

LUNDY MARINE PROTECTED AREA ADVISORY GROUP

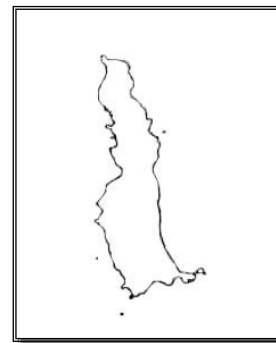
The Aims of the Group are: 1) to provide a nucleus of expertise on the marine habitats and waters surrounding Lundy; 2) to provide a forum for exchanging views on present and proposed activities around Lundy; 3) to safeguard the interests of all those who use the waters around Lundy and its natural resources; and 4) to advise the Management Forum for the island.

Established: 1985

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Notes of the 1st meeting of the Lundy Marine Protected Area Advisory Group

(formerly known as the Lundy Marine Conservation Zone Advisory Group, the Lundy Marine Nature Reserve Advisory Group, and originally the Lundy Marine Consultation Group, of which this was the 58th meeting)

held on **Tuesday 14th October 2014** at 7.00 p.m. at the Ilfracombe Sub-Aqua Club,
Ropery Road, Ilfracombe EX34 9EF.

Present:

Keith Hiscock	(KH)	Marine Biological Association – Chair
Robert Irving	(RI)	Lundy Field Society – Hon. Sec.
Andy Bell	(ABel)	North Devon UNESCO Biosphere Reserve
Alison James	(AJ)	English Heritage
Vic Jenkins	(VJ)	Morte Wildlife Group
Annette Dutton	(AD)	Morte Wildlife Group
Rick Morris	(RM)	MARINELife
Raz Horforth	(RH)	Ilfracombe Dive Club
Martin Legg	(ML)	Chopper's Crazy Boat Trips
Leigh Hanks	(LH)	<i>Obsession II</i> Charters
Martin Ruddy	(MR)	<i>Obsession II</i> Charters
John Fanthorpe	(JF)	<i>Lundy Castaway</i> charter boat
Chris Mandry	(CM)	British Sub-Aqua Club
Rob Durrant	(RD)	North Devon Coastwise
Mel Parker	(MP)	Natural England
Derek Green	(DG)	Lundy Manager, Landmark Trust
Beccy McDonald	(BM)	Lundy Warden, Landmark Trust
Ben Bengay	(BB)	<i>Silver Spirit</i> charter boat
Andrew Bengay	(ABen)	Lundy Diving
Geoff Huelin	(GH)	Local pot fisherman

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 MPA 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. KH also thanked Chris Hewitt (Chair of Ilfracombe SAC) for making their Clubhouse available for the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from: Sarah Clark (Devon & Severn IFCA); Martin Davis (local diver); Clive Pearson (Charter boat *Jessica Hettie*); Ruth Porter (Natural England); Carley

Elson (Marine Management Organisation); John Balls (NDF&A & Clovelly Shellfishermen's Association); Mike Deaton (Appledore Sub-Aqua Club); Councillor Gaye Tabor (Torridge District Council); Mat Mander (Devon & Severn IFCA); Shaun Gallagher (Ilfracombe Dive Club); and Rachel Davies (MARINELife).

2. Notes on the last meeting of the MCZ Advisory Group, held on 2nd April 2014

Copies of these notes had been circulated by the Hon. Sec. prior to the meeting. The only amendment was that, in paragraph 5.1, there was a blank space where the URL for Ruth Porter's presentation could be found. CM pointed out that a pdf file had been circulated separately by the Hon. Sec. (*Lundy designations LAG with notes.pdf*)*. As there were no other points raised by those present, the notes were signed by the Chairman as being an accurate record of the meeting. The only matter arising was that, under 5.5, ABel pointed out that the sediment report from the Environment Agency was due out imminently.

* RI would be happy to e-mail this file on request to anyone who has yet to receive it.

