interviews with DG, Kevin Welsh (Farmer/Foreman), Reg Tuffin (Postmaster), RM and some visitors. The piece went out on BBC Spotlight and BBC Radio Devon in early August.

- BBC Points West – Jeremy Toogood interviewed Tony Taylor (LFS Bird Ringer) and RM along with some photogenic Manx Shearwaters to produce a piece on the Shearwaters and the rat eradication. This was shown in September.
- BBC Coast – A crew including presenter Mark Horton came over to the island for a piece on the history of mankind in August. Jim Parry (NT Archaeologist) kindly assisted with organising the necessary artefacts. The piece will be shown in Spring 2014.
- ITV Countrywise – Ben Fogle was due to come over in September to snorkel and discuss the MCZ with RM, and find out more about the postal service with Reg Tuffin. However, the weather turned and this has now been put on hold until the 2014 series.
- National Public Radio (USA) – The UK correspondent Phil Reeves and the Producer Azfar Ahmed visited Lundy for a piece based on shipping forecast areas. The piece included interviews with DG, Reg Tuffin (Postmaster) and Kevin Welsh (Farmer/Foreman).

4.3 Magazine articles:

- Diver – a 4-page spread on the Splash In! based on the events press release written by RM
- Exmoor magazine – An article based around MS *Oldenburg* with elements of the Warden's role is being produced by Exmoor magazine for their Spring 2014 issue after visiting the island in September.
- Devon Air Ambulance Helipad magazine – In response to a few call outs for the Air Ambulance, the Devon Air Ambulance Trust requested an article from RM regarding the importance of the service for the island for their new Helipad magazine.
- Vogue – the Snorkel Safaris were advertised in the June issue of Vogue which did create some interest.
- Lonely Planet – Lundy featured in the June edition of their magazine Lonely Planet Traveller in the 'Mini guide to Coastal Devon'.

5. Miscellaneous

- 5.1 Research proposal form: In order to understand the extent of research on the island, a Research Proposal Form has been produced and is available from RM. This form was produced as it became apparent that a considerable amount of interesting research was being undertaken on the island without the knowledge of the Conservation Team or interested stakeholders, which in some cases posed an issue as areas being researched required formal consent and licensing.

Overall, the form has been welcomed and many have completed it allowing RM to have a greater understanding of the current research and how the findings can influence the management of the island and its designations. Once the new Lundy Island website is complete, the form will be available through the site as well as from RM.

- 5.2 Work has begun on producing an application for the IDA's International Dark Sky Reserve Program as Lundy's nightscape meets the criteria for the Gold Tier Designation. Grant Sherman and Joshua Day (NT Ranger) have been assisting with the collation of images for the Night Sky Survey.

Annex B



Department: Offshore Wind UK

RWE Npower Renewables Limited
Auckland House
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Great Western Way
Swindon
Wiltshire SN5 8ZT

25 November 2013

Dear Sir/Madam

Atlantic Array Project Update

I wanted to update you regarding the Zone 8, Round 3 offshore wind project in the Bristol Channel, known as Atlantic Array.

Due to the technical challenges specific to the zone, coupled with the current market conditions, it is uneconomic for RWE to continue with the Atlantic Array development.

The Crown Estate has agreed to RWE Innogy's request to terminate the agreement for the Bristol Channel Zone, allowing RWE Innogy to stop its development activities in the Zone, and to surrender the option for the Atlantic Array project, thereby removing RWE Innogy's seabed rights.

The Crown Estate has no plans to undertake further work on the Bristol Channel Zone for the foreseeable future. However, the area remains one that has a good resource. As the industry develops over the next decade and on the back of more viable technologies being demonstrated, expected innovation and cost reduction may in the future open up opportunities in the more challenging areas, such as in the Bristol Channel.

The decision to stop activity on Atlantic Array has not been taken lightly and RWE remains committed to offshore wind and our investment in renewables in the UK. We will now continue to focus on the other offshore projects which we believe are more technically viable within our extensive offshore pipeline of up to 5,200MW, in addition to completing the construction of our Gwynt y Môr Offshore Wind Farm.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in the project.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Cowling
Director of Offshore Wind
RWE Innogy GmbH

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