

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 9th 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 66th meeting)

held on **Tuesday 2nd October 2018** at 7.00 pm at the Ifracombe SAC Clubhouse,
Ropery Road, Ifracombe EX34 9EF.

Present:

Keith Hiscock	(KH)	Marine Biological Association – Chair
Robert Irving	(RI)	Lundy Field Society – Hon. Sec.
Andrew Knights	(AK)	Natural England
Dave Jenkins	(DJ)	Morte Wildlife Group
Fiona Moffatt	(FM)	Ifracombe Yacht Club
Mike Deaton	(MD)	Appledore SAC
Annette Dutton	(AD)	MARINElife
Rob Durrant	(RD)	Ifracombe BSAC/Coastwise
Chris Mandry	(CM)	Coastwise/BSAC
Sue Wells	(SW)	National Trust
Chrissie Ingle	(CI)	N. Devon Marine Pioneer/Biosphere Reserve
Sarah Young	(SY)	WWF UK-SEAS project
Ben Bengay	(BB)	<i>Hi Ho</i> charter
Andrew Bengay	(AB)	Lundy Diving
Amanda Gartshore	(AG)	Ifracombe BSAC
Leigh Hanks	(LH)	Lundy Diving
Stuart Carpenter	(SC)	<i>Hampshire Rose</i> charter
Derek Green	(DG)	Lundy General Manager
Siân Scott	(SS)	Lundy Assistant Warden
Maggs Ashton	(MA)	Ifracombe BSAC

The Chairman (KH) welcomed all to the meeting, especially the new attendees and thanked Ifracombe 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); Mel Parker (Natural England); Rick Morris (MARINElife); John Balls (N Devon Fishermen's Association/NFFO); Clive Pearson (Charter boat *Jessica Hettie*); Geoff Huelin (fisherman); Lauren Parkhouse & Sarah Clark (D&SIFCA); Alison James (Historic England); and Toby Gane (Wessex Archaeology). Note that Mel Parker is on a career break at present, and that Alison James has now left Historic England. AJ's post has been filled by Hefin Meara.

2. **Notes on the last meeting of the MCZ Advisory Group, held on 18th April 2018**

- 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 (18th April 2018)**

- 3.1 Regarding the on-going saga of the sunset cup coral samples (3.1), collected a few years ago for DNA analysis, KH explained that these remained in his possession. He had still to arrange for the samples to be analyzed and was hoping this could be done at the MBA without incurring the 'going rate' cost of about £4,500.
- 3.2 KH added that, once again, he had been unable to get over to the island this summer with his diving gear and u/w camera in order to re-photograph the sunset cup coral at the Knoll Pins monitoring sites (3.2).
- 3.3 (3.3/4.7) The MBA report on the impact of anchoring and of moorings on the seabed, commissioned by Defra, had now been published and can be downloaded from the Defra website at:
<http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&Completed=0&ProjectID=19777>. [Note: the reference no. for this report is ME6003. It is 7.4MB in size/470 pages long. The full citation for it is: Griffiths CA, Langmead OA, Readman JAJ & Tillin HM. 2017. *Anchoring and mooring impacts in English and Welsh Marine Protected Areas: reviewing sensitivity, activity, risk and management*. A report to Defra Impacts Evidence Group].
- 3.4 (3.4) The results of the sediment survey undertaken in summer 2017 were still not available from Cefas. It is now hoped these results will be available early in 2019. KH mentioned that the first sediment survey was undertaken in 1848 by Edward Forbes and that it would be interesting if the results from this latest study could be compared to Forbes' findings.
- 3.5 (3.5) DG explained that the Warden and his assistant had not undertaken a RHIB-handling course as yet, due to time constraints and other work priorities. DG mentioned that he was still hoping to have a conversation with the IFCA regarding the patrol side of things. RI urged that a course be attended before next season, so that the island's RHIB could be seen out and about on the water.
- 3.6 (9.1) Zoning Scheme update. Unfortunately, in the collective absence of Mel Parker (Natural England), Sarah Clark/Lauren Parkhouse (D&SIFCA) and Andy Bell (N. Devon Biosphere Reserve), the Group was unable to be told how this was going. Both RI and DG underlined the importance of getting this done. DG added that he had a designer who would be able to assist with the final presentation. CI offered to find out where the 'sticking points' may be and to help progress this.