3. Matters arising from the last Lundy Management Forum meeting

- 3.1. DG summarised the marine highlights of the last LMF meeting held on 3rd April 2014 on Lundy. The next meeting of the Forum will be held tomorrow (15th 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. DG pointed out that, as all present will be aware, the proposed Atlantic Array offshore windfarm project has been 'shelved' - it is due to be reviewed in 2020. On the back of the project, the National Trust had commissioned a report on the use of tidal energy within the Bristol Channel.
- 3.3. Other topics covered included: vegetation monitoring surveys of the SSSI by both the National Trust and Natural England, assessing grazing pressure; lobster tagging (IFCA); sewerage and recycling (Environment Agency); completion of the rebuilding of the Marisco Castle bailey wall; plans to repair the lower lantern room at the Old Light (approved by English Heritage); an update of Lundy Field Society activities; the VALMER project (risk assessments of hypothetical environment scenarios in the future); and plans to refurbish the Church – a revised bid has been submitted to the Heritage Lottery fund, the result of which should be known in December 2014.
- 3.4. Lundy and its position within the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Since its inception, the Core Area of the Biosphere Reserve centres on Braunton Burrows. Lundy has been included within the outer 'Transition Zone' (though DG had been unaware of this). A proposal has now been made to include Lundy as a second Core Area. DG would like time to assess the implications of this proposed change, and to discuss the matter further with ABel.
- 3.5. As a more recent development, DG informed the Group that 2015 would be the 50th anniversary of the Landmark Trust. In honour of this, the island had been chosen as one of five LT properties to host an Anthony Gormley sculpture for 12 months. The sculpture would be of a life-size figure looking out to sea and would be placed in the SW corner of the island (overlooking Shutter Rock).
- 3.6. DG also asked those present who regularly visit Lundy in boats to keep an eye out for any signs of coastal erosion around the island. He was aware that last winter's storms had led to some rock falls, particularly off the west coast, and he'd like to be kept informed of any enlargement of these or evidence of new falls.

4. Warden's Report

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

- 4.1. Crawfish recording. Following discussions at the last Advisory Group meeting, KH had agreed to produce a recording form for divers to complete should they see crawfish on their dive within the Lundy MPA. This he did and it was distributed to various charter boat skippers and to the local dive clubs. Unfortunately, very few completed forms had been returned. It was thought this reflected a lack of forms being completed rather than a dearth of crawfish being seen. How could this situation be remedied? ABen thought the problem might be that divers were being asked to complete the forms rather than boat skippers ("divers have a reluctance to fill out forms!"). He thought that if skippers were encouraged to fill out a simpler sighting form (similar to the one used for cetacean sightings) on behalf of divers, more returns would be forthcoming. BM agreed to come up with an appropriate form.
- 4.2. BM thanked boat skippers for adhering to the new seal Code of Conduct and for informing their divers of its contents. She was particularly concerned about divers encouraging seals to play with them when under water: whilst this appeared fairly harmless, there may well come a day when an over-friendly seal takes a bite out of a diver. Apparently, divers have been playing with grey seals in the Farne Islands off the Northumberland coast, and thought the playing could be continued at Lundy. BM pointed out that the legislation which covers seals at Lundy includes measures to prosecute anyone found molesting them.

ABen wanted to raise a number of difficulties he was having (and no doubt his fellow charter skippers were too) with the Code of Conduct. The Code recommends that divers should not be closer than 50 m to any emergent rock where seals are present. ABen pointed out that this effectively excludes all of his dive sites! Just this last Saturday, he was intending putting divers on the Knoll Pins but saw that there were seals basking there so had to choose another site. However, the *Oldenburg* then passed between the Knoll Pins and the island (a gap of barely 100 m). Another incident occurred 3 weeks ago when a boat travelling at 11 knots followed the same route. A further incident happened at Gannets' Bay when snorkellers were with seals yet their boat cover was within 3 m of the rocks. He felt the rules were not being adhered to fairly by those concerned.

Both BM and DG agreed that if dive sites were being excluded by the Code, then it ought to be changed. BM acknowledged that the seals appeared to recognise certain vessels and knew those vessels not to be a threat. However, other vessels appeared to alarm the seals, even from some distance away. The problem appeared to be linked to the speed of the vessel in question. BM suggested that a maximum speed limit of 5 knots be set for all craft within 100 m of the coast/emergent rocks. This proposal was agreed by all present. DG suggested that it might be time to review the Zoning Scheme and make sure that this speed limit was clearly marked on it. ABen added that, in trying to ensure that what applies to Lundy also applies to the N. Devon mainland, he would suggest that this speed limit was also recommended for the mainland coast.

