

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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Minutes of the 22nd 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 79th meeting)

held on Monday 20th October 2025 at 7.00 pm
at the Ilfracombe & N. Devon SAC Clubhouse, Ropery Road, Ilfracombe EX34 9EF

Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Initials</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Keith Hiscock	KH	Marine Biological Association
Robert Irving	RI	Lundy Field Society
Derek Green	DG	Lundy Managing Director, Landmark Trust
Chris Blackmore	CB	Sea Watch Foundation
Sharron Blackmore	SB	Sea Watch Foundation
Hannah Nash	HN	N. Devon Biosphere Reserve (Marine Project Co-ordinator)
Maggs Ashton	MA	Ilfracombe Sub-Aqua Club
Amanda Gartshore	AG	Ilfracombe Sub-Aqua Club
Ben Bengey	BB	Lundy Diving
Sophie Braund	SoB	(Lundy Diving)
Leigh Hanks	LH	Lundy Diving
Dave Mannering	DM	Kittiwake Charters
Mike Hall	MH	Kittiwake Charters
AN Other		(Kittiwake Charters)
Gary Sharples		National Trust (Renewable Energy Project Manager)

On-line:

Joe Parker	JP	Warden, Lundy Conservation Team
Tara McEvoy-Wilding	TMW	Assistant Warden, Lundy Conservation Team
Esther Hughes	EH	Natural England (SW Marine Team)
Judith Tatem	JT	N. Devon Coastwise
Ellie Hoad	EH	Planning Team (SW), Marine Management Organisation
Mike Deaton	MD	Appledore Sub-Aqua Club

1. Welcome (KH)

KH welcomed all to the 22nd meeting of the Lundy MPA Advisory Group, both to those in the room and also to those joining on-line via MS Teams. He explained these meetings provide an opportunity for those present to be brought up to date with matters concerning the MPA, to make mention of any wildlife observations and to raise any concerns about activities happening around Lundy.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from: Carli Cocciardi (Devon Wildlife Trust), Meg Hayward-Smith (Natural England), Lauren Parkhouse (Devon and Severn IFCA), Shaun Galliver (Ilfracombe Sub-Aqua Club), Eleanor Ward (Devon County Council) and Andy Bell (North Devon Biosphere).

3. Minutes of the last meeting (held at the Ilfracombe & N. Devon SAC Clubhouse, Ilfracombe) on 8th May 2025.

A copy of the minutes had been emailed out to members a few weeks after the last meeting and again when the agenda for this evening's meeting was sent out. KH asked if anyone had any corrections and as nobody had, the minutes were accepted. RI was thanked by KH for producing these.

4. Matters arising

- 4.1 There were no matters arising from the minutes of 8th May.

5. Island happenings during the past six months (Derek Green)

- 5.1 MS Oldenburg. The ship was in the dry dock at Sharpness for longer than had been anticipated. The replacement of the foredeck and the hold hatch meant she spent an extra three months there. This meant she returned to service a week late but as this coincided with easterly winds, it wasn't all doom and gloom. However, the easterly winds persisted for a while, meaning that several sailings had to be cancelled. Out of 101 sailings throughout the season, 26 were adversely affected by the weather. Fortunately, passenger numbers have ended up being on a par with those from last year. To date, a total of 14,500 passengers have been carried over to the island, which makes it an average year.
- 5.2 Letting properties. Bookings for these have been busy as usual. Occupancy remains strong, with a rate of 87% for the year, down about 1% from last year which was expected. Bookings for 2027 have just been opened, with a flurry of activity by those wishing to get a particular cottage or a particular time or preferably both. Lundy bookings (for all of its 23 properties) for 2027 now account for 45% of all of Landmark's early bookings (the total Landmark portfolio now numbers more than 200 properties).
- 5.3 Island projects. There have been several projects happening on the island. The vehicle workshop roof (made of asbestos) has been encapsulated with a resin material, which has made it safe and has stopped it leaking, and should last for 25 years. Within the properties, all of the multifuel stoves have been replaced (from coal-burning to wood-burning). The spell of dry weather during the summer affected the island's water supply, even though an extra tank had been installed a couple of years ago. DG said the island was within three days of running dry. A number of breaks in the mains water pipe were identified, including one in the campsite.