4. Matters arising from the last Lundy Management Forum meeting held on 19th April 2018

- 4.1 DG summarised the main marine matters raised at the last LMF meeting held on the island on 19th April 2108. The Forum is a partnership of all the agencies that have some involvement with 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.
- 4.2 RI reported on what had been discussed at the Advisory Group meeting the previous evening (see the Notes of the 8th meeting of the Lundy MPA Advisory Group).
- 4.3 The Conservation Team's report for the previous six months was presented by Dean Jones. He was asked if it was possible for visitors to find out what scientific research work was being undertaken on the island and whether this could feature somehow on the new website. Both DJ and DG thought this could probably be done. The new St Helen's Centre might also provide an opportunity to provide information on what research is currently being undertaken on the island at any one time.
- 4.4 The Forum was informed of progress on the renovation work and refurbishment work being undertaken on St Helen's Church to transpose it into becoming the St Helen's Centre. A date of 30th June 2018 has been set for the Centre's official opening by the Bishop of Exeter.
- 4.5 After DG's report, AB asked what the situation was regarding the slippage of the scaffolding at Brazen Ward into the sea (which had taken place after the storm-force winds in late February/early March - a combination of Storm Emma and 'the Beast from the East'), and whether the remaining parts were to be salvaged. DG explained that all of the scaffolding above water level had been removed, but that those parts which had formed the steps were still in the water. He added that once the kelp had died back a bit, the process for its extraction would be re-assessed.
- 4.6 RD asked DG about the gabions which were to be used to reinforce the entry-way to Brambles villa accommodation towards the foot of St John's Valley. The stream here had caused the supporting stonework to be washed away earlier in the year. DG explained that, with the approval of Heritage England, loose granite stone was to be taken from the Quarries and placed inside the wire-frame gabions. These would then be allowed to 'naturalize' with vegetation.

5. Conservation Team Report (April – October 2018)

- 5.1 The Conservation Team report for the past six months had been circulated as a pdf document prior to the meeting. It was noted that it had been produced to a very high standard, with 22 pages and several colour photographs, which was much appreciated.
- 5.2 DJ had sent his apologies for not being able to attend the meeting. In his absence, SS, as Assistant Warden, presented the report (accompanying these Notes as a separate pdf file). Following this, the following points were raised:
- 5.3 RI, speaking in his capacity as representing the Lundy Field Society, pointed out that the Society had helped to fund the new underwater temperature loggers, the new automatic weather station and had also made a sizeable donation to the St Helen's appeal fund. DG acknowledged that this was indeed the case and he thanked the LFS for their support.
- 5.4 On being asked about any changes he had noticed when out fishing, BB said that the water in April had been noticeably cooler and there had been fewer lobsters

about; and now it was warmer than usual, with fewer whelks around. He also added that he thought the clearer waters during the calm, warm summer months had led to fish populations seeking deeper water in order to avoid predators.

- 5.5 AB pointed out that he had reported a vessel to D&SIFCA for fishing within the No Take Zone, and also the presence of two strings of pots set along the eastern boundary of the NTZ. He wondered if the gear might have been set by a Cornish boat, as the type of marker buoys would indicate this.
- 5.6 Sightings of spiny lobsters around the island are continuing to increase. AB said several had been seen off Battery Point on the west coast; CM added that 12 had been seen during one dive off the Rattles on the south coast; and MA added that she had seen groups of 15-20 individuals at a time in one place. KH pointed out that the recovery of spiny lobsters after 40 years of low numbers was linked to planktonic larvae being brought to the region. CI added that, having attended a meeting of the D&SIFCA recently, she was impressed by the Authority discussing the introduction of new management measures for spiny lobsters – a clear indication of being ‘ahead of the game’.

6. D&SIFCA update

- 6.1 Unfortunately, neither Sarah Clark nor Lauren Parkhouse were able to attend the meeting. SC sent a report to the Lundy Management Forum (for distribution to Advisory Group members too), but this arrived after the Advisory Group meeting had taken place. Her report is attached as a separate pdf file circulated with these Notes.

7. Marine archaeological update

- 7.1 Wessex Archaeology undertook a survey of the wreck of HMS *Montagu* earlier this summer on behalf of Historic England. Toby Gane, the project manager, had been invited to present the findings of their work so far but had been unable to attend the meeting. Instead, he had kindly sent the Hon. Sec. a short report, and this is attached as a separate document to these Notes as a pdf file.

8. The Atlantic Array survey results – a brief summary of the highlights (Keith Hiscock, MBA)

- 8.1 KH had been making enquiries through Natural England as to whether the results were now in the public domain of all the biological surveys which National Power had undertaken for the proposed Atlantic Array of wind turbines in the Bristol Channel a few years ago. He was told that the 439 page report was now available (<http://www.marinedataexchange.co.uk/ItemDetails.aspx?id=2730>) and he kindly presented some of findings of this report to the Group by means of a short PowerPoint presentation. (Copies of KH’s presentation accompany these Notes).
- 8.2 There were no questions following KH presentation, although SW mentioned that a new book was due out shortly which explained the impact (both positive and negative) offshore windfarms have had on marine wildlife.

9. Natural England update (Andrew Knights)

- 9.1 Andrew Knights had been invited to attend the meeting in the place of Mel Parker who, he explained, was taking a career break. AK gave a PowerPoint presentation explaining Natural England’s role in the designation and condition assessment of MPAs in the south-west, including Lundy. A copy of his presentation (minus most of the photographs, in order to cut down on its digital size) is attached to these Notes.

- 9.2 One point that AK added after his presentation was that Natural England's budget has been reduced by 40% in the last few years, whilst the number of MPAs which have required preparatory information has increased considerably. It was therefore not surprising to find that his organization was considerably stretched in terms of personnel and resources.