KH added that he had been told that the wishes of the clientele using Lundy's charter boats had changed in recent years. Instead of divers wanting to come and see the amazing marine life, they now want to dive with seals. ABen agreed this was so. DG added that the growing interest in the island's seals may well be the result of island publicity and self-promotion, so some balance was required in dealing with this 'problem'.

Whilst on the subject of speed limits, CM asked if some form of notice could be displayed on the jetty at Lundy (or possibly on a buoy in the Landing Bay) that would state what the speed limit around the island was, in a similar way to what one might

see at the entrance to a harbour or marina. This would be particularly aimed at first-time visiting boats that were not familiar with the island's customs or Code of Conduct. Visiting boats could also be made aware of the same message at mainland launch sites. DG agreed to look into this.

RI asked if BM knew when seal pupping at Lundy was likely to start and end. BM replied that there were no hard and fast dates but most pupping took place between Mid-August and the end of November. AD confirmed that no pups had ever been born along the N. Devon mainland coast, as far as she was aware.

- 4.3. BM reminded those present that, in order to ensure that there would be no reappearance of rats on the island, visitors were encouraged to keep packed lunches and snacks within sealed boxes. This included visiting divers as well as visitors to the island, thus deterring mainland rats from venturing on board boats in search of food crumbs and inadvertently being transported to Lundy.

RD asked if the rabbit population on the island was showing any signs of recovery. DG responded by saying that a team was on the island at the moment assessing rabbit (and other mammal) numbers. From his own and other islanders' observations, numbers were still low though possibly slowly increasing. This has been after a 3-4 year period when numbers have definitely been down.

- 4.4. KH pointed out that considerable numbers of guillemots (in the region of 30,000) had been washed up on SW beaches after last winter's storms. He was surprised to find from BM's monitoring counts that their numbers at Lundy did not appear to have been adversely affected. BM confirmed that no guillemots had been washed up on Lundy last winter, but was not sure why this should have been the case. KH pointed out that counts undertaken by Grant Sherman (island barman and LFS on-island representative) this year indicated that their numbers were down by about 15% on last year's numbers. BM said her counts may well have covered a greater area or number of birds, as sub-areas within a colony were shown to exhibit a wide variation.

KH and BM both agreed that there hadn't been any obvious signs of subtidal marine life succumbing to last winter's storms. In the intertidal, there had been a new rockfall at Rat Island, some shifting of slate pebbles at Hell's Gates and some of the rockpools in Devil's Kitchen had been altered slightly. BM added that there had been a greater covering of green seaweed (fast-growing sea lettuce *Ulva lactuca*) over rocks, a species which is able to tolerate higher levels of freshwater (rainwater) than other seaweeds.

5. Natural England (NE) report (Mel Parker)

In Ruth Porter's absence, MP had kindly agreed to attend the meeting in her place and present RP's report.

- 5.1. **Subtidal reef dive survey** - The subtidal reefs within the Lundy SAC are due to have their condition assessment reported on in 2015. To inform this report, Natural England has funded a dive survey to assess the reef sub-features of the SAC namely:

(i) kelp forest communities; (ii) subtidal vertical & overhanging circalittoral rock communities; and (iii) subtidal bedrock & stable boulder communities.

Natural England completed a tendering process to let the contract and Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML) were successful. It was also decided that this was a great opportunity to include a re-survey of the sessile epifauna communities inside and outside the No Take Zone in order to assess any changes that might have resulted from the No Take Zone protection since the last survey work in 2003-2007. Lobster and scallop assessments completed previously were not included as it was felt that these assessments informed commercial fisheries and would fall under the IFCA's

remit.

PML visited the island from 1st Sept to 7th Sept to complete the first phase of dives. The trip was affected by persistent easterly winds, but PML still managed to get a good amount of the survey completed, they managed to complete the following:

All the NTZ surveys on the West coast (control plots); all the subtidal bedrock & stable boulder communities on the West coast; kelp ratio work in Gannets' Bay and Rat Island; and algal depth assessments on the West coast; some of the NTZ surveys on the East coast; and some of the *Eunicella* surveys on the East coast.

