

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



Please reply to the Hon. Secretary:

Mr Robert Irving
53 Northmoor Road
Dulverton
Somerset TA22 9PW
Tel. 01398 323047
Mob. 07713 114006
e-mail: Robert@sea-scope.co.uk

Notes of the 7th 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 64th meeting)

held on **Tuesday 17th October 2017** at 7.00 p.m. at the Ilfracombe SAC Clubhouse,
Ropery Road, Ilfracombe.

Present:

Keith Hiscock	(KH)	Marine Biological Association – Chair
Robert Irving	(RI)	Lundy Field Society – Hon. Sec.
Derek Green	(DeG)	Lundy General Manager
Siân Scott	(SS)	Lundy Assistant Warden
Sue Wells	(SW)	Marine Projects Manager, National Trust
Andy Bell	(AB)	North Devon Biosphere Reserve
Shaun Galliver	(SG)	Ilfracombe BSAC
Maggs Ashton	(MA)	Ilfracombe BSAC
Amanda Gartshore	(AG)	Ilfracombe BSAC
Dave Jenkins	(DJ)	Cornwall Seal Group
Geoff Huelin	(GH)	Commercial fisherman
Fiona Moffatt	(FM)	Ilfracombe Yacht Club
David Graham	(DaG)	North Devon Yacht Club
Lauren Parkhouse	(LP)	Devon & Severn IFCA
Mel Parker	(MP)	Natural England

The Chairman (KH) welcomed all to the meeting, especially the new attendees and thanked Ilfracombe and North Devon Sub-Aqua Club for hosting the meeting. 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.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from: Dean Jones (Lundy Warden); Steven Worth (Marine Management Organisation); Andrew Benguey (Lundy Diving); Robert Durrant (Coastwise); Rick Morris (MARINELife); John Balls (N Devon Fishermen’s

Association/NFFO); Anna Dart (Torridge District Council); Clive Pearson (Charter boat *Jessica Hettie*); Chris Mandry (British Sub-Aqua Club); Leigh Hanks (Lundy Diving); Alison James (Historic England); Mike Deaton (Appledore Sub-Aqua Club); and Ben Bengey (Lundy Diving).

2. Notes on the last meeting of the MCZ Advisory Group, held on 15th May 2017

- 2.1 Copies of these notes had been circulated by the Hon. Sec. prior to the meeting. No amendments were raised by those present, so the notes were signed by the Chairman as being an accurate record of the meeting.

3. Matters arising from the last meeting of the MCZ Advisory Group (15th May 2017)

- 3.1 KH wished to elaborate a little on the sunset cup coral samples, collected a few years ago for DNA analysis, which were in his possession. These samples came from populations at Lundy, the Isles of Scilly, Plymouth and Brittany. He was still hopeful they could be analyzed at the MBA without incurring the 'going rate' cost of about £4,000. The results should reveal the degree of genetic 'distinctiveness' within these populations, which in turn may provide us with some clues as to whether the population at Lundy may recover in the future.
- 3.2 A mooring was placed off Brazen Ward at the start of this summer's diving season, after considerable delay. DeG confirmed it has been well used this summer and would like to thank Andrew Bengey, Leigh Hanks and others for sorting this out and for covering its cost. As archaeological repair work has been undertaken at the Brazen Ward defensive platform this summer, for which all materials had to arrive by sea, the mooring has proved particularly useful.
- 3.3 The intended visit of BBC1's One Show to record the stridulation noise that crawfish can make has still to happen. However, SS said they were still interested in doing this, though it now would have to wait until next season. Several others in the room thought it was a waste of time, as recording such an action would be very difficult to achieve.
- 3.4 Unfortunately, KH had been unable to dive on the Knoll Pins this summer to re-photograph the population of sunset cup corals there. This population had diminished to about one third of the number that were present in the mid-1980s and it's hoped that soon there may be significant new recruitment. However, there's no guarantee of this happening.
- 3.5 RI had raised the question (on behalf of MP) of whether 'no anchoring zones' might be feasible at Lundy, following on from the discussion on this topic at the last meeting. He was interested if the yacht owners had particular spots where they tended to anchor. DaG explained that members of his club would usually anchor in the Anchorage/Landing Bay or, if not safe to do so, then at Jenny's Cove on the west side (or possibly in Lametry behind the South Light). FM added to this by reading out an email from one of her club's members (Geoffrey Fowler). He suggested that further moorings could be placed in the Landing Bay for the specific use of visiting craft, thereby negating the need to anchor there. Mobile marine life may then be more likely to inhabit this area. [A second email from an Ilfracombe Yacht Club member was forwarded to the Hon. Sec. by FM after the meeting, which made very similar points to those already mentioned].

