

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 16th 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 73rd meeting)

held on **Monday 3rd October 2022** at 7.00 pm.

At Ilfracombe & N. Devon SAC Clubhouse, Ropery Road, Ilfracombe EX34 9EF

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
Amanda Gartshore	(AG)	Ilfracombe & N. Devon SAC
Shaun Galliver	(SG)	Ilfracombe & N. Devon SAC
Maggs Ashton	(MA)	Ilfracombe & N. Devon SAC
Steve Ashton	(SA)	Ilfracombe & N. Devon SAC
Dave Jenkins	(DJ)	Coastal observer
Andrew Benguey	(AB)	<i>Obsession II</i> (Lundy Diving charters)
Ben Benguey	(BB)	<i>Barbara B</i>
Sam Davison	(SD)	<i>Barbara B</i>
Geoff Huelin	(GH)	Walrus Fisheries
Andy Clee	(AC)	Plastic Free North Devon
Lauren Parkhouse	(LP)	Devon & Severn IFCA
Martin Batt	(MB)	Coastwise North Devon

Guests: Gareth Alvarez and Rob Whitney (North Devon Moving Image)

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. Parts of the meeting were also being filmed by North Devon Moving Image for the film they are making about Lundy's No Take Zone.

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 Ilfracombe Sub-Aqua Club for hosting this meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Sophie Hare (Natural England), Terry Newman (Historic England), Stuart Carpenter (Hampshire Rose), Rick Morris (MARINELife), Amanda Gartshore (Ilfracombe SAC), Claire Moody (Plastic Free North Devon), Mel Parker (Natural England), John Balls (North Devon Fishermen's Association) and Andy Bell (North Devon Biosphere).

3. Minutes of the last meeting of the MPA Advisory Group, held on 4th April 2022 (via Zoom)

- 3.1 RI apologised profusely regarding the delay in producing the minutes of the last meeting, which had only been circulated a few days ago. He had been a little busy with organising the Marine Festival...
- 3.2 KH had a correction regarding #5.8 which referred to the measurement of scarlet and gold star corals at the Devil's Kitchen. It was stated that the measurement of these corals had started in 1983, but KH (who had initiated the project in the first place) pointed out that his first measurement of them had been on 1st August 1970. There are now two sites being monitored within Devil's Kitchen.
- 3.3 Otherwise, the minutes were agreed by all present as being an accurate record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising

- 4.1 There were no matters arising.

5. Island happenings during the past 6 months **Derek Green**

- 5.1 Although the last Advisory Group meeting had been carried out on-line via Zoom, the last Management Forum meeting had taken place in person on the island on 5th April.
- 5.2 DG explained it had been a busy summer on the island, post-Covid. The island accommodation has been pretty solidly booked throughout, the occupancy for the whole year (Jan. to Dec.) is 92% which is outstanding.
- 5.3 The Marine Festival took over during the summer and DG passed his thanks on to Robert Irving once again for his input into this. DG also thanked Andrew & Ben Bengey for their help with boats, and for all the volunteers who helped in some way or other. The imminent prospect of the Festival also gave the impetus for DG to replace the diving compressor, which was installed in the middle of June.
- 5.4 The *Oldenburg's* season has been busy (she comes out of the water at the beginning of November), with only five sailings being cancelled due to poor weather and another couple delayed which affected day trippers only. Numbers of passengers have been almost matching pre-Covid days. Currently booking numbers are at about 16,000 for the year.
- 5.5 On the island itself, post-Covid, there was quite a lot of 'catch-up' to be done, with various maintenance tasks needing doing. These included replacing the farmyard roof (damaged during Storm Eunice on 18th February, which produced "the worst winds in 30 years [BBC website]); guttering and facings of buildings; and more work being done on the jetty by Severn Seas (Anthony Glover), including completing the installation of the emergency ladders and a few other items.
- 5.6 There have also been quite a few changes of personnel, but the turnover has now steadied and there's a stable team now in place. DG wanted to mention how well the team had been looking after all the visitors and guests over the summer. The

Conservation Team and the Lundy Ambassadors deserved special praise, particularly for their work with visiting schools. The Church had come into its own in terms of acting as an interpretation centre and a base for research, with the Marine Festival really bringing it to life for the first time.

