

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.

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Minutes of the 14th 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 71st meeting)

held on **Monday 4th October 2021** at 7.00 pm.

NOTE: THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIRTUALLY USING ZOOM SHARING

Present:

Keith Hiscock	(KH)	Marine Biological Association (Chair)
Robert Irving	(RI)	Lundy Field Society (Hon. Sec.)
Derek Green	(DG)	Lundy General Manager
Rosie Ellis	(RE)	Lundy Assistant Warden & Education Officer
Mike Deaton	(MD)	Appledore SAC
Amanda Gartshore	(AG)	Ilfracombe & N. Devon SAC
Shaun Galliver	(SG)	Ilfracombe & N. Devon SAC
John Balls	(JB)	N. Devon Fishermen's Association
Andy Bell	(AB)	N. Devon Biosphere Reserve
Lauren Parkhouse	(LP)	Devon & Severn IFCA
Mel Parker	(MP)	Natural England
Terry Newman	(TN)	Historic England
Stuart Carpenter	(SC)	<i>Hampshire Rose</i> charters
Martin Batt	(MB)	Coastwise North Devon

1. Welcome

The Chairman (KH) welcomed all to the meeting. The whole meeting was to be recorded (for the purposes of compiling accurate minutes of the meeting) and participants had been asked to give their consent to allow this to happen.

KH explained that, as always, the purpose of the meeting was to allow users of the MPA to have their say, but also to find out what has been happening around the island regarding management activities and observations which have been made since the last meeting.

Special thanks to Derek Green, Lundy General Manager, for hosting this Zoom meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Leigh Hanks (*Obsession II* charter boat).

3. Minutes of the last meeting of the MPA Advisory Group, held on 24th May 2021 (via Zoom)

- 3.1 No amendments to these minutes were raised, so they were agreed by all present as being an accurate record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising

- 4.1 (11.4) KH asked if anyone had submitted comments (as he had done) on the consultation paper on *Highly Protected Marine Areas* (HPMA) from Defra, which had been in circulation over the summer. He had suggested that Lundy's existing HPMA (which we know as the No Take Zone) should have its eastern boundary extended further to the east, so as to include the wrecks of the *Iona II* and the *Robert* as well as the easternmost part of the muddy gravel seabed habitat. His proposed North-South line would align with longitude 4° 38.5' W.
- 4.2 AB added that he had responded to the consultation with a request that the new North-West of Lundy MCZ should be made an HPMA. He had consulted with a number of fishermen about this (pre-pandemic), and as the area was rarely fished, they could see it as a beneficial stock supply area, and so were generally willing to support the proposal. AB explained there had been a crab-and-lobster regional consortium for the fishery. Support for the proposal was coming from fishermen speaking individually, but less so collectively.
- 4.3 JB added that the national fishermen's body (on which he sits) had asked Jen Ashworth at Defra to produce a chart of proposed sites for HPMA's, but that nothing had been forthcoming. He was a bit mystified by this.
- 4.4 MP added a little more information on the timeline of HPMA progress. Natural England and JNCC had been asked to propose sites to Defra, with their advice being requested by the end of September 2021. Matters now lie with Defra and the MMO who, after assessing various economic criteria, will draw up a shortlist of a number of sites to become HPMA's by the end of the year. There would then be a 3-month consultation on these sites during the spring of 2022. JB added that the time period for his colleagues to submit their thoughts had been only a matter of days, so it all seemed to be very rushed.
- 4.5 KH understood that the various sites being proposed should currently be referred to as 'nominated sites'. MB thought this was the case and went on to explain that in order for Defra to meet the timetable for the 3-month consultation period next year, the selection of proposed sites currently underway was having to be rushed through.
- 4.5 (11.4) KH also asked if any of those representing statutory bodies knew when the promised Office of Environmental Protection was due to be launched. MP said all she had heard was that it remained an 'interim office' at the moment and that she wasn't sure if a date had been set when it would become an official working department of government.

[Post-meeting, KH has confirmed that the interim Office for Environmental Protection was set-up in July 2021, and the Environment Act was passed into law on 10th November. More information on this available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/world-leading-environment-act-becomes-law>. The press release on 10th November indicated that "the OEP will formally commence its statutory duties shortly."