- 5.4 Energy conservation. Most properties have now been fitted with double-glazed windows (heritage sash windows made by a firm in Bideford). There have been a number of tasks linked with the installation of the new wind turbine, a solar array and a battery house which are progressing smoothly. The intention is for planning permission for the installation of these structures to be applied for over this coming winter. This week, public consultations are being held outside the Shore Offices in Ilfracombe and Bideford. Further information is also available on the Lundy website (<https://www.landmarktrust.org.uk/lundyisland/discovering-lundy/renewable-energy-project/>).
- 5.5 Staffing. There have been very few changes of staff over this past year but sadly Joe Parker (Warden) will be moving on in early December. DG thanked Joe for the fantastic work he's put in, particularly in establishing and developing the Bird Observatory. The Observatory's 3-year probationary period comes to an end in February and there will be a meeting with the Bird Observatory Council at this time to find out if full Observatory status will be granted.
- 5.6 Domestic stock levels. As part of preparing for a new Higher Level Stewardship agreement (which will last for the next five years), the grazing regime on the island has been reviewed, leading to a considerable reduction in the numbers of sheep and also feral animals (sika deer, Soay sheep, goats). The new regime has begun to show benefits such as more grass and wildflowers being apparent, less damage to stone walls and a more 'wilderness' becoming apparent.
- 5.7 Looking ahead. The *Oldenburg* is due to go up to Sharpness for her dry-dock inspection in a couple of weeks' time. This time round the hull is going to be the priority (as it will be over the next three visits) with each year one of four sections being shot-blasted back to metal, repaired and repainted.
- 5.8 RNLI's new craft distribution. DG mentioned he was concerned about the planned re-housing of rescue craft between Ilfracombe and Appledore Stations. The all-weather Shannon class boat is moving from Ilfracombe to Appledore and will be replaced at Ilfracombe with an Atlantic 85 RIB. The downside of this restructuring means it will take much longer for a boat capable of towing the *Oldenburg* to reach her if her engines or steering failed, particularly if such an incident happened between Ilfracombe and Morte Point.
- 5.9 Questions. SB asked if there was any way the jetty at Lundy might be enhanced to cope with easterly winds, so that more landings might be possible. DG believed there were four designs originally submitted for the jetty structure [in 1997], with the agreed design being built to 'fit' the *Oldenburg*. Ideally, a breakwater would have been added but the cost was prohibitive. Unfortunately, landing at Jenny's Cove (as was done in the good old days) is now prohibited on safety grounds. DG explained that if a force 5 wind was forecast that had any east in its direction, then the ship probably wouldn't sail; if it was between 4 and 5 then it probably would. That was his rule-of-thumb cut-off point.
- LH pointed out that the jetty was beginning to show its age, with some of the metal becoming very thin and other parts held with ratchet straps. He wondered if DG had any plans to do some repairs to it. DG explained he was waiting on Severn Seas Shipping to come over to fix it but they'd been delayed by a Trinity House job. There's still a fender hanging off the east side and another problem closer to the shore, so it's in-hand but delayed.