PML were planning to complete the second phase of the dive survey from 14th-21st Sept, however poor weather meant this postponed. The survey was re-scheduled for 1-8th Oct, but this was also postponed to 14th-21st Oct. However, this is also looking like it will be cancelled. Natural England will need to have a meeting with PML to discuss a way forward as we move further into the autumn/winter. A draft report was expected by January. However, with these delays this will obviously be pushed back.

5.2. **Intertidal monitoring** - BM has updated already on the grey seal surveys, cup coral surveys and rockpool surveys. NE managed to get some staff out to the island to help with the intertidal transects survey which was established in 2000, then repeated in 2010 & 2011. This year, NE monitoring specialists led the survey to trial a new 'rocky shore integrated site assessment' method. Three groups (including the Lundy wardens) completed a rapid and detailed assessment along five transects. The survey results are still being processed. The survey was very useful for the monitoring specialists and provided good feedback for the development of the survey method. The survey gave an opportunity for BM to work with NE specialists to understand how this survey can work on Lundy. This survey is hoped to be completed every couple of years (depending on funding) to compliment the intertidal biotope survey that should be completed every six years to inform the condition of the rocky shore communities.

5.3. **IPENS (Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 sites)** - Natural England have been completing a European funded project (LIFE+) to develop a strategic approach to achieving favourable condition on England's Natura 2000 sites by reviewing, for each site:

(i) the risks and issues that are impacting on and/or threatening the condition of the site; (ii) which mechanisms (i.e. actions and measures) could be used to address them; and (iii) how much it will cost and where the money could come from.

The Site Improvement Plan for Lundy has been drafted and stakeholder comments have been incorporated. The plan is currently being finalised by national NE staff and is due to be published by the end of October on the NE website. This will be the first time that this information will have been drawn together for all of England's Natura 2000 sites. It will provide us with:

(i) An improved understanding of the issues affecting our Natura 2000 sites and how to address them; (ii) a clear, costed, plan of action for improving their condition; and (iii) recommendations to address current gaps in Natura 2000 funding and evidence. It will also help enable the UK Government to meet its responsibilities under the Habitat and Birds Directives.

5.4. **Conservation Advice Package** - Natural England has a statutory responsibility to provide conservation advice for all MPAs within English territorial waters. Conservation advice sets out:

(i) Information on the designated features, and evidence on their presence and extent within the MPA; (ii) the conservation objectives for designated features within the MPA. [This is a statement of the nature conservation aspirations for the designated features on a site, expressed in terms of the condition that each feature should attain]; (iii) The current condition of the designated features; and (iv) Advice on operations, setting out the pressures, and where possible, activities, which are

likely to have a significant effect on the designated features.

The advice provides the framework against which Natural England assesses and monitors the condition of the site's features and, where appropriate, forms the basis for MPA management planning. It helps regulators and developers to assess how their potential or planned activities may or may not impact on the sites' protected features, and helps sea users understand the importance of sites.

The conservation advice packages for the Lundy Special Area of Conservation and the MCZ are currently being revised and it was hoped to have these packages completed by spring/summer 2015.

- 5.5. **Management Plan** - The marine section of the island management plan will be drafted once the conservation packages for the SAC & MCZ have been completed.

On completion of the NE report, the Chairman invited comments on it.