- 5.7 DG had been working hard with the National Trust, developing the island's infrastructure plan which includes a new power system, especially in light of rising fuel costs (the island currently gets through 3.5k litres of diesel per week). The plan (fully funded by the National Trust) includes the erection of a wind turbine and the installation of 400 KW of photo-voltaic panels (PV). There will also be a large battery installed on the plateau which will store the renewable energy. However, the renewable energy will be backed up by four diesel generators, including an emergency generator which is due to be delivered (in four pieces) on 12th October. The whole machine (@ 200 kVA) is too heavy for the *Oldenburg* crane, so it is being shipped over to the island in bits, which will then be transported to the top of the island where it will be put back together again. So this will be a back-up generator to be used when all the other systems fail.
- 5.8 The other three generators will provide combined heat and hot water for the Village, perhaps running for just an hour a day. It is estimated that reliance on renewables will be about 85% (possibly 90% on a good day), with the reliance on diesel falling to 10-15%. The plan is that 2023 will see the introduction of the solar panels, which will be positioned in the High Street field, close to where the new water tanks are. The wind turbine is likely to go very close to where the old one went (to the south-east of Stoneycroft). Currently, there are a series of assessments being undertaken on predicted visual disturbance, noise production, wildlife disturbance etc., all required to be submitted with the planning application. If all goes well, by the end of 2024 all should be in place, including the turbine.
- 5.9 The water situation on the island over the summer has been tricky. Reserves fell to a 30% level in the tanks, the equivalent of two weeks' worth of water. Planning permission has now been granted for two new water tanks to be installed (again, funded by the National Trust), which will provide an additional 120,000 litres. The older tanks constituting the reservoir (which have been in place since 1972) will be replaced once the new ones have been installed.
- 5.10 Following his report, AB asked DG if there was an intention to add a lower section to the ladder in place on the north side of the jetty. DG was unaware it was missing. AB pointed out that at low water, he was unable to load/offload his boat as there was about a 2 m drop. DG explained that the replacement ladder should be the same as the original, and clearly it wasn't! Apparently the other two ladders are fine. DG agreed to sort this out.
- 5.11 AB added that there were four bolts still prominent at the other side of the jetty which he'd like to see removed as they caused a problem with boats coming alongside. He explained that the absence of the fender here made it a lot easier for people to get on and off his boat. DG explained that the hope was the fenders on that side of the jetty were to allow both the *Balmoral* and the *Waverley* to come alongside together, but as the *Balmoral* may not sail again, this scenario now looked unlikely to happen. AB offered to remove the bolts himself, which DG was happy to see happen.

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

- 6.1 RE began by thanking all of the volunteers who had helped in various ways over the summer, especially Tara and Daisy who had acted as Marine Wardens for the Festival. The plan is to run a similar scheme next year, with hopefully getting a student to help out.
- 6.2 There have also been four Masters students doing research on the island over the summer. Jordan Williams (Plymouth Uni.) monitored dolphins and porpoises

during the month of July. She had very few sightings of common dolphins but a number of harbour porpoise sightings.

Research Development UK (RDUK) have had an F-POD attached to the wreck of the MV *Robert* (thanks to divers from the Appledore Club), which will be recording cetaceans clicks and noises throughout the year. It forms one of a number of such listening devices around the south-west and should provide information on appearance times and frequency. Copies of the data will be able to be kept by the Conservation Team on the island, which RE was pleased about, although all of the analysis will be undertaken by RDUK. The unit is currently out of the water but it is hoped it'll be re-positioned in the next few days. RDUK have also given the island a bat detector, so it'll be interesting to see what that picks up too.