6. Conservation Team report Joe Parker (Lundy Warden) & Tara McEvoy-Wilding (Assistant Warden)

- 6.1 JP's illustrated Conservation Team report is included separately to these minutes. Points relevant to the MPA are mentioned below. JP explained that the Island is currently recruiting for a new Warden as he's due to be leaving the island in 6 weeks' time. Tara will be remaining in post as Assistant Warden.
- 6.2 The summer season has been very busy but enjoyable nonetheless. On the Team have been the island farmer Tom, the Ranger Roger, and volunteers helping with Bird Observatory work, seal monitoring, and another helping with a variety of tasks such as seal disturbance monitoring, snorkel safaris and rockpool rambles.
- 6.3 Visitor engagement. The team of Lundy Ambassador volunteers have been doing a fantastic job, coming over on almost every sailing offering a guided walk around the southern end of the island and up to Jenny's Cove on the longer Bideford sailings to see the puffins. 1,031 visitors had attended these walks this year, which is a record number.
- 6.4 School groups. TMW had been running the school engagement programme with primary schools in North Devon. These include a day visit to the island for each school with a guided tour explaining about the history and wildlife of the island. This year the programme expanded to include a wider audience, centred on a 'Lundy Seal Champion' competition. The idea was to raise awareness of the problem of seal disturbance by asking children to produce something creative which addressed this problem. Entries included posters, stickers and poems. There were over 80 entries from nine primary schools across Devon and Somerset. The overall winner was a sticker design. Next year the plan is to undertake a similar project but this time on the theme of seabird disturbance and biosecurity.
- 6.5 Biosecurity. Another dog trained to sniff out rodents has visited the island recently (all the way from Scotland – the RSPB now have three dogs covering the whole of Britain) and stayed for a couple of days. Whilst no rats have been detected on the island since their eradication was completed in 2004, a highly dessicated dead specimen was discovered in the attic space at Stoneycroft cottage. The intention is for this poor specimen to be mounted and displayed so that the story of the island's eradication of rats can be told.
- 6.6 A new temporary shipwreck. On Thursday, 15th May, a 10 m long cabin cruiser picked up one of the moorings in the Landing Bay, yet 4 minutes later it was sitting on the seabed! No injuries to personnel were encountered, but it was sufficient to trigger a biosecurity response. Within the next 24 hours, extra monitoring stations (boxes containing wax blacks) were set out around the south-east of the island. A recent change in the law means that poisoned bait cannot be used outdoors. Fortunately, no signs of rodent(s) were found. The boat in question was refloated within the next day or two and towed back to the mainland.
- 6.7 Seabirds. Almost all seabird species on the island appear to be thriving. Last week, the census counts undertaken over the summer were finalised by Paul St Pierre of the RSPB. The one species not doing so well is the fulmar, following a national trend. The numbers of other species included >12,000 guillemots, 4,500 razorbills, >1,300 puffins, 219 shag and 448 kittiwake pairs, amounting to a total of about 45,000 seabirds.

A study tracking ten of the island's Manx shearwaters took place over the summer. Their foraging flight paths can be seen in JP's report over the course of about ten days. Most headed down to the north Brittany coast, although one individual then headed northwards to the Rockall Bank, just over 900 km for the round trip. Another tracking study followed a number of storm petrels, with tracks heading northwards up to the Pembrokeshire islands and then out to the Celtic Deep area.

On a bird-related matter, JP explained the island is looking forward to the full Bird Observatory status with the Bird Observatories Council this coming February.