5. Island happenings during the past 12 months Derek Green

- 5.1 DG thanked KH & RI for getting this meeting organised. The next Lundy Management Forum meeting is due to take place on the island later this week (on Thursday 7th October). Although there had been a Zoom meeting of the Forum in May of this year, members of the Forum hadn't been out to the island since May 2019, so DG was looking forward to hosting another meeting on the island.
- 5.2 DG explained that some sort of normality had now returned to the island. Lundy re-opened on 13th April (2021) and, though there are still many restrictions in place, transport links are now running to schedule albeit with reduced numbers on the *Oldenburg*.
- 5.3 The island has been fully booked this summer (and also next year too), following deferred bookings from last year. The season has been extended this year until the end of November to help satisfy demand. DG added that bookings for 2023 opened this week and the system crashed as a result of the high interest!
- 5.4 The island has benefitted to the tune of £250k from the government's Cultural Recovery Fund, and it's still registered for the VAT reduction scheme which has also helped.
- 5.5 There have been quite a few staff changes, some of which are happening at the moment, so a lot of saying farewell to old faces and welcoming the new. Those leaving include Kevin (& Julie) Welch, island farmer, who's been on the island for 19 years; David (& Fiona) Bradley (Marisco kitchen). We welcome Freddie Hedger as the new First Officer on the *Oldenburg*; and we are currently looking for a new Chief Engineer.
- 5.6 Just over 3,500 visitors came to Lundy last summer (2020), and this summer there have been 11,795 so far! So a significant increase.
- 5.7 DG confirmed there had been no confirmed cases of Covid on the island, although there have been some people reporting symptoms after they had departed the ship on the mainland, which led to one or two *Oldenburg* crew having to self-isolate. The island staff have had two vaccine doses given to them on the island.
- 5.8 On one sailing in the middle of August, the *Oldenburg* hit a submerged object within the MPA which ended up bending one of the props. This required sorting out at Sharpness on the upper Severn for a couple of days, which sadly meant the loss of two sailing days. However, as the repair was done with no notice, DG was very grateful it hadn't taken longer to sort out.
- 5.9 Two major projects, involving water and power supplies, had been resurrected and were on-going. Close co-operation is being maintained with the National Trust and a number of consultants. Work has also been on-going on repairs to the jetty, with Severn Seas Shipping Co. undertaking the work of replacing many of the fenders and various fittings. This work will continue over the winter until completed.
- 5.10 A number of maintenance projects on top of the island have also been taking place, mostly to do with staff accommodation. The top of the Old Light has also had a fresh coat of paint (inside and out) thanks to Trinity House maintenance staff working at the North Light.
- 5.11 DG added that the island has also hosted two half-marathons over the summer, the first for 200 runners and the second for 250. The new letting arrangement of the church vestry (to sleep two people) has gone well, with it being fully booked throughout the summer. The income from this is split between Lundy and the church authorities/PCC (Parochial Church Council).
- 5.12 DG was pleased to report that, following the St Helen's Activity Plan, the church now has its own wi-fi system, following the installation of a 4G booster station close to the SW Point. This will be of great benefit to visiting school groups and to

others.

- 5.13 Trinity House had been working on alterations at the North Light and those works had now been completed.
- 5.14 SC asked DG if he had any news on when the diving compressor might be fixed. DG explained that a new compressor had been ordered and he's waiting for it to be delivered. The problem with the 20-year-old compressor had been that the filter cartridges had come to the end of their working life and were unable to be replaced. So DG had managed to 'find the funds' to replace it. The new one should be ready for operation at the start of next year's diving season.
- 5.15 KH asked about the North Light and whether it would now be available as bookable accommodation. DG explained that the lantern has been moved from off the top of the acoustic room and put back inside the lantern room (where it had been originally!). The operational area has now been separated from the lighthouse-keepers' quarters. This part of the complex has been redecorated but has no fixtures or fittings. DG is hoping that Lundy may be able to use it from time to time for bird monitoring studies or the like (as a sort of 'bothy').
- 5.16 MP asked DG that, with Dean Jones departing tomorrow, what was his timetable for getting a new Warden in post. DG replied that first interviews had already taken place and that a second round would take place on 14th October on the island.
- 5.17 MP then asked if the object which had damaged the *Oldenburg* was something that she should be worried about. DG confirmed it hadn't been a submarine and that it was probably a large log.
- 5.18 SG asked what had become of the anchor from off the *Oldenburg*. DG explained that it remained on the seabed, that the exact marks for it were not known though its approximate location was. There was a line and a buoy ready to mark it, should any divers be prepared to take on the task, for which DG would be most grateful as he wants it back! MD said Appledore divers had come across it during the summer, but had had nothing to tie onto it at the time. Ilfracombe divers were also aware of its location.