- 5.6. With regard to the Subtidal Reef Dive Survey, still on-going, there was disquiet voiced as to the way the survey had been organised and executed by PML. Their survey boat (& accompanying skipper) had been brought up by road from Plymouth to be used by the survey team. It was soon apparent to the local charter skippers that the visiting skipper had little if any knowledge of Lundy's waters and did not appear to be conversant with tide times and heights. Whilst local skippers had been willing to help, their advice had not always been heeded. There had also been some "noses put out of joint" on the island too. A summary quote was "...not the way it should be done." It was requested that the disquiet be passed on to the relevant PML personnel by Natural England. KH observed that he had visited the team at PML to discuss progress and had looked at images from the surveys (four prints had been circulated to the meeting): the team was very positive about success and had done about two thirds of the scheduled work.
- 5.7. KH expressed his disappointment that a Management Plan for the waters around the island still didn't exist. It seems to be continually delayed for one reason or another by Natural England. MP apologized on behalf of her colleagues at Natural England that a Management Plan had yet to materialize, but that it didn't seem sensible to produce one before the conservation packages had been signed off. BM added that work is still going on 'in the background' on compiling information to include in the Management Plan, adding to lists of impacts etc. She also explained that, due to a change in funding for the MPA, production of the Management Plan was no longer her responsibility but that she would provide input to it later on.
- 5.8. KH also added that he was pleased to have been consulted on the Site Improvement Plan for the SAC, and felt that Natural England had covered pretty much all of the issues concerning management of the SAC. He was keen to ensure that a future Management Plan included mention of *all* habitats, communities and species, and not just those listed under the various designations. MP agreed that, as far as she was aware, this would be the case and that it would be a *working* document.
- 5.9. KH also mentioned a blog he had written which was relevant to the discussion, about what features should be included in a MPA management plan and entitled "Not only but also". It can be found at: <http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/blog/joan/2014/09/23/not-only-also>
- 5.10. KH asked if the Marine Monitoring Handbook for Lundy, which BM had helped prepare, was now available, as a draft was promised to be sent to both him and RI at the last Advisory Group meeting. BM said that Ruth Porter had the draft and should be able to send the file on to both of them.

6. DSIFCA report - new byelaws affecting potting & diving

Whilst listed as an item on the agenda for this meeting, it had been hoped that Mat Mander (Deputy Chief Officer, Enforcement, DSIFCA) would have been present (in Sarah Clark's absence) to present this item. However, he had sent very late apologies regarding his absence, and instead had sent the Hon. Sec. the following report:

- 6.1 The Authority has an aim to replace all the byelaws it inherited from Devon SFC and the EA with activity based byelaws. The Authority has already introduced a Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw on 1st January 2014. In addition the Authority wants to introduce permit schemes under each new byelaw so that it has an adaptive approach to management. The management measures are contained in the permit conditions so they can be changed far more readily than is the case with the 'traditional' byelaw. Permit schemes help the Authority understand the level of catching across both commercial and leisure activities by requiring permit holders to provide catch data as a condition of use of the permit. The permits also contain all the local management measures in one document making them more accessible and understandable to the permit user.

MM has set out below a brief description of the two byelaws that DSIFCA are currently consulting on.

Diving Permit Byelaw

The Byelaw will provide the Authority with the ability to balance the needs of persons diving with the requirements to secure a sustainable marine eco-system and the local socio-economic environment for the benefit of all sea users. Any person that dives with or without breathing equipment and removes crab, lobster or scallops from any fishery in the Authority's district is required to do so in accordance with a permit which must be obtained from the Authority. The byelaw introduces the ability to apply a daily catch limits for all divers. The flexible permit conditions will be reviewed when necessary on the basis of best available evidence and within a time period not exceeding three years.

The diving permit is only required when removing crab, scallop and lobster from a fishery in the District. These species are valuable and relatively easy to access and are therefore vulnerable to over exploitation. These species support many of the local inshore commercial fishermen. One of the guiding principles of the Authority's review is to create a culture where by the selling of fish from unlicensed activity is not acceptable. To balance the needs of all persons catching these shellfish it is proposed that a bag limit should be applied to unlicensed, leisure divers. The proposal is to restrict the daily catch for leisure divers to 2 lobster, 3 crabs and 15 scallops. A leisure diver would not have been able to retain any scallop during the months of July, August and September under the inherited Byelaw but can now catch up to 15 scallops per day all year round. There is a charge of £20 to cover some of the administration costs but the permit does last for up to 24 months, effectively £10 a year.

Potting Permit Byelaw

The Byelaw will provide the Authority with the ability to balance the needs of persons potting with the requirements to secure a sustainable marine eco-system and the local socio-economic environment for the benefit of all sea users. Any person that uses pots to fish in the Authority's district is required to do so in accordance with a permit which must be obtained from the Authority. The byelaw introduces the ability to restrict the number of pots that can be used and a daily catch limit. The flexible permit conditions will be reviewed when necessary on the basis of best available evidence and within a time period not exceeding three years.