DeG explained that as many as 30 boats can visit the island on fair weather weekend days in the summer, so it can become quite congested. On such days there are never enough moorings, whilst on bad weather days they are not used at all. The island authorities were keen to have yachts visiting, so he said they'd be happy to reconsider putting in some more. However, there were issues regarding

insurance and certification which would need addressing. MP added that it would be sensible to get an indication of what might constitute a 'sensible' number of additional moorings, and KH pointed out that the seabed communities should be confirmed as being of low sensitivity to disturbance. DaG added that, if new moorings were to be put in place, he would not wish to see this accompanied by restrictions on anchoring within the Landing Bay. KH pointed out that at Jenny's Cove on the west side, boats should be encouraged to anchor in less than 10m depth (from chart datum), so as to avoid the delicate immobile animal communities (such as branching sponges and sea fans) present in deeper water there.

DeG summarized by saying that a starting point would be to see where the charter boats, dive clubs and yachts had been anchoring this past summer. RI agreed to request this information from the parties concerned, but the assimilation of the data into GIS map layer would have to be done by another. MP also agreed to look into the data Natural England had about habitat and community sensitivities to disturbance by anchoring.

[At the Lundy Management Forum meeting on 19th October 2017, Sue Wells (National Trust) reported that, at a recent workshop organised by the NT on moorings and anchoring, the authors of a recent report to Defra on the subject had addressed many of the topics in that report, but that the report had yet to be released by Defra.]

4. Matters arising from the last Lundy Management Forum meeting held on 16th May 2017

- 4.1 DeG summarised the marine 'highlights' of the last LMF meeting held on the island on 16th May 2017. The Forum is a partnership of all the stakeholders in Lundy and includes the Devon & Severn IFCA, the Environment Agency, Historic England, Natural England, Landmark Trust, the Lundy Field Society, the National Trust, the RSPB and the Lundy MPA Advisory Group. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Forum would be held on Thursday, 19th October 2017, at the National Trust's offices at Baggy Point, Croyde.
- 4.2 RI reported on what had been discussed at the Advisory Group meeting the previous evening (see the Notes of the 6th meeting of the Lundy MPA Advisory Group).
- 4.3 Dean Jones was introduced to the Forum as the new Warden (as from January 2017) and Siân Scott as the Assistant Warden (from April, on a 6 month contract). Nick Herbert was going to be the new Ranger.
- 4.4 The terrestrial report covered feral stock numbers; rabbit numbers (still low, leading to a greater amount of vegetation and a consequent increase in feral stock numbers); and a discussion of the new Biosecurity Plan.
- 4.5 Monitoring: most monitoring events take place during the summer months, although DJ had undertaken his first seal survey from an *Oldenburg* round the island trip in March (35 individuals counted). The vegetation on top of the island was assessed by Janet Lister, National Trust botanist, as being in good condition. The Stewardship agreement for the island states that the sward height has to be between 75-100 mm over 75% of the island. Maintaining this level determines the optimal stocking numbers for the feral mammals. A recent 5-year survey has indicated a positive trend in terms of the number of plant species present, which is most encouraging. Helen Booker gave an update on seabird monitoring and explained that all species would be counted during the 5-yearly event in June 2017.
- 4.6 DeG provided an update on the island's sewage, water and recycling position. Bottled water was having to be issued to all residents and visitors for drinking

purposes as there had been difficulties with the purity of the stored water on the island. A new water treatment plant is due to be put in place in the near future.