6. Conservation Team Report Rosie Ellis (Assist. Warden)

- 6.1 RE presented this report in the absence of Dean Jones, who is leaving the island for the final time on tomorrow's *Oldenburg* sailing, together with his partner Zoë.
- 6.2 RE's report was presented on screen and a copy of this presentation is attached to these minutes. Her report stimulated the following questions/discussion:
- 6.3 *[Unfortunately, the Secretary has no recording of any questions which were put to RE following her presentation, as the recording facility on the Zoom call dropped out at this point.]*

7. Observations of marine life and activities since October 2020

- 7.1 MD informed the Group of another aggregation of spider crabs which he and a colleague from Appledore SAC had come across to the north of Gannets' Rock. He had put some video footage of the encounter on the Facebook page (Lundy Marine Sightings). The aggregation stayed around for at least two weeks. Club members had seen a similar aggregation in approximately the same location in 2017.
- 7.2 KH thanked the Appledore club members for uploading the video to the Facebook page. He took the opportunity (again!) to ask others to do the same, particularly if something of note is seen. KH added that he and AG had seen two sponge crabs (*Dromia personata*) at the Knoll Pins ten days ago - an unusual species and one that's occasionally seen at Lundy.

- 7.3 MD added that the Yarrel's blenny (*Chirolophis ascanii*), which had been living within a pipe on the wreck of the MV *Robert*, was now, sadly, no longer there. Apparently it had been there for some time and was checked on by Appledore divers whenever they dived the wreck. KH said he was surprised this fish was present at Lundy as it is more of a northern, cold-water, species [although there are records of it occurring along southern and western coasts in the UK].
- 7.4 MB related that during a group Naturetrek visit in June they had managed to see a common minke whale (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*) quite close in at the Landing Bay. RE confirmed there had been one which had got very close to the jetty. These records had been entered into the Tavern logbooks and would therefore appear in print in the next issue of the Lundy Field Society's *Annual Report*.
- 7.5 KH had prepared a few slides of some of the species he'd come across at Lundy this year (27th May), including non-native, introduced species, which he then shared with the Group. First up were two intertidal species: a brown seaweed known as the pom-pom weed *Caulocanthus okamurae* (recorded at the Devil's Kitchen) and an encrusting bryozoan the red-ripple bryozoan *Watersipora subatra* (from a small cave on the north side of Rat Island). These records had been uploaded to iNaturalist. At the last meeting of the Group, mention was made of a small number of non-native Pacific oysters (*Crassostrea gigas*) being found in the area around the jetty. Another non-native seaweed to look out for, besides the already well-established wireweed (*Sargassum muticum*) and harpoon weed (*Asparagopsis armata*), is wakame (*Undaria pinnatifida*). Wakame is an edible seaweed which originates from the NW Pacific. In the UK it has spread along the south coast from the Solent, where it was first recorded in 1994. It has a distinct midrib running up through the blade (leaf) and a short, wavy, corrugated stipe (stem) close to the holdfast. It may be confused with dabberlocks (*Alaria esculenta*), which also occurs at Lundy, but *Alaria* lacks the corrugated stipe. It's most likely to show up attached to a jetty piling. KH is writing a short article on these introduced species for the next issue of the LFS Bulletin [*Discovering Lundy*].
- 7.6 KH also managed to dive the Knoll Pins on 25th September (thanks to the Ilfracombe dive club) and took some photos of the sunset cup corals (*Leptopsammia pruvoti*) there. This species is one of Lundy's underwater jewels, but sadly their population has been going downhill rapidly over the past 30+ years. KH's initial assessment of the photos showed the number of 'established' individuals had continued to decline, but that there seemed to be a reasonable number of new 'juveniles' too (<5 mm in diameter).
- 7.7 MB asked if KH had any ideas as to why the sunset cup coral populations continued to head downhill and wondered if it was related to water temperature. KH explained there were a number of factors which might be responsible. He'd come across a note he'd made in 2011 where he'd listed his thoughts on this. What he would like to see happen is for a group discussion to be held between knowledgeable parties (including the Environment Agency) to assess such things as nutrification levels, seabed temperatures and also natural, long-term change. It's possible there may be good years and bad years for certain species to reproduce - in the 1980s, the marine life at Lundy was clearly at a 'high', but there appears to have been a downturn since then. It would be interesting to find out if other places have similar experiences, for instance at Skomer, which has an excellent monitoring programme.
- 7.8 MB added that the reason for his question was that the Biosphere Reserve has just published a Nature Recovery Plan, and it features mention of the decline in certain charismatic and important species including the sunset cup coral. KH pointed out that recovery programmes work well on land where ecosystems can be modified and managed. In the marine sphere, this is next to impossible to achieve and we have to rely on natural recovery. Some targeted recovery is

possible (such as recent incentives to plant new seagrass beds and native oyster beds) but for most species we just have to hope any declines are stopped and that natural recovery can then take place.