Any person using pots, irrespective of what they intend to catch, i.e crab, lobster,

prawns, cuttlefish, whelks, finfish etc. would be required to operate under a permit issued by the Authority. Similar to the byelaw above it is proposed that leisure potters would have a daily catch limit of 2 lobsters and 3 crabs. In addition the Byelaw would restrict the number of pots operated by a leisure potter to 5. Consultation and research into whether pot limitations should apply to the commercial fishery is ongoing. There is a charge of £20 to cover some of the administration costs but the permit does last for up to 24 months, effectively £10 a year.

Both byelaws would require the permit holder to submit information regarding their fishing activity including catch returns. The Authority can then use these data to inform future management decisions.

Any person wishing to object to the confirmation of the above Byelaw must send a statement of objection in writing to: Marine Conservation and Enforcement Team, Marine Management Organisation, Lancaster House, Hampshire Court, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE4 7YH (or IFCAByelaws@marinemanagement.org.uk) within 28 days of the publication of this notice and must send a copy of this statement to the Chief Officer at Devon & Severn IFCA, Old Foundry Court, 60A Fore Street, Brixham, Devon, TQ5 8DZ or (office@devonandsevernifca.gov.uk).

The closing date objections is 7th November 2014.

- 6.2 KH (as Chairman) delayed this agenda item until after the arrival of Geoff Huelin, the one pot fisherman able to attend this meeting. KH was unsure whether the new permitting byelaw could still be commented upon [yes – see above], or whether it was a 'fait accompli'. KH did have some comments, although they were mostly to do with presentation and ambiguity: he would be sending these on to DSIFCA.
- 6.3 DG wondered if, as part of the permit/byelaw, there was a requirement for permit holders to report their catches at the end of the year. KH didn't know whether there was or not, but would add this to his comments for DSIFCA. GH explained that he had to report on the total weight of his catch on a monthly basis, but not on the total number of each species caught. KH also wondered if there was likely to be any restriction on a maximum landing size of lobsters – as the fishery is stated to be 'close-to unsustainable'.

7. English Heritage report (Alison James)

- 7.1. AJ was pleased to be attending the meeting following a period away from EH on maternity leave. She was particularly keen to hear what divers had been making of the new *Iona II* dive trail (as promoted by Peta Knott of Wessex Archaeology at the Group's last meeting), launched at the Splash-In on 14th June 2014.
- 7.2. It was apparent that far fewer divers than had been expected have used the trail. AJ was interested to find out why this should be. By comparison, *The Coronation*, another protected wreck which lies in 12-18 m depth off Plymouth, was also open for licensed divers to dive on her and had had over 1,000 visitors this year. A study had equated this number of diver visits during a diving season to being the equivalent of bringing £45k to Plymouth's tourism. ABen thought there the lack of nitrox diving gas being available on the island (oxygen-enriched air which allows divers greater time to stay at any given depth) may be influencing some divers. The *Iona II* lies at about 25 m depth, which for air-divers does not allow much time for exploring – especially as one's dive time has to include finding the (un-buoyed) site from the (buoyed) *Robert* some 30 m distant.
- 7.3. BM pointed out that a dive on the *Iona II* is an 'on the day' dive, meaning that one has to wait to see what the weather's doing before being able to visit the site. BM had

agreed with English Heritage that visiting divers could be added to her license for any one day when the weather was going to allow a dive on the wreck. However, she was then told that the rules had changed and that this would not be possible. There was also confusion as to whether the named licensee has to be either on board the boat at the site or actually in the water diving on the site, when others are diving on the wreck. AJ agreed to try to sort this out and to let BM and others know the outcome¹.

7.4. BM was able to tell AJ that the leaflets that had been produced by Wessex Archaeology for the *Iona II* wreck are very popular with both divers and non-diving visitors to the island. AJ was very pleased to hear this.

7.5. On a related matter, Wessex Archaeology were keen to get the *Iona II*'s website finished. They were waiting for Landmark Trust to complete their part of the work. BM explained that the individual dealing with this at LT had now left, and that she would undertake to finish the LT input herself.

<http://www.landmarktrust.org.uk/lundyisland/iona-ii-dive-trail/>

7.6. We need more photos of the site. There are a series of flickr groups for each of the monitoring points or a general group if people don't know or want to follow the monitoring groups. They are all listed here on the website.