- 4.7 LP gave an update regarding the D&SIFCA; and Rob Large gave an update on Natural England's interests (in Mel Parker's absence). Both of these updates were very similar to those given to the Advisory Group the previous evening. An archaeological update was provided by Jim Parry of the National Trust. Mention was made of the repair work that had been done on the Fog Battery cottages, and of the work planned for the platform at Brazen Ward this summer.
- 4.8 Alan Rowland (in KH's absence) gave an update on the work of the Lundy Field Society, including mention of the Society's AGM held in March in Crediton, and of two forthcoming publications: one on Lundy Fungi and one on the flora of Lundy.
- 4.9 The Marine Management Plan was officially 'signed off' by the Forum, and all involved in its production were thanked. The Biosecurity Plan (specifically dealing with ensuring rats did not reappear on the island) was also adopted and plans were underway to hold an on-island biosecurity workshop in October for interested parties from other islands.
- 4.10 The Forum was informed of progress on renovation work planned for St Helen's Church, following confirmation of an award from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The project total cost will be about £1.6m. This coming summer, major renovation work will be carried out, including replacing the whole roof, repointing and repairing the stonework, strengthening the tower, and gutting the inside prior to a major refurbishment. It was hoped the new St Helen's Centre, providing an information and education resource for visitors, will be open next spring (2018).

5. Warden's Report

- 5.1 DJ had sent his apologies for not being able to attend the meeting. In his absence, SS presented his report (accompanying these Notes as a separate pdf file). Following this, the following points were raised:
- 5.2 KH asked if the island's Rigid-Hull Inflatable Boat (RHIB) had been used much this summer. SS replied that it had been used a couple of times, but both DJ and herself had yet to obtain their boat-handling qualifications, so use of the boat had been limited. DeG added that the intention was for a course to be arranged for next spring for both the Warden and Assistant Warden, run by the North Devon Yacht Club (c/o Tom Flaxman). DeG was also hoping Chris Mandry, a long-standing member of the Advisory Group and a VHF radio instructor, might be able to provide VHF radio training at the same time.

6. Natural England update (Mel Parker)

- 6.1 MP explained that, despite severe cut-backs in NE funding of projects on and around the island, NE had been able to fund the seal surveys this summer. The survey methodology had been 'tweaked' a little to bring it into line with that used by the Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU) based at St Andrews in Fife, who undertook regular grey seal surveys elsewhere in the UK, including the South-West. MP will be bidding for NE's limited funds in future to allow these seal surveys to continue.
- 6.2 The Marine Management Plan (2017) was now up on various websites, available to download. MP recommended that those who had yet to see it should take a look, as it was a very thorough document. She would be pleased to hear from any members of the Advisory Group of studies which they would wish to see undertaken at Lundy, linked with the Management Plan.

- 6.3 A major offshore sediment survey using the vessel *Severn Guardian* had been undertaken this summer, a co-operative venture between Natural England and the Environment Agency. As well as sampling for infaunal species, samples were also taken for particle size analysis, pollutants and plastic particles. Particular note was made of any invasive species and of any crawfish encountered. A description of this study is given in the Warden's Report (2.8). Results are due next spring. MP mentioned that one of the coordinators of the project would be happy to give an overview of the work at the Group's next meeting.

KH added that it was not a typographical error that results from this survey would be compared with those from 1840. This was when Edward Forbes carried out one of the first ever grab surveys of the seabed in the Bristol Channel off Lundy and produced a full species list as a result.

- 6.4 MP explained that the designation of the final MCZs ('Tranche 3') is due to happen next year, which Defra staff are working on and to which Natural England are contributing advice. A case has been put forward (by RSPB) to extend the current offshore boundary of the Lundy MCZ out to 4 km from the coast, so as to provide a protected buffer zone for foraging and loafing seabirds. These birds are currently protected by the existing SSSI when on their nests, but not while they are out at sea.

DG asked what this would mean to users of the MCZ should this change come about. MP explained she thought very little, the main purpose of the buffer being to future-proof the area further. If the case is accepted (which MP believes will happen), the buffer zone would mean that any infrastructure and other possible developments in future will have to take this zone into account.

- 6.5 RI asked if MP knew what was happening with the proposed Bristol Channel Approaches SAC which would cover the area between the north Cornwall/north Devon coast and the Gower/Pembrokeshire coast (and include Lundy), and which was specifically designed to protect the harbour porpoise. MP said JNCC had been dealing with this so she didn't know much about it. [MP confirmed after the meeting that this site was now a candidate SAC and that full designation should follow in the near future. Further information on the site can be found online at:

<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-7241>].

KH added that a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is a European designation and it is hoped that the current powers of protection will be continued 'post-Brexit' as part of the Great Repeal Bill. The only question, KH added, is "What will the big stick be?". In other words, what will happen should sites not be managed in an appropriate way, perhaps through insufficient funding, and their named features fall into unfavourable condition? Currently, the EC could initiate infraction proceedings with the threat of heavy fines.