- 6.8 Grey seals. TMW stated that a seal count undertaken on 6th October had led to a total of 183 seals being counted, which is about 20 down on the number last year (203 on 3rd September). The pupping season seemed to have finished earlier this year, with 62 pups born to date, a little less than last year (71 by the end of October 2024). The mortality rate has been lower this year (13% as opposed to 21% last year). Fewer pups have been born this year but fewer pups have also died.
- 6.9 JP let slip that he had shown the Rev. Richard Coles around the island for a Channel 4 (More 4 to be precise) programme earlier in the summer and it was being shown on the channel this evening. The programme was centred on the presenter exploring the various Shipping Forecast areas and tonight's programme focuses on Lundy. Other TV media interest this summer will lead to programmes on "Our tiny islands", "Weird Britain" and a programme by BBC Alba on Soay sheep which features Tom the farmer.
- 6.10 Questions: KH asked if TMW had anything to say about any marine life sightings. TMW explained that during the seal pupping season, all beaches had been closed to humans so as to reduce disturbance. She did say that a couple of By-the-wind-sailors (*Velella velella*) had turned up by the jetty. There had also been various jellyfish washed ashore including some mauve stingers (*Pelagia noctiluca*) during August which proved a hazard for swimmers. In the spring, large numbers of sea hares (*Aplysia punctata*) had been recorded near to Mermaid's Pool (close to Lametry Bay). Other 'specials' for TMW had included Montagu's sea snail (a shore fish: *Liparis montagui*), various sea slug species including sea lemons (*Archidoris pseudoargus*) and grey sea slugs (*Aeolidia papillosa*).
- KH mentioned he'd only been over to the island once this summer (thanks to Ilfracombe SAC) and managed a couple of dives, one in the vicinity of Gull Rock and the other at the Knoll Pins. He considered the seabed community which he saw was not nearly so 'vibrant' as it had been in the past: the sea fans for the most part are in poor condition and the number of sunset cup corals at the Knoll Pins monitoring site remain far fewer than in the past. He drew Natural England's attention (via EH) to the importance of monitoring these communities in the future and that it should not fall to unfunded interested parties to keep it going. TMW added that when the Warden's RIB comes back to the island, there'll be more chance to do some citizen science monitoring.
- 6.11 KH wanted to add that he's always keen to hear of any sightings of marine wildlife around Lundy seen during the past year, be these on the surface of the sea, under it or in the intertidal zone. These will be added to lists which appear in the Lundy Field Society's Annual report and possibly in the SW Marine Ecosystems report as well.
- 6.12 TMW added her thanks to the Lundy Field Society for funding two new temperature loggers. These should be coming over to the island soon and she's keen to get them in the water a.s.a.p. She can manage to attach the one at the end of the jetty but will be looking for a local diver to help out with the one to be attached to the MV *Robert*. LH kindly retrieved the one from the *Robert* last year.
- 6.13 Finally, CB added that there had been very few porpoises seen this summer, both off Lundy and off Ilfracombe.
- 6.14 RI asked DG what was the situation regarding the RIB. DG explained that it still awaits being coded, so it should be ready for 2026. However, he emphasised that the island has no remit to use the RIB in a professional capacity because there is no funding from Natural England for its continuing use. Natural England used to fund the RIB entirely and 80% of the Warden's time, but no longer. If marine monitoring tasks require use of the RIB in future, then there will need to be funding to cover its use. At present, DG pointed out that the Lundy Company's remit on the island extends to low water mark (though includes the Landing Bay as the local Harbour Authority) but not beyond. EH asked when had Natural England's funding had ceased and DG explained

a small amount was still received but that most of NE's funding had disappeared 5-6 years ago. He will hope to speak with MHS about this in a couple of days' time at the Management Forum meeting.

- 6.15 Finally, KH wanted to add the Group's collective thanks to Joe for his time on Lundy and for all the hard work he's put in. Particular praise is due for helping to establish the Bird Observatory and for seeing it through its formative years.

7. Natural England update Meg Hayward Smith (SW Marine Team)

- 7.1 MHS's colleague Esther Hughes kindly attended the meeting on-line and was able to provide an update from Natural England's marine team in the south-west. EH explained that their marine team in the south-west consisted of two senior officers and four higher officers, of which she was one (with responsibility for the Fal and Helford) and her colleague Meg Hayward Smith was another (with responsibility for Lundy).
- 7.2 Natural England has just published its strategic direction for 2025 to 2030, outlining its priorities and vision for the next five years. You can read the full document on GOV.UK: [Natural England's strategic direction 2025-2030 – GOV.UK](#)
- 7.3 For Devon, Natural England have recently published the Condition Assessment for the following site: Bideford to Foreland Point MCZ
- Condition Assessments can be accessed by using the [search tool](#) on [Designated Sites View](#) or via the individual site packages, under the 'Feature Condition' section.
- 7.4 Fisheries. Natural England staff continue to work closely with Devon and Seven IFCA and the MMO, as both organisations progress their assessments of Fishing in MPAs (Marine Protected Areas), focussing on MCZ sites. Meg Hayward Smith will be the new NE representative to the D&S IFCA.
- 7.5 MPA Network Review. Minister Emma Hardy (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at Defra since July 2024) confirmed a review of the MPA network in English seas. Defra is undertaking the review of the English Marine Protected Area network to look at whether sites are in the right places with the right protection. The review will explore ways to update protection and management approaches to better address the nature crisis and improve climate change resilience, while supporting wider Government priorities. Defra will engage stakeholders as the review progresses so there will be opportunity to engage.
- Please direct questions and comments to: marine-southwest@naturalengland.org.uk
- 7.6 Questions: DG planned to ask MHS at Wednesday's Management Forum meeting if there were any plans NE had for projects at Lundy. He felt that most of the onus for both marine and terrestrial monitoring matters, which Natural England should be leading on, were falling to him. EH explained that MHS would be best to answer that point as she would be more averse with what has been going on at Lundy. However, she would discuss this matter with MHS and others in their team.