<http://www.landmarktrust.org.uk/lundyisland/discovering-lundy/activities/diving/divesites/iona-ii-dive-trail/Wreck-Monitoring/>

There is also a Youtube playlist for the dive trail which unfortunately has still to be included on the website. Contributors can't add their video to the playlist, but if they either send AJ a link to their video or make sure "Iona II Dive Trail" is in the title, then BM or AJ can add it to the list.

7.7. AJ told the Group that a report on the current status of both the *Iona II* and the Gull Rock wreck sites (surveyed by students from Bournemouth University in 2013 and funded by the BS-AC Jubilee Trust) was available to Group members as a pdf file. AJ agreed to send a copy to the Hon. Sec. who could then distribute it to those who were interested.

8. **Any Other Business**

8.1. ML raised an issue concerning angling on the East Bank. He was aware of scallopers dredging the area two years ago, and last year he had had no success in catching mackerel there. However, this year they're back – the mackerel, that is! KH couldn't see a connection with a pelagic fish which swims and feeds in mid-water and apparent damage to the seabed. ML confirmed he has been able to catch quite a few other species (including gurnard) on the Bank this year which were not there last year. RM added that more common dolphins had been recorded this year and said that they wouldn't have been around if there was insufficient prey species in the water column.

BM added that, since January 1st 2014, the zoning scheme for Lundy had altered the areas where trawlers were able to fish off the island's east coast, so this may be having some affect as well.

8.2. Please note that a report by MARINElife on sightings made during 2014 is being circulated as a separate pdf file to accompany these notes.

9. **Date of next meeting:** Wednesday, 22nd April 2015 at 19:00 hrs on board the MS *Oldenburg* berthed alongside Bideford Quay.

¹ Following the meeting, AJ and BM resolved the issue and it has been agreed BM will hold a licence that can be used to help facilitate visiting divers who wish to visit the wreck at short notice. This will operate in a similar way to licences held by charter boat skippers who provide names to English Heritage after diving has taken place.

Annex A **Warden's report (April 2014 - October 2014)**

1. Staff

- 1.1 Chloë Nicholson joined the Conservation Team in May as the Seasonal Assistant Warden. Both Chloë and Nick Herbert (Seasonal Assistant Ranger) will be leaving the island on the last boat (24th October). They have both been enthusiastic, hard working members of the team who will be missed and we wish them all the very best for their future careers.

2. Marine - general & monitoring

- 2.1 Although our application to North Devon FLAG was unsuccessful, this has not affected our plans to acquire a RIB, which would be used to increase access to the marine environment for visitors and to increase their awareness of the island's protected statuses and wildlife. This boat would be replacing the NE-provided RIB which was beginning to show its age and was unreliable. Works on the new RIB '*Islander*' (an ex-Irish Coastguard Tornado, 5.8 m long with twin 75hp Yamaha engines) have begun (including MCA coding) and are due to be completed shortly ready for the 2015 season.

- 2.2 NTZ Infringements – there have been a couple of NTZ infringements which have been reported to Devon and Severn IFCA.

- 2.3 Seals – Population monitoring has continued throughout the summer season with two surveys per month. The highest population was recorded in August with 199 individuals observed. Two volunteers, Rachel Fell and Charlotte Eich, spent two weeks working on the island's seal image bank and were able to identify 99 individuals. This catalogue will be merged with Sue Sayers' Lundy database. This work has managed to confirm that all of the seals observed in the Morte Point area have also been recorded at Lundy.

Only about 12 pups have been recorded this summer/autumn to date – it is hoped more will be on the way – but they may just be being missed (perhaps being born in caves).

Divers have presented skippers and wardens with new challenges, including the use of dog toys to play with the seals. The strong relationship between local skippers and wardens has enabled issues to be resolved quickly and the island's code of conduct is being positively promoted by all to the benefit of the Lundy seal population.

- 2.4 Seabirds – Productivity monitoring was carried out for Guillemots, Puffins and Kittiwakes throughout the breeding season. Razorbill monitoring sites were surveyed for suitability for monitoring in 2015.

Puffins – The number of confirmed breeding burrows increased slightly from 31 in 2013 to 35. However the success rate decreased from 0.71 to 0.43 (21 successful in 2013, 15 successful in 2014). A further 23 non-confirmed burrows were also successful during the season.