7. D&SIFCA update (Lauren Parkhouse)

- 7.1 LP reported that decisions on the approval (or otherwise) of certain permit byelaws by the IFCA's byelaw sub-committee, which were due to take place on 15th May 2017, had had to be delayed until 16th June, owing to the imminent General Election and the consequent state of purdah. At the postponed meeting, which then took place on 16th June, the byelaw sub-committee agreed to support changes to the mobile gear permit byelaw, which will have a bearing on the Lundy MPA (specifically, the SAC).

- 7.2 The area where trawling is still permitted within the MPA is shown in brown on the map accompanying these notes (see attached file). This area, dominated by coarse sediment, is described in the key to the map as an 'access area for demersal trawl gear vessels under a D&SIFCA Monitoring and Control Plan'. The

main reason why demersal trawl gear would be deployed here is to catch squid, which may be present for about three months during the summer. However, there hasn't been a squid fishery undertaken for the past couple of years owing to their absence from the area. The grab sampling which has taken place this summer will provide a 'sort of' baseline following two years of non-disturbance to the sediment communities here. When this area is sampled again in future after trawling has taken place (assuming the squid fishery re-commences) and if it is shown that the infaunal community has been adversely affected, then D&SIFCA will have the powers to close the fishery from taking place within the Lundy MPA.

- 7.3 For the scallop dredging byelaw, it was decided to close all of the coarse sediment area to scallop dredging, just leaving a small area open to this fishery in the north-east corner of the MPA where mobile sand is present (see attached file). Historically, mobile sand communities have been shown to be fairly resilient to the impact of scallop dredging.
- 7.4 The only remaining change to the mobile gear byelaw was to do with the accidental capture of crawfish in a trawl. Any crawfish caught in this way must be immediately released and returned to the sea unharmed. This is in line with the existing ban on catching them by diving or by potting within the MPA. Regarding crawfish sightings, LP reminded any divers or fishermen that the D&SIFCA are keen to have these sightings reported to them, along with GPS positions if possible.

KH pointed out that he thought there was a high probability of finding crawfish grouped together during their breeding period, and that they probably dispersed afterwards. SG pointed out that he had emailed Sarah Clark at the start of the diving season to offer keeping a record of all crawfish sightings seen by Ilfracombe SAC divers, but had not received a reply. LP agreed to look into this. MA added that her fellow divers had re-named a popular dive site 'crawfish bay' as they were often to be seen on dives there.

DeG suggested that LP could re-circulate the IFCA's crawfish recording forms at the beginning of next diving season, which would act as a reminder for divers to report any seen.

KH added that as much information as possible accompanying sighting reports would be beneficial. A number of photos had been taken this summer of crawfish casts (the empty outer skeleton which is shed as the crawfish grows). Does such casting happen at a particular time of year? It was pointed out that the Conservation Team on Lundy might be able to make use of such casts for showing to any visiting school groups.

- 7.5 RI asked both LP and MP if there was a process in place to make sure the Zoning Scheme for the MPA was kept up to date, taking into account these areas for permitting or restricting certain types of fishing. LP and MP agreed there wasn't an agreed policy, although it was appreciated responsibility for updating the Zoning Scheme should lie with one of their organisations. MP pointed out that the existing graphic was produced by Bettina Newman c/o Landmark Trust. Natural England held various GIS layers though didn't have the graphic design skills in house to produce a similar map. DeG confirmed Bettina would be able to help update the graphic at minimal cost. [Following a discussion after the meeting between MP & AB, AB also offered assistance with helping with this process].

8. *Historic England update (Alison James in absentia)*

- 8.1 AJ had sent her apologies for being unable to attend the meeting. She had asked for the following to be read out:

“In 2016, at a meeting of the Lundy MCZ Advisory Group, Historic England were asked about our approach to the wreck of the HMS *Montagu* and if it could be considered for designation. As a result of this we subsequently asked Wessex Archaeology, as our contractors, to complete a site visit to allow us to understand more about the wreck. I had been hoping to bring the results of the fieldwork to this meeting with fieldwork originally scheduled to have taken place this September. However due to the site being very exposed to prevailing SW winds, it has not been possible to actually get divers on to the site yet. To access the site safely, we will need a period of Easterly winds. The maximum SW wind that can tolerate diving on the site is 15mph, beyond which the site is effectively inaccessible. There haven't been many weather windows this season but Wessex have been informed by Andrew Bengey (*Obsession Boat Charters*), who will be working with Wessex, that Easterlies are more reliable during spring, so we are now aiming for April. This also means that there might be a degree of benefit from the kelp being thinner due to the winter storms.”