8. DSIFCA update Lauren Parkhouse (DSIFCA)

Note that, as LP was unable to attend the meeting at short notice, this report was added after the meeting.

- 8.1 Officers are continuing with their work on Habitats Regulations Assessments (HRAs) for fishing activities in relation to the Bristol Channel Approaches SAC, which overlaps with the designations at Lundy. Bristol Channel Approaches is designated for harbour porpoise; the mobile nature of this species means that the scope of the HRAs is geographically much more extensive than the site itself, so D&S IFCA Officers are

working closely with those from Cornwall IFCA and the MMO to assess potential impacts from fishing across the 'Management Unit' for harbour porpoises, which covers much of the Celtic and Irish Seas. Officers are aiming to submit the HRAs to Natural England for their formal advice by the end of December 2025.

- 8.2 LP wanted to highlight that the D&S IFCA website has a page where suspected illegal fishing can be reported (anonymously if desired). D&S IFCA has a risk-based and intelligence-led approach to its enforcement work. We actively encourage the reporting of suspected illegal fishing. This page provides stakeholders with options for how they can report to us:

<https://www.devonandsevernifca.gov.uk/reporting-illegal-fishing/>

9. Historic England update Terry Newman

Note that, as TN was unable to attend the meeting, this report was added after the meeting.

- 9.1 TN thanked JP for his help with the Protected Wrecks guardianship and the annual renewal of visiting licenses.
- 9.2 TN had received some feedback (which had been passed on to JP) from a group of divers which related to the line on the seabed (believed to be a length of chain) leading from the MV *Robert* to the *Iona II*. The feedback was that the chain wasn't there! However, it was unclear whether the chain wasn't seen, whether it had become buried, or if it had been removed. DG was able to confirm that the chain is indeed still there as he's dived on it fairly recently.
- 9.3 Elsewhere in the south-west, there have been instances of two Protected Wrecks – HMS *Coronation* off Rame Head (SE Cornwall) - being 'visited' by commercial fishing boats. TN believed this was linked with fishing for octopus. A large number of pots were reported to have been dropped onto the site. This is an illegal action and is now subject to a police investigation. TN was pleased that the reporting of suspicious activity seemed to be working well. Historic England, in association with the Devon & Cornwall Crime Prevention Officer are contemplating writing a piece for the local media regarding safeguarding of protected wrecks. The second incident was on the wreck of the *Hanover* off St Agnes Head (N. Cornwall) and involved anglers fishing over the wreck, also an illegal activity. Again, TN was reassured that the Coastwatch volunteers had reported this activity. In both cases, the culprits would be spoken to but there would not be an intention to prosecute.
- 9.4 TN thanked RI for sending him a copy of the *Story of the Iona II shipwreck* short video, which was based on work undertaken during the Marine Festival in 2022 thanks to the award of an Historic England grant. TN would be happy for it to be entered for an award scheme.
- 9.5 TN also complemented the look of the MPA website. He suggested that, in trying to identify some more shipwrecks in the vicinity of Lundy which might become Protected Wrecks (if deemed of sufficient historic importance), a call could be put out via the website for possible submissions.
- 9.6 Finally, TN reminded the diving and charter boat fraternity that the 30th November is the final date for licence applications for diving on Lundy's two existing Protected Wrecks. Existing licencees are also asked to complete their reports of the names of divers who have visited one or other of the sites during the year and to submit them. TN will shortly be sending out a Licences Bulletin to this effect to all existing licencees.
- 9.7 The Protected Wrecks Association has their annual meeting on Friday, 6th February 2026 at the Copthorne Hotel, Plymouth from about 2:00 – 6:00 pm.
- 9.8 DG asked JP whether the live shell which had been brought up many years ago from the HMS *Montagu* wreck site had now been dealt with by MoD staff. JP believed they

were due to come over next week on 27th October. It's currently lying on the edge of the Landing Bay beach and is only exposed on extreme low tides. The plan is that the MoD staff will take it back to a deserted beach on the mainland and detonate it there.