- 7.9 KH added that, as part of next year's Festival, RI had suggested inviting back some of those who had been part of the early studies of Lundy's marine life, and having a discussion about what they now thought of the changing marine environment.

8. Natural England update

- 8.1 MP had been over to the island a couple of weeks ago with a small team of Natural England marine colleagues to repeat some intertidal transects which had last been done in 2012. Unfortunately, as they only had a day-trip on the island, they were only able to complete two (of the eight) transects, and these two were in the SE corner of the island.
- 8.2 KH asked what would happen to the data generated from the intertidal transect surveys. MP confirmed that a report would be written, comparing the present survey with that from 2012, and that the data would be uploaded to the MEDIN data archive which could be shared with the DASSH data archive. MP hopes it would lead to a further survey of the remaining six transect sites next year, though this will depend upon a bid for funding to be successful.
- 8.3 KH asked if the sites surveyed by him in 1977 might be looked at again, though agreed that some, such as the one at Dead Cow Point, might be a little dangerous to re-visit [Health & Safety didn't exist back then!]. MP explained the sites they were looking at were not in the same locations KH had surveyed in the past.
- 8.4 Following concerns raised at the last meeting over the suspension of the SAC monitoring programme following Brexit (and before the new Office of Environmental Protection start announcing new programmes), MP has been speaking with the Natural England dive team about the condition assessment for Lundy's subtidal features. A decision on whether such an assessment might go ahead will be taken in February next year.
- 8.5 MP has just secured a small amount of funding to allow RI to write a report on the outcome of KH's re-photographing of the sunset cup coral (*Leptopsammia*) populations at the Knoll Pins. This followed on from a bid RI had made to Natural England back in June to undertake this work, which had initially been turned down. MP is hoping the report will include a discussion on what the possible causes in the decline in numbers might be.
- 8.6 MP also informed the Group that she was about to be moving into a different role within Natural England which would not include Lundy, so she would be stepping down from the Advisory Group. Her successor was not yet known. KH thanked MP for all the work she had done over the past 14 years with her Lundy hat on - it had been much appreciated.

9. D&SIFCA update

- 9.1 LP didn't have an update on the research side of the IFCA's work, but she could bring the Group up to date with two matters concerning the Enforcement Team.
- 9.2 At the last meeting, a potential infringement of the No Take Zone by a scallop dredger was described, and the investigation into this is still on-going. The initial description was that the vessel was "sitting on a dredge at anchor" rather than it being actively fishing. This is classified as an 'infringement' but not a 'fishing infringement'. However, LP said she thought the matter was now in the hands of the IFCA's solicitors, so they were waiting to see what developed.
- 9.3 The second matter was something called the Ocean Mind project. Ocean Mind

are a company which undertakes fisheries surveillance around the world. They have chosen five sites in the UK to investigate the efficiency of their techniques with regard to fishing activity, and Lundy is one of these sites. The techniques could include satellite monitoring and fixed-wing drones. The project is still in the early fact-finding stage, though Ocean Mind representative are planning to meet with the IFCA Enforcement Team this coming Friday (8th October).

- 9.4 RI added that he was really pleased to hear that Lundy had been chosen for this pilot study. He said the project leader, Greg Brown, had also been in touch with him, KH, DG and Dean Jones on the island, to understand the 'set up' at Lundy. RI added that he had been involved, albeit on the fringes, in similar work at the Pitcairn Islands in the South Pacific, which has led to the creation of one of the largest marine reserves on the planet. As a UK Overseas Territory, the UK government were only agreeable to the reserve being established if it could be shown that satellite monitoring of fishing vessels could act as a deterrent to illegal fishing activities. Real-time satellite tracking of large tuna vessels was able to reveal, through the speed and movements of the vessels, when they were actively fishing. Subsequent screen grabs showed vessels to be hugging the boundaries of the reserve and that only the islands' regular supply vessel and cargo vessels were seen to be passing through the reserve.
- 9.5 RI pointed out that such a project would tie-in nicely with the Marine Festival, showing that Lundy was at the forefront of this type of remote surveillance.
- 9.6 LP also confirmed with RI that she had managed to discuss the projects he was proposing for the Marine Festival (which involved commercial species) with Sarah Clark, and that she could tell him of the outcome separate to this meeting.
- 9.7 KH asked if LP had any news of the current status of spiny lobsters, something which he knew she's been leading on for the IFCA. LP replied that the data-gathering project continues, though she hasn't received any data from N. Devon recently. However, she's had some returns recently from south Devon potters. LP is currently compiling a database of all sightings/caught individuals, so please keep sending records to her.