- 6.3 Meaghan Kendall (Exeter Uni.) investigated the impacts of seal eco-tourism, particularly the disturbance to hauled-out seals by visiting charter boats. She showed there was a definite impact on the seals' behaviour by these vessels, with an average of 20 seals being flushed off the rocks by boats, particularly in the Gannets' Bay area. Natural England, who helped fund these MSc projects, may wish to discuss the findings of this project with others to see what, if anything, needs to be done about this. RE reported there had been 42 grey seal pups recorded so far this autumn, with 22 counted in one seal survey alone, with population numbers as a whole "looking good".
- 6.4 Cherry Leung (Exeter Uni.) looked at the impact of non-native algae on native algal species. Whilst there are now a few non-native species present in the intertidal and shallow subtidal, she hadn't found any worrying signs they were displacing the native seaweeds unduly.
- 6.5 The final MSc thesis was by Nicholas Martinez (Exeter Uni.) who looked at how the island deals with its litter. This study not only looked at litter washed up on the shores but also on the recycling and disposal of other litter generated on the island.
- 6.6 The team of Lundy Ambassadors had been helping out with guided walks, especially with school groups, which was much appreciated. On every *Oldenburg* sailing, a guided walk had been offered, led by an Ambassador. By the end of this season, there would have been 23 school groups which had visited (with just two cancellations due to adverse weather), which was almost up to pre-pandemic levels (the aim being to host 25 a year). A Teachers' Pack is almost ready – it's been expected for a while but there have been delays due to illness. A Spotter's Guide, however, has been produced which children are able to use on the voyage back to the mainland.
- 6.7 The No Take Zone – on 24th May, there was "quite a large vessel" present within the NTZ (see later report by Lauren Parkhouse) and another incident had been reported by a charter skipper of two people angling within the NTZ, but it was too far away from the observers to be able to obtain any positive descriptions.
- 6.8 A question was asked as to whether the data obtained from the F-POD would be available to others or to the Lundy Field Society. RE thought the data would be freely available and that she had a digital copy of Jordan Williams' thesis which she can copy and distribute. KH also added that, as Editor of the LFS Journal, he would welcome contributions for possible publication of any scientific study which had taken place on or around the island.
- 6.9 AB asked RE if the Seal Code of Conduct could be updated. This request was particularly with regard to the increase in swimmers coming over to the island (with some groups coming from S. Wales as well as N. Devon). It was reported that the swimmers were making a lot more noise than the divers and snorkelers, with shouts and whoops echoing around the areas where they encountered seals, with some of the swimmers scrambling out onto rocks too. The difference in the reaction of the hauled-out seals to this behaviour, compared to that exhibited by

divers and snorkelers, was very noticeable. There was concern that it appeared they were not being briefed about how to behave before they entered the water. Apparently, there were also groups of people coming down to Brazen Ward from the island side, entering the water for a swim but making quite a lot of noise when doing so.

- 6.10 The second point AB wanted to make was regarding the accreditation scheme. Although this was put on-line earlier in the year (4th March), no-one had been able to access it – none of the questions which appear can be answered on-line. AB had mentioned this to Beccy McDonald (who had led on putting it all together). DG added that this had been one of the projects the Biosphere had overseen. AB added that he thinks that Leigh Hanks, Stuart Carpenter and himself are the only skippers to have attended the original training scheme held in Instow, which was several years ago. There are now many more skippers visiting the island who haven't got any kind of accreditation.

RE explained that the Code of Conduct leaflet had been updated and re-printed last year, but may require looking at again. DG agreed that he and RE would follow up the access difficulty with the on-line accreditation scheme with Andy Bell and Beccy McDonald to get it sorted by next spring. SA suggested that all charter boat skippers known to the island be invited to a meeting next April when all of these issues could be discussed; it could even be held at the Dive Club here in Ilfracombe.

- 6.11 Discussion on the topic of interactions with seal continued with MA pointing out that some seals may not be entering the water from the rocks solely because of disturbance but perhaps in order to 'play' with divers under water. The other day she had a 'pesky' seal swimming around her and her buddy and just getting in the way the whole time!

- 6.12 Avian flu. RE explained that during the seabird breeding season earlier this year, there were no instances of birds being affected by avian flu reported. However, on 28th September, a herring gull was found dead and later tested positive for the virus, so sadly it is now in the bird population on the island. There have also been a few dead gannets washing up on the shores (AB confirmed that he had seen a number of gannet corpses at sea as well). On a positive note, this has happened when many of the island's seabird species have left the island.