10. North Devon Biosphere Hannah Nash

- 10.1 HN had thought Andy Bell was attending the meeting but he hadn't managed to make it, so she would give a brief overview of Biosphere happenings from the marine point of view.
- 10.2 The [Biosphere's 10 Year Strategy \(2025-2035\)](#) has been out for a period of public consultation which ends tonight. Please have a look at it and send any comments to HN (hannah.nash@devon.gov.uk) – they will still be taken into account. The Strategy covers both marine and terrestrial proposals and targets. On the marine side, one of the targets is to get 10,000 hectares of the Biosphere's marine estate into 'recovering' or 'good' status. The Strategy includes a Marine Road Map which plans out the targets over time.
- 10.3 HN had just heard that the one year contract for her post as Marine Project Co-ordinator has been renewed for a further 12 months, so the Group was pleased to hear this good news. However, it does mean HN's role will be changing slightly. As well as continuing to operate the Biosphere's Marine Forum and Marine Policy Forum, she is being asked to advise on how these could be set up nationwide. Funding for this latter project runs until March 2026, although her Project Co-ordinator role locally will continue until December 2026.
- 10.4 With the Marine Wildlife Accreditation Scheme, HN intends to organise a meeting with all those involved in order to sort out how the Scheme can evolve and become better. There is now a small amount of money to spend on the project too, which is also good news.
- 10.5 Regarding MPA management, the Biosphere has also received funding to create a Rewilding and Fisheries Management Plan. Within this plan, the possibility of expanding the area of the No Take Zone at Lundy will be looked at and deciding what, if any, new management practices may need to be put in place. The proposal is that further discussion will take place with Lundy, with the D&S IFCA and with those that use the MPA, to assess reactions to this idea.
- 10.6 Questions: DG asked HN if there was any further news on Lundy becoming a 'core area' of the Biosphere. He was hoping that if this gets approval, then there may be the chance of more funding doors opening. Projects which could benefit might include on-going updating of the new MPA website. HN agreed this might be possible and even assisting Natural England with the cost of monitoring projects and/or boat maintenance costs.

On the question of funding, KH asked EH whether the Marine Natural Capital Ecosystem Assessment Programme had finished now. EH confirmed that it had, she thought in July or August of this year.

11. The MPA website Robert Irving

- 11.1 RI was pleased to say that the MPA now has its own website. He pointed out it had been a long time coming but that he hoped members of the Advisory Group were pleased with its content, how it looked and that it would prove useful.
- 11.2 He wanted to highlight the searchable Bibliography section which includes all of the reports written about marine projects at Lundy over the years; the Shipwreck section, which provides information about 11 of the MPA's best known wrecks including the three which are recognised as being of historical importance. He wanted to thank

Mike Deaton in particular for providing many of the photos of these wrecks. Under the Resources section, a number of short films about Lundy's marine life and shipwrecks have been included too.

- 11.3 RI wanted to thank his colleague Tim Clements who undertook a photogrammetry survey of the *Iona II* during the Marine Festival in 2022, the results of which have now been transformed into a 12 min. 'guided tour' video, with narration by none other than Derek Green, to whom RI also passed on his thanks.
- 11.4 RI explained he had just received some visitor stats. to the site covering the 10 week period since it was launched on 1st August. In this time, there had been 2,298 pages visited; total visitor number is 1,297; total number of unique visitors is 957. The list of countries where visits had come from included, in first place the UK (60%), in second place the USA (20%), and in third place China (3%).
- 11.5 Questions/comments. DG wanted to add that it was really good that the MPA now had a website and that people from all over the world now knew of the MPA's existence. He pointed out that many of the organisations involved in the Advisory Group had contributed towards its creation, so thank you to them. He intended that at the Management Forum meeting on 22nd October he would be asking for funding to ensure its continued maintenance and updating. He added that it was important that those interested can see what's been done historically.
- 11.6 KH made a request that now the site existed, it would be important for any news of events or sightings of note to be put up there to keep it relevant, so please make use of it and send any such news items to RI (robert@sea-scope.co.uk).