The population in Jenny's Cove has noticeably spread across the cove with puffins spotted in new areas throughout. A Puffin Monitoring Project (funded by the National Trust) will be starting next season and will assist with further understanding of the spread of Puffins across the island and more detailed study of their provisioning and productivity rates.

Guillemots – The colony on St. Mark's Stone was monitored closely throughout the season. In 2013, 16 sites were confirmed as active, this year 82 active sites were confirmed. Of these 82, 27 sites were successful. The colony was divided into 6 monitoring plots and of these two had a success rate of 0.5, the others were all around 0.2. The overall rate of 0.3 is lower than last year's rate of 0.4. However the number of active sites increased by 500% which is a very positive sign overall.

Kittiwakes – Data currently being verified.

Manx Shearwaters – annual survey of six monitoring plots was completed at the end of May. These areas will be monitored each year in order to gain a further understanding of certain colonies.

BM has gained her 'C' permit for ringing Manx Shearwaters in order to assist voluntary work looking into the life histories of Lundy shearwaters.

Storm Petrels – Breeding has now been confirmed on Lundy with the discovery of the first Storm Petrel chick at the Old Light Manx Shearwater colony. The chick, with down on its belly, was discovered by LFS Bird ringers Luke Phillips, Tony John and Tony Taylor.

- 2.5 Historic wrecks: The *Iona II* Dive Trail was released at the Splash In!, However current issues surrounding licensing appears to be restricting the success of this trail. The majority of local skippers now hold licences to allow their divers to participate in the trail.
- 2.6 MARINElife have continued with their monthly surveys throughout the summer season and a report on their sightings can be found at the end of this report.

3. Terrestrial – General & monitoring

- 3.1 No rat related incidents have occurred. Permanent rat stations have been checked monthly and a new Biosecurity plan is being written for the island with the support of NE and RSPB.
- 3.2 Lundy and National rarities: Two Hoopoes remained on the island for most of March followed by a number of birds of prey including a red kite, a black kite, Marsh harrier, Hen harrier and Osprey. Other rarities included a Golden Oriole, Woodchat shrike, common Rosefinch, Great Skua and Turtle doves.

4. Education, interpretation & events

- 4.1 Warden events: Summer events have included walks (43), talks (33) and snorkel safaris (14). Talks have also been given by Lundy Field Society members on their areas of specialism which always prove popular with staying visitors.
- 4.2 Education programme: Frances Stuart and Simon Dell are both offering their support for future educational provision. Frances is also supporting BM with the development of the island's new Key Stage 2 education resource pack which is due for completion at Easter.
- 4.3 Work has begun on the new Lundy Cabbage leaflet and content is due to be finalised by March 2015.
- 4.4 The annual underwater photography competition Splash In! took place on Saturday 14th June and was a great success with 20+ participants and the release of the *Iona II* Dive Trail. Coverage for the event was published in Diver and Scuba magazines. The 2015 event will be held on Saturday 20th June.
- 4.5 National Whale and Dolphin Watch Week: This year we participated in this event with the support of Chris and Sharon Blackmore. Chris and Sharon ran the visitor events on behalf of the Wardens at Castle Parade and many visitors enjoyed the opportunity even when, unfortunately, they were unable to spot any cetaceans.

5. Media

- 5.1 The 'Letter from Lundy' is published month in the North Devon Gazette and is available on the lundymcz.org.uk website.

5.2 TV & Radio: An ITV filmcrew visited in August for two programmes, Countrywise and Wild Places. The first piece is on Manx Shearwaters and the work of Tony Taylor of the LFS - it will be shown as part of the series starting 27th October. The Wild Places piece is marine-based and features BM and KH – date for release TBC.

BM has featured on a number of Radio programmes on BBC Devon and Heart resulting from the numerous press releases this year, including the Dark Skies Discovery Site nomination.

5.3 Magazine articles:

- Landscape magazine
- Coast magazine

6. Miscellaneous

6.1 Work has continued on collecting data for the IDA's International Dark Sky Reserve application.

6.2 Lundy received Dark Sky Discovery site status in September for the airstrip.

6.3 Lundy has been nominated one of the 100 Great Geosites of the UK by The Geological Society and awarded a 'Spectacular Scenery' badge.