RE continued that it has been confirmed elsewhere that the virus is capable of 'jumping' from birds to seals. There hasn't been an instance of it being passed on from seals to humans, but full PPE is being worn by those on the island required to remove dead gannets from the shore, as a precaution. DG added that RE is working with colleagues in the RSPB on this, and that Landmark Trust is in close liaison with the National Trust about this situation. The National Trust had had to cope with bird populations on the Farne Islands off Northumberland being infected quite badly. SA added that he had come across a report that in Scotland 66,000 birds had died over a three month period, so Lundy appears to have escaped the worst of it so far.

There are now over 20,000 seabirds which breed on Lundy, over 10,000 of which are guillemots (a species which has been particularly hard hit by the virus). An update count of Manx shearwater numbers is due next year. DG asked if boat skippers were collecting any of the dead birds at sea, but AB confirmed they were leaving them alone. KH asked if RE knew whether MARINELife observers on the *Oldenburg* Saturday trips were noting down if any dead gannets were seen during crossing, to which RE replied she didn't know. KH added that on the day trip he made over to the island on 10th September, he spoke with a knowledgeable ornithologist who told him that seven dead gannets had been seen during the crossing. Such records will no doubt provide useful historical accounts. DJ added that there was now a record from the Baltic that a dolphin had become infected with bird flu, so it can jump to dolphins as well.

8. Natural England update Sophie Hare

8.1 SH was unable to attend the meeting in person but had sent this written update beforehand, which RI read out:

8.2 Lundy Subtidal Reef monitoring:

We secured some survey time with the Natural England dive team in early September to inform the condition of circalittoral reef and vertical rock communities within the Lundy SAC. The survey aimed to measure the frequency and occurrence of composite and notable species following methods adapted from Hoskin *et al.*, 2006 & Vance & Ellis, 2016.

Unfortunately, we were very limited by weather conditions and only managed to get to Lundy once during the week (we were based in Ilfracombe). The first site dived was Brazen Ward which we surveyed successfully. Second site attempted was the Knoll Pins – here we were looking at a key species list for overhanging and vertical rock as determined by Vance & Ellis 2016.

The days when we could not get to Lundy, we managed to survey a couple sites within the Bideford to Foreland Point MCZ. Our aim was to collect observations of pink sea fans and assess their condition. The second aim was to measure the frequency and occurrence of composite and notable species for circalittoral reef following the same method as for Lundy. Sites surveyed included reefs off Combe Martin & Wild Pear.

Overall, we were very limited due to the poor weather which was disappointing, and the data collected were less than we had hoped. However, a field report will be produced within the next months.

Many thanks to Keith who provided helpful input into various survey sites within the Bideford to Foreland Point MCZ.

8.3 Student projects at Lundy this summer:

NE have supported 4 Masters student projects based at Lundy this year:

Cherry Leung, Exeter University - Marine invasives
Meaghan Kendal, Exeter University - Atlantic grey seal disturbance
Nicky Martinez, Exeter University - Plastic pollution and inputs
Jordan Williams, Plymouth University - Cetacean monitoring

Many thanks to everyone who helped the students at Lundy this year, particularly the Lundy Company and National Trust who were able to secure volunteer accommodation during their stay.

Students should have submitted their dissertations by the end of September.

For the academic year commencing (22/23), our team has not submitted any Lundy-based student projects this time around.

8.4 Lundy Marine Festival:

Thank you to all organisers of the Lundy Festival! I was very pleased to attend the launch, along with Senior Advisor Mel Parker and Principal Specialist Ian Saunders. I look forward to hearing an update on the Festival from the meeting notes.

8.5 Lundy Condition Assessment:

Our team are currently completing a round of condition assessments for selected MPAs in our area, this includes Lundy SAC.

Lundy SAC condition assessment is still being completed and is in draft. Once finalised, the condition assessment will be published on our Designated Sites View System (<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteSearch.aspx>).