10. Historic England (marine archaeological) update

- 10.1 Terry Newman introduced himself. He's taken over Hefin Meara's role while Hefin is seconded to another post. Terry helped out with Lundy matters about 8 years ago when Alison James was on maternity leave.
- 10.2 As far as the licensing situation (with regard to the two protected wrecks) goes for the current licensing year (1st December until 30th November), for diving on the *Gull Rock* site the current licencees are:

The Lundy Company (covering Clive Pearson, Andrew Benguey, Ben Benguey, Dean Jones, Leigh Hanks, Colin Eastman, Stuart Carpenter and Derek Green);

Michael Deaton (covering Ben Hill & Mark Lavington);

Margaret Ashton (covering Stephen Ashton, Roger Pope, Richard Howell, Martin Davis, Shaun Galliver, Neil Daubey, Michael Hughes & Andy Hall).

For the *Iona II* site, the current licencees are:

Fiona Hampton-Matthews;

Michael Deaton (covering Ben Hill & Mark Lavington);

Margaret Ashton (covering Stephen Ashton, Roger Pope, Richard Howell, Martin Davis, Shaun Galliver, Neil Daubey, Michael Hughes & Andy Hall).

Two divers visited the wreck site during May 2021, and 11 divers during August 2021.

- 10.3 RI had recently sent an email to TN (& copied to DG, DJ & RE) regarding a small grey RIB he had seen with two people on board in drysuits close to the Gull Rock site. As none of the Ilfracombe Club divers who he was with at the time recognised the boat, he wondered if anyone else knew who it might have been. It remained on the site for about an hour before heading back to the mainland. RI had been unable to go to the RIB as the boat he was on was covering divers on the Knoll Pins.

TN had thanked him for alerting the authorities about this, but without any more details, they were unable to do anything. He wondered if the Group had heard of the Protected Wreck Association and a group within that Association called *Wreck Champions*. Alison James (who used to be HE's rep. on the Advisory Group and who now works for the commercial diving company MSDS Marine Ltd.) has helped set up *Wreck Champions*, as a means of volunteers being able to report suspicious activity associated with protected wrecks. For further information see:

<https://protectedwrecks.org.uk>

<https://protectedwrecks.org.uk/news/historic-england-fund-new-project-to-support-diving-volunteers/>

- 10.4 KH thanked TN for his report. He then asked MD about the photos from the Gull Rock wreck site posted on the Appledore SAC Facebook page recently. MD explained that this had been the first time he'd dived the site since the 1990s. It's tricky to find as there are few recognisable rocky features and also because it's at about 28 m depth. He did encounter the broken cannon, another that's partially embedded in the seabed and what he thought was probably a stone cannonball. He intends to produce a short report of his findings (including photographs) to Historic England shortly.
- 10.5 KH also asked about a visit he understood to have taken place to the *Iona II* wreck by a TV crew accompanied by Ross Kemp. TN confirmed he had been expecting contact from them but had heard nothing. Apparently the same team had been active in the Plymouth area on something known as the Ships' Project (c/o Peter Holt). SC thought they had dived using a boat skippered by either Leigh Hanks or Andrew Benguey.
- 10.6 MD wanted to add that there was now a rope lying along the seabed from the end of the anchor chain on the *Robert* to the bow of the *Iona II*. He's not aware of who laid the rope in place, but just wanted to point out it was there. DG thought it had probably been put in place fairly recently. KH added he thought it might be appropriate for viewpoint photographs to be retaken on the *Iona II* as it had been some time since they were last done. RI pointed out this was down as a project to be undertaken during the Marine Festival next year.

11. The Lundy Marine Festival - plans for 2022

- 11.1 RI reminded those in attendance that the Marine Festival will now take place next year between Thursday, 14th July and Sunday, 11th September.
- 11.2 Some dives are being arranged for dates before the start date of 14th July, as there are various species of marine life (particularly nudibranchs) that are likely to be more visible earlier in the summer. RI is currently in the process of organising the hire of charter boats for certain days during the Festival with Andrew and Ben Benguey. Participation by members of both Appledore and Ilfracombe dive clubs will also be welcome.
- 11.3 All of the projects lined up for last year will be available for participating in again. On the diving front, RI is organising Wreck Days with the Nautical Archaeology Society; Seasearch surveys with the Marine Conservation Society; and technical diving with the Vobster Dive Centre.