12. Lundy's marine fauna and flora (Keith Hiscock)

- 12.1 KH began by explaining that all marine stations of any note keep historical records of their local marine fauna (though not always their flora). For Lundy, there isn't, as yet, a complete list of species. This is something he is trying to remedy. The first records date from 1848 when dredging took place off the east coast of Lundy. Quite a few species were recorded, mostly of molluscs. Victorian naturalists visited the island with some recording marine creatures found on its shores, the most famous visitor being Phillip Henry Gosse. One species recorded by Gosse was the honeycomb worm *Sabellaria alveolata*, which he came across in Seal's Hole. In the late 1940s, Leslie and Clare Harvey completed very detailed lists from shore excursions, often with students. Then came the studies (led by KH) during the 1970s and 1980s.
- 12.2 KH explained that the results from many of these studies had been transcribed onto spreadsheets (thanks to volunteers and also to EH), although for several of these the data needed reformatting so that they fitted with the accepted national database standard. There was other work required which included checking the species names were still current (many had changed over time). Fortunately, the UK Data Archive for Marine Species and Habitats Data (DASSH) is based at the MBA in Plymouth, so KH has found advice on these spreadsheets close to hand. This programme is a contributor to the Marine Environmental Data and Information Network (MEDIN). Key questions which KH is trying to find answers for are: what's involved, how long will it take and will it cost money?
- 12.3 KH considers gradual progress is being made in trying to create a complete list of marine species which have been recorded at Lundy or in its waters, though this task has already taken him five years (off and on) and is still ongoing!
- 12.4 Questions/comments. EH commented that she thought the Lundy marine fauna had been 'done' (i.e. entered onto a spreadsheet), a task which Natural England had undertaken. KH agreed there was one very large spreadsheet which had been

compiled, though it had missed all polychaete records. EH was surprised to hear this as she was pretty sure all groups had been done.

- 12.5 Once all species had been documented, KH estimated there would be over 1,000 species in total. Once complete, it will be useful to have as a record to say when species were first recorded, what might be new records, and if particular species are still there and in similar abundance. This last point will be particularly relevant to on-going condition monitoring.
- 12.6 RI pointed out that KH deserved a pat on the back for his efforts in trying to sort all of this out. The Lundy Field Society is also very interested in these records because historically, their Annual Reports have often featured species lists, many originating from surveys which KH has been involved in.

13. Any Other Business

- 13.1 Ellie Hoad from the MMO had been asked to provide a brief update to the Group on the state of the SW Marine Plan. The plan extends from the Welsh border around Cornwall to Dartmouth in south Devon. There is a 3-year monitoring report for the [South-West Inshore and Offshore Marine Plan](#) which was published this summer. Unfortunately, its publication was delayed by over a year, which means that some of the information it contains may now be a year or so out of date. The main finding of this report was that there is no need to update the SW Marine Plan as yet; it seems to be meeting its intended effectiveness.

EH continued by mentioning a brief summary of what the MMO's SW Marine Conservation team has been up to. There has been a consultation on Offshore MPAs in the south-west. 43 sites were involved with site-specific management options proposed. The Stage 3 consultation for all sites has now closed. Those with proximity to Lundy are:

- *Hartland Point to Tintagel MCZ* – prohibition of traps and bottom-set nets and lines across the whole of the MMO portion of the site; and inclusion of the existing prohibition of bottom-towed fishing gear across the whole of the MMO portion of the MCZ.
- *North-West of Lundy MCZ* – prohibition of bottom-towed gear across the whole of the MCZ.
- *South-West Approaches to the Bristol Channel MCZ* – prohibition of bottom-towed gear across the whole of the MCZ.