8.6 General HPMA update:

On Wednesday 28th September Defra's 12-week public consultation on the candidate pilot HPMA's ended. The consultation included 5 candidate HPMA's, 2 inshore sites (Allonby Bay and Lindisfarne) and 3 offshore sites (Northeast of Farnes Deep, Inner Silver Pit South and Dolphin Head).

Following the consultation Defra will analyse all of the consultation responses received and will aim to publish a summary of these responses within 3 months of the closing date. Once the consultation has closed Natural England and JNCC will work to provide Defra with our post-consultation advice, which will be submitted to Defra by mid-November.

Defra will then present their evidence to the Secretary of State who will make the decision on which sites will be taken forward to designation. Any sites they choose to designate will be designated by 6th July 2023, as it is a requirement under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MCAA) that this must happen within one year of the consultation launch. Under MCAA the candidate sites should already be considered in licence applications as they become material consideration at the point of the consultation launch and they must be assessed as if they were designated. Other management measures such as fisheries byelaws will come into place after designation.

- 8.7 KH added at the end of this report that he had submitted comments to Defra during the consultation, one of which was to extend the boundary of the Lundy NTZ further eastwards, but the reply he had back made no mention of that particular suggestion.

9. D&SIFCA update

- 9.1 LP reported that back in May, a very large (> 30 m) Belgian-flagged trawler was present within the NTZ, as observed by many people on board the Oldenburg, which was just arriving at the island. It wasn't fishing but sheltering and fixing nets at the same time. As the nets were touching the water, it had been assumed by some that it might have been fishing, but it wasn't.
- 9.2 The IFCA now have two new enforcement officers, bringing the total to six. Two of the team had been up to Ilfracombe checking on landing sizes of crabs, lobsters and whelks. All samples were compliant, so that was good.
- 9.3 LP also asked for people to report any suspicious activity to her or to her colleagues.
- 9.4 RE asked LP just to clarify how much of a net needed to be in the water to constitute the boat being suspected of actual fishing, as last year a boat had had all of its net below the water and had claimed to be cleaning them. LP stated that in the incident in May this year, the net in question was only just touching the water, so clearly had not been fishing. Boats are not allowed to stream the net within the NTZ, i.e. the whole net would be in the water behind the vessel.
- 9.5 AB wondered if there was any plan to extend the system of selling permits to divers nationwide. The reason for his question was that he had had divers on his boat who had queried why they needed a permit to take shellfish from Devon waters, when there wasn't a requirement for one elsewhere. LP explained that each IFCA has its own rules and regulations. SA added that he had paid for a permit to be able to take his quota as a diver, and so in order to justify his payment, he felt he was obliged to catch any scallop or lobster he came across. Consequently, he felt the IFCA had 'shot themselves in the foot' in trying to encourage sustainable catch procedures.

10. Historic England (marine archaeological) update

Terry Newman

- 10.1 TN had sent his apologies for not appearing in person at the meeting but had sent a short written report.
- 10.2 As far as the licensing situation goes (with regard to the two protected wrecks) for the current licensing year (1st December until 30th November) for diving on the *Iona II* 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);
Fiona Hampton-Matthews;
Michael Deaton (covering Ben Hill & Mark Lavington).

There had been 33 named diver-visits to the site between 8th June and 22nd August 2022.

For 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).

There had been 6 named diver-visits to the site between 9th June and 8th July 2022.

The Ilfracombe Dive Club had yet to inform TN of their new licence contact, following Maggs Ashton stepping down from this position. A licence request for 2022/23 by the Club had still to be submitted.

- 10.3 TN pointed out that the Lundy Company was both a corporate licencee (i.e. their licence covered access to a number of listed additional licencees) as well as a principal licencee (additional licencees had to notify the principal licencee of the names of divers visiting the wreck(s)). The island's Warden (RE) acts as the main contact point for the Lundy Company on this matter and it was important for this stipulation of process to be understood by all. Lists of named divers visiting either wreck site had to be submitted to Historic England (TN in this case) three times a year.