10. *The North Devon Marine Pioneer project (Chrissie Ingle, Project Manager, N. Devon Biosphere Reserve)*

- 10.1 Chrissie Ingle had been invited to attend the meeting in order to bring the Group up-to-date with the progress of the North Devon Marine Pioneer project. This project was 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. Partnering organizations in the project are: North Devon Biosphere Reserve, Marine Management Organisation, Devon & Severn IFCA, Natural England, Worldwide Fund for Nature, 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).
- 10.2 The project had held a number of workshops, the most recent being held on 17 September 2018 at the Landmark Theatre, Ilfracombe. Several members of this Advisory Group had attended.

11. *The WWF UK SEAS Project (Sarah Young)*

- 11.1 Sarah explained that this WWF project is being undertaken in the UK in two areas: in north Devon and in the Outer Hebrides. The one in N. Devon is being run in conjunction with the N. Devon Marine Pioneer project. The UK SEAS project is being sponsored by Sky Ocean Recovery and is investigating how to achieve well-managed MPAs throughout the country, using N. Devon as a trial area.
- 11.2 SY gave a short PowerPoint presentation on the findings so far of an on-line questionnaire which she had designed. The aim of the questionnaire was to see what level of management was being achieved by each of the MPAs within the N. Devon area. She presented the results for the Lundy MPA (her presentation is attached as a separate file). There is still time to complete the on-line survey and SY urged all Advisory Group members to join in:

Longer: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NorthDevonMPAsA>

Shorter: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NorthDevonMPAsp>

- 11.3 At the end of the presentation, SW suggested that a group response to the questions might be interesting, rather than just asking for individual responses. SY agreed this would provide another viewpoint. The Advisory Group might be able to act in concert in order to do this, perhaps with those willing to contribute having a get-together around the time of the next Advisory Group meeting.

12. *National Trust marine update (Sue Wells, NT Marine Project Manager)*

- 12.1 Sue Wells' contract with the National Trust will be coming to an end in a couple of months' time. She had hoped to have made more progress with defining the role which the National Trust should be playing in marine conservation nationally, but it was proving hard to obtain commitment for matters beyond the coast. She was pleased that the Royal Yachting Association was now taking over the mantle of overseeing the impact of anchoring and mooring, and their website now brings

together all relevant matters on this subject (see <https://www.rya.org.uk/knowledge-advice/environmental-advice/Pages/anchoring-and-mooring.aspx>).

- 12.2 The Lundy MPA was being held up as a ‘flagship’ MPA by the National Trust, which was encouraging to hear.

13. Report of marine wildlife sightings by MARINELife officers (Rick Morris – in absentia)

- 13.1 Rick Morris had sent his apologies for being unable to attend the meeting but had submitted a short report (received after the meeting) of this summer’s sightings. This is attached as a separate pdf file to these Notes.

14. Any other business

- 14.1 KH mentioned that a new book (of which he had an advanced copy with him) was soon to be published entitled *Marine Conservation: people, ideas and action*, compiled by Dr Bob Earll. It features the viewpoints of 19 leading marine conservation practitioners and pioneers on the main developments which have helped shape the progress and success of this relatively new environmental science. Keith Hiscock is one of the 19 contributors and his chapter draws heavily on his experience at Lundy and of other MPAs around the UK.
- 14.2 RD mentioned that his friend Douglas Herdson, the long-time curator of fishes at the National Marine Aquarium in Plymouth, is seeking records of any interesting sightings of fishes (particularly sunfish, triggerfish or basking sharks) or turtles from this summer, in order to add them to his report for the SW Marine Ecosystems conference which will take place in April next year. Doug can be contacted by email: douglas.herdson@btinternet.com
- 14.3 RI confirmed he had now passed on the digitized ‘Notes’ of all past meetings of this Advisory Group (back to 1985) to Dean Jones, for inclusion on the new Lundy website, which is being developed over this next winter. He had been keen for some time to make sure that the discussions of the Group were available for anyone to see. It had taken him two days to scan all 65 sets of Notes!
- 14.4 RI mentioned that he had met with Phil Newman, the marine Warden on Skomer Island earlier in the summer, and had extended an invitation to him to come to the south-west to share his experience of managing the Skomer MNR with us. He had said he’d be pleased to do this, and DG suggested he could come over to the island too. RI will confirm the invitation with Phil. RI also suggested there might be an opportunity for Dean and Siân to make a reciprocal visit to Skomer.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 7th May 2019 at 7:00 pm on board the MS *Oldenburg* tied up alongside Bideford Quay.

Annex A Conservation Team report (April 2018 - October 2018)

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

Please also note the following documents have been distributed with these Notes as pdfs.

- D&SIFCA update
- Report from Wessex Archaeology on their survey this summer of the wreck of HMS *Montagu*
- Presentation by KH on the survey work undertaken as part of the proposed Atlantic Array windfarm development
- Presentation by AK on an update concerning Natural England's marine work
- Presentation by CI on an update of the North Devon Marine Pioneer project
- Presentation by SY on the WWF UK SEAS project
- Summery report of marine wildlife sightings this summer by Rick Morris of MARINElife.