KH wanted to point out that there remained an official salvor for the wreck of HMS *Montagu* - Bristol Channel Divers Ltd.

9. Report of marine wildlife sightings by MARINElife officers (Rick Morris – in absentia)

9.1 Rick Morris had sent his apologies for being unable to attend the meeting but had submitted the following data from this past summer which had yet to be analyzed in full.

9.2 The recorded sightings of marine mammals (seen from *Oldenburg* crossings and from surveys, April - September 2017) were as follows:

Harbour porpoise 89; common dolphin 165; bottlenose dolphin 17; minke whale 0; grey seal 231

The following birds were also observed during this same period:

Black-headed gull; common scoter; common tern; cormorant; fulmar; gannet; black-backed gull; great skua; guillemot; herring gull; kittiwake; lesser black-backed gull; Manx shearwater; Mediterranean gull; osprey; oystercatcher; puffin; razorbill; red-throated diver; sandwich tern; shag; storm petrel.

10. The North Devon Marine Pioneer Project (Andy Bell, N Devon Biosphere Reserve)

10.1 AB handed out a few copies of a summary sheet of the project his organization is involved in. Defra have recently been working on a 25 year environment plan, covering the natural capital of both marine and terrestrial ecosystems. Accompanying this plan were a number of 'pioneer' areas, and North Devon was chosen for two of these – a terrestrial project and a marine project – which would be viewed together. The general election in June 2017 had delayed matters somewhat, but the intention was now to launch Defra's 25 year plan within the next 6 weeks. In the meantime, the N Devon Marine Pioneer Project is being set up to show how to make the most of the natural capital of the coast and of the marine area out to 20 miles offshore. The area was chosen because of the concentration of new MCZs and of the existence of an established protected area at Lundy.

10.2 Partnering organizations in the project are: North Devon Biosphere Reserve, Marine Management Organisation, Devon & Severn IFCA, WWF-UK, University of Plymouth, Plymouth Marine Laboratory and the Blue Marine Foundation. Input to the project will also come from the SWEEP programme (South-West Partnership for Environment and Economic Prosperity).

- 10.3 A stakeholder workshop was organized earlier in the year (which included several Advisory Group members) for the project to be introduced and to discuss future scenarios. For those wishing to learn more, a summary report (and a full report) of this workshop is available to download from:

<http://www.northdevonbiosphere.org.uk/marinepioneer.html>

11. *An MPA perspective from the National Trust (Sue Wells, NT Marine Project Manager)*

- 11.1 Sue Wells had been invited along to the meeting as she is interested to see how the Lundy MPA operates and how the National Trust might expand its support of marine conservation and of marine protected areas in particular. She has a contract to work with the Trust for two years.
- 11.2 It may come as news to many that the Trust is involved with marine matters, but this has come about largely through their ownership of a considerable length of the coastlines of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. In total, the Trust now owns 778 miles of the British coastline. Much of this came about through the Trust's Enterprise Neptune campaign which started in 1965 and ran for at least 30 years.
- 11.3 The Trust developed a specific Coast and Marine Policy in 2006, although the marine side of this has yet to be fully developed. In recent years, the Trust has been working in partnership with Natural England in opening a coastal footpath for public access around the whole of England; and there is a Memorandum of Understanding with the Marine Conservation Society, where most efforts so far have been in supporting beach clean-ups. The Trust has recently launched a new project entitled 'Land, Outdoors and Nature', promoting good land management practices and helping to conserve British threatened wildlife and habitats.
- 11.4 The Trust owns quite a considerable amount of foreshore too (often associated with its coastal properties), much of which consists of intertidal mudflats and saltmarshes, and much being protected as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). It also owned 2,000-3,000 hectares (20-30 km²) of subtidal areas. The Trust recognized it had certain responsibilities for all of these areas, including their effective management, survey and monitoring. However, it is aware it could contribute more to awareness, interpretation and education programmes in particular.
- 11.5 Approximately 120 National Trust properties are adjacent to SACs or SPAs (European sites); 45 properties are adjacent to existing MCZs; and a further 27 to potential MCZs (Tranche 3 sites). In many cases, the Trust own the access points to these sites, so they could be highly influential in how these sites are interpreted by the public. The Trust is also aware that through their volunteer helpers they have a large resource pool for undertaking citizen science projects, and already they have a programme to train up volunteers in certain monitoring techniques, often in partnership with other organizations such as the RSPB and the Wildlife Trusts.
- 11.6 The Trust co-hosted a national workshop last week (with Natural England) on anchoring and mooring, covering the impacts these activities have on sensitive habitats and how such impacts can be minimized. Lundy is one site being used as a case study, highlighting the use of eco-moorings and their adaptation to suit prevailing conditions. DeG is contributing to this by reporting on the Lundy experience.
- 11.7 A current 'buzzword' doing the rounds at the moment was 'ocean literacy', and this was something which the Trust are keen to promote. Essentially, it meant making members of the public more aware of the seas around the UK and in