- 11.4 For shore, coastal and on-the-sea projects, he is hoping for participation from members of the Porcupine Marine Natural History Society, Coastwise North Devon, SeaWatch and MarineLife recorders, the Lundy Field Society and the Marine Biological Association to help with various projects including the Bioblitz.
- 11.5 There'll be illustrated talks, discussion sessions and displays (including Septimus, the grey seal skeleton) from time to time in the St Helen's Centre, some of which may be able to be streamed on-line. There may also be a small temporary aquarium housed in the Beach Hut.
- 11.6 RI wanted to thank Natural England, through Dr Daniel Moore, for encouraging students at both Plymouth and Exeter Universities to undertake research projects at Lundy next summer.
- 11.7 RI also mentioned that 2022 will mark the 50th birthday of Lundy's Marine Protected Area, so that will be being celebrated too.
- 11.8 RI would be pleased to hear from anyone who may have additional ideas for projects or other activities to do with the Festival. He's hoping that members of the Advisory Group will be willing to become more involved as the start of the Festival approaches.

12. Any Other Business

- 12.1 AB wanted to mention a couple of things that the Biosphere Reserve is currently involved in doing. AB had submitted a Communities Recovery Fund application in June, for a very rapid turnaround for various projects in N. Devon, one of which includes Lundy. A decision had been promised in July, but it still hasn't been made! Depending on the outcome of the government's spending review, if the bid is successful, it be a review of the effectiveness of the MPA at Lundy which will be undertaken in partnership with the University of Plymouth and D&SIFCA. The study will look at both marine management and fisheries management and relate that to natural capital. There will also be some research on how blue carbon fits in to future scenarios. The outcome of the bid should be known in three weeks' time.
- 12.2 AB continued that a 3-SEAS application for Environment Agency money to look at coastal partnerships will help to 'extend and deepen' the Biosphere's Nature Recovery Plan which MB referred to earlier. AB was unsure when he'd hear if that bid had been successful or not. He had discussed the proposal with MP at Natural England who had thought it a good idea. It will go beyond the statutory minimum for MPAs and MCZs around the N Devon area.
- 12.3 AB added that the tourism project comes to an end in December. The extent of this project on Lundy had to be curtailed in light of the pandemic, but interpretive work at the Rocket Shed and new snorkel safari equipment at the Beach Building has happened. There remains a small amount of money in the project pot, which AB plans to spend on investigating Augmented and Virtual Reality. He asked for any possible ideas for this linked with Lundy to be passed on to him.
- 12.4 Finally, AB informed the Group that plans for another skipper accreditation training course (Lundy's own WISE scheme) were now in place. This time though, it's on-line: it's in Google Classroom for people to use at a time of their convenience. He would welcome feedback as to how easy or tricky access to the course is, and how useful the content is, from those taking part. The plan will be that by completing the course, boat skippers will obtain a certificate and be able to display the course logo on their boat. The intention will be for them to repeat the course every 2-3 years. AB is keen for the course to be advertised via social media, so he is asking Group members to tweet and retweet details of the course.
- 12.5 DG wanted to pass on his thanks to AB for all of these various initiatives and was disappointed that the pandemic had curtailed many of the planned projects.
- 12.6 KH expressed his thanks to Dean Jones for all of his input into the island's

conservation. The Lundy Field Society in particular has benefitted greatly from his photographic skills and wildlife knowledge. As Chair of the Advisory Group he wanted to thank Dean for all his hard work over the 5 years he's been on Lundy, particularly for his recording of gelatinous plankton, a group which had gone under the radar for many years. He wished him and his partner Zoe Barton well in their next jobs back in Northern Ireland.

- 12.7 KH also wanted to thank Mel Parker (Natural England) for all of her hard work over the years for the Lundy MPA too. In particular, Mel has been instrumental in getting the Marine Management Plan back at the forefront of the MPA's management policy. He is looking forward to finding out who will be taking over from Mel on behalf of Natural England. [Since the meeting, Sophie Hare has been appointed to take over from Mel].

No fixed date has yet been proposed for the next meeting of the Advisory Group. RI will let members know nearer the time, but it is expected to be some time towards the end of April 2022.