In the last few days, TN had been informed from AB by email that there had been 33 dives undertaken this summer on the *Iona II* between mid-June and 22nd August during the Marine Festival; and that there had been six dives on the Gull Rock site on the 9th June and 8th July.

- 10.4 There had been some 'misunderstandings' over an incident involving a film team filming on the *Iona II* wreck last year [*the Ross Kemp incident*], as apparently the correct procedures had not been followed. TN pointed out that Historic England had been unaware of this activity taking place until the film was screened on national TV, although AB interjected RI's reading of TN's report to say this was not correct. AB explained that he had submitted a report last year for a dive on the *Iona II* on 10th August. He had not had any notification this had been received. In January 2022, AB was contacted by the Ilfracombe Harbour Master asking if he had had divers on the site on that date. AB contacted TN again by email (with RE copied in) but again had had not response back from him.

DG added that all additional licencees should copy in RE (the Warden, acting as principal licencee) with their email correspondence with Historic England regarding visits to the protected wreck sites, so that incidents like this can be avoided in future.

RI wondered if AB had emailed Hefin Meara at Historic England (who had moved to another role within Historic England) in the first instance back in August 2021. AB confirmed that he had, but that he had re-sent the email to Terry Newman in January 2022.

On a related matter, MA asked RE if, should the Ilfracombe Club not have their own licence to dive the *Iona II*, whether their members could dive on the Lundy Company licence. RE said she was a little confused as to whether she had to be on the dive boat in question when dives are taking place for that to be allowed. Apparently, a licence holder is allowed to add names of boat skippers within their own organisation to the licence, which allows the named licensee not to have to be present on every boat trip. AB confirmed that this is what he does.

DG concluded the discussion by suggesting TN tries to make the next Advisory Group meeting and explains the exact rules to everyone, so that all are clear with the procedures.

- 10.5 Finally, TN was pleased to report that Historic England had provided a grant totaling £9,450 to the Lundy Festival to support the running of four Protected Wreck Days during the Festival and photogrammetry studies of both the *Iona II* and Gull Rock wreck sites.

11. **The Lundy Marine Festival 2022- how did it all go?**

- 11.1 Before RI gave his Powerpoint presentation on how the Marine Festival had gone, KH wanted to mention some of his assessments of certain marine life which he'd undertaken over the summer, illustrated with photos which were shown to those present. All of these are featured in RI's Appraisal Report of the Festival.

Pink sea fans. The majority of these remain in a sorry state, particularly off the east coast, overgrown with bryozoans and often with the egg cases of bull huss attached to them.

Intertidal anemone cave. KH has been monitoring anemones in this cave since 1980. There are four species present on the sloping wall of the cave (*Sagartia elegans*, *Metridium senile*, *Corynactis viridis* and *Actinia equina*), whose numbers have varied considerably over time. The numbers of *S. elegans* and *M. senile* are currently at the lowest they have been since this study began, a trend which seems to reflect the reduction in abundance of other Anthozoa at Lundy since the mid-1980s.

Non-native species. A total of seven non-native species of seaweed were recorded together with two non-native invertebrates. Thanks to Cherry Leung for sharing her findings on this study.

Overall comment: "Lundy subtidal marine life is not as 'vibrant' as it was up until the mid-1980s, and there are no signs of recovery. Intertidal marine life needs a systematic survey and comparison with previous records. It is encouraging that the scarlet-and-gold star corals (*Balanophyllia regia*) are increasing in abundance and that the Celtic sea slug *Onchidella celtica* population persists. The increasing number of non-native marine species at Lundy is a matter for concern but seems to be almost entirely relevant to the Landing Bay area and Devil's Kitchen (exceptions for *Sargassum* maybe) and not much can be done (although the Pacific oyster bashing may have worked)."

- 11.2 RI's presentation followed, summarising how the Marine Festival had gone. All of the information he talked about has now (March 2023) been distilled into a report entitled: *The Lundy Marine Festival 2022 – An Appraisal* which is freely available in pdf format from him (robert@sea-scope.co.uk) upon request.

12. **Any Other Business**

There was no additional points raised under this heading.

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 or in early May 2023.