explaining their importance. Sue's work was to work out how best to get these messages across. She also pointed out that the incentives which have happened at Lundy, and for which those involved in its management should be justly proud, are not well known beyond the south-west nor overseas. She thought there was the potential to do a lot more to raise Lundy's profile in a wider context.

- 11.8 Following Sue's presentation, KH added that, under the Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009), certain revisions were currently underway regarding SSSIs and the placement of their boundaries. For intertidal sites, it was being proposed that the lower shore boundaries would be extended from being along the *mean* low water mark to the *extreme* low water mark. At Lundy, this would mean that communities on the extreme low shore could now be included within the SSSI and KH asked MP (Natural England) whether she knew of any plans to re-survey such SSSIs affected by this change. MP was not aware of any plans to do so and thought, given the current financial climate, that this would be a low priority within her organization. KH added that he felt the existing Lundy SSSI description was inadequate regarding the lower shore communities and should be addressed. KH thought the new SSSI Guidelines may well be published towards the end of the year.
- 11.9 MP asked SW if she was aware of Natural England's 'marine visualization' team, who may be of use to the NT for GIS mapping of coastal and marine conservation areas. SW replied that she was aware of their work but had yet to make formal contact with them. MP agreed to forward relevant contact details.

12. Any other business

- 12.1 KH mentioned he continues to be disappointed by the lack of entries in the island's logbook for marine life sightings. Instances of Portuguese man o' war or of moon jellyfish being washed up on the strandline would be just the thing he would expect to be noted down by somebody. Such sightings can prove invaluable in adding to the story of oscillating numbers of certain species, especially when tied in with other sightings across the South-West.

AB pointed out that we had discussed this before and the suggestion had been made about using social media (particularly Facebook) for this, as it was likely to prove more convenient to use for divers in particular. DeG suggested that more emphasis could be given to this next season. A section of the 'Lundy Facebook' page could certainly be for marine life sightings. SS added that Dean Jones had suggested putting Lundy marine life logbooks onto individual charter boats rather than having just one up in the Tavern. KH thought it should be the responsibility of the charter boat skippers to write down any unusual sightings that are talked about by divers after returning to the boat.

Any such sightings would be able to be included in the LFS's Annual Report and also would be relevant to the annual symposium held each spring in Plymouth under the banner of the 'SW Marine Ecosystems Conference'. This one day gathering will be on 13th April next year and is a chance for all volunteer and professional marine naturalists to compare notes of what's been going on in the south-west marine sphere over the previous year.

- 12.2 Following on from the point above, DJ wondered if the leatherback turtle carcass which had washed up on Woolacombe beach a couple of weeks ago would have been recorded by anyone. KH said he hadn't come across its appearance on any of the social media sites he was familiar with.
- 12.3 DeG added that to accompany the development of the new St Helen's Centre on the island, he was keen to advertise Lundy as a place for research projects to be undertaken by sixth formers and university students. KH added that the LFS have

always promoted the island in this context and have small grants available for those undertaking such research. There would also be the addition of some extra accommodation in the Centre for visiting researchers.

Date of next meeting: **Wednesday, 18th April 2018** at 7:00 pm on board the MS *Oldenburg* tied up alongside Bideford Quay.

Annex A Warden's report (April 2017 - October 2017)

Note: this document has been sent separately as a pdf file.