The MMO are now analysing the responses and are preparing to update the site assessments with updated fisheries data and consultation responses.

The Stage 4 consultation for the Bristol Channel Approaches SAC is currently underway. Informal engagement events seeking input from fishers on harbour porpoise bycatch have been held, with six management options being considered for the English waters area. These can be viewed on-line [here](#). The site assessment work is still ongoing, with information gathered during the engagement events helping to fill evidence gaps and inform future management decisions.

- 13.2 RI wanted to point out that over the summer there had been a number of screenings of the film about the No Take Zone shot in 2022 and entitled *Safeguarding Our Seas: Lessons from Lundy*. These had taken place on 1st August (World Oceans Day) at Braunton; on 16th/17th August at Croyde during the open-air *Save the Waves Film Festival*; and on 6th September as part of the Plough Earth Film Festival, at the Plough Arts Centre in Torrington.

- 13.3 RI asked JP/TMW if they were able to expand at all on the record of a RIB with divers seen anchoring on the Knoll Pins earlier in the summer. TMW explained the name of the vessel wasn't known nor where it had come from, so they were unable to call up the boat over the radio. LH had noticed another vessel on another occasion, this time a cabin cruiser, which had anchored in the vicinity of the Knoll Pins too. JP said he had spoken to a group across from south Wales in the Tavern the evening before (which he realised was probably this same group) and had even handed them a paper copy of the Zoning Scheme. LH said he had taken his boat alongside and "educated them" regarding the MPAs rule of no anchoring or shot lines allowed within 100 m of the Knoll Pins. DG pointed out that sadly this was a fairly regular occurrence, particularly by non-local boats.
- 13.4 KH observed that, in relation to the poor condition and abundance of pink sea fans at Lundy, a similar situation to Lundy existed at Skomer and suggested that an informal meeting could be held between managers of the two MPAs to compare notes and to see if possible reasons for the situation could be identified.
- 13.5 RI is organising a course on nudibranchs/sea slugs next May (16th-23rd) on the island, being led by Bernard Picton, an internationally recognised expert. It'll primarily be for divers, although there be a couple of places for non-divers as well. A similar recording expedition had taken place in the early 1970s (organised by KH), and this current course would allow for an update on what nudibranchs were now present.
- 13.6 Eleanor Ward (Coastal Support Officer for Devon County Council) had emailed RI and asked for the following to be passed on to the Group. *"As you may be aware, we've launched a public consultation for the Devon Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and we're keen to gather as much feedback as possible. Keith Hiscock has been a valued member of our coastal steering group for several years and has provided valuable insight. Here is the link to the LNRS website: [Devon Local Nature Recovery Strategy \(LNRS\) | Devon County Council](#)*
- If you could kindly make the Group aware of this consultation and encourage them to share their comments and feedback, I'd be very grateful."*
- 13.7 DG wanted to remind folks about the island's plans for its Renewable Energy Project. He explained that he and Gary Sharples would be at the harbourside in Ilfracombe tomorrow ready to answer any questions which members of the public might have about the scheme and wanting to hear feedback about what's being proposed.
- In partnership with the National Trust (the owners of Lundy), the plan is to de-carbonise Lundy by reducing the use of the island's generators by 85% thus saving 160,000 l of diesel per year. This will be done through the installation of a 30 m tall, 100 kW aero-generator/wind turbine, a 400 kW array of solar panels and a large (1 mW) battery bank. This will provide power solely for the whole island. As the island is 'off-grid', there will be no excess energy being put into the National Grid.
- There are details on the Lundy website:
<https://www.landmarktrust.org.uk/lundyisland/discovering-lundy/renewable-energy-project/>
- The intention is to submit a planning proposal in November. If all goes well, then work should commence on installation next summer.
- 13.8 As a final point, KH mentioned he had taken a photograph during the meeting of the on-line attendees and of those in the room. If anyone had any objection to appearing in the photograph which might appear on social media, please let KH know.

The date of the next meeting will be on Monday 20th April 2026 at 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse of the Ilfracombe Dive Club.