

LUNDY MARINE NATURE RESERVE

REPORT OF THE MARINE WARDEN

May 6th to October 31st, 1978

SUMMARY

(1) The appointment of a marine warden at Lundy was carried out as a pilot project to (a) ensure that the code of conduct related to activities within the marine reserve was abided by, (b) provide guidance and information to amateur divers on holiday at Lundy, (c) advise and assist field workers carrying out studies around Lundy, (d) maintain laboratory facilities and records of activities and observations, (e) assist in organising and running field courses in sublittoral ecology, (f) prepare illustrated guides for the reserve, and (g) report on the project.

(2) Before starting work on Lundy the warden spent 12 days becoming familiar with literature about Lundy marine life, preparing displays and information material and distributing further information on the courses planned for 1978. Seven days were spent on Skomer National Nature Reserve as an Assistant Warden.

(3) On Lundy, a considerable amount of time was initially spent preparing laboratory facilities and setting up display material. During July and August, assistance was given to visiting biologists and during a course in sublittoral marine ecology.

(4) All visiting groups of divers were given an introductory talk by the warden in which the status of Lundy as a marine nature reserve was outlined, visitors were informed of and requested to abide by the code of conduct and advice or assistance were offered to divers interested in natural history. Divers arriving at the island in their own boats for a short stay were also informed of the code of conduct. Divers staying on the island were also able to attend an illustrated talk on Lundy marine life given by the warden.

(5) A daily log of activities was maintained by the warden including, as far as possible, records of fish catches and all living material removed from the reserve area. 1003 dives were recorded for 137 long-stay sports divers at 30 different sites and 104 dives were recorded for 87 short-stay divers at 7 different sites. 159 dives were made by research divers. The warden made 62 dives. A small number of shellfish were collected and declared by sports divers and no marine life was observed to have been collected by sports divers as souvenirs. Research biologists collected approximately 69 separate samples usually of single specimens. A total of 16 *Cepola rubescens* were collected for research. Two pot fishing boats worked around Lundy with a total of about 120 pots in the reserve area. 14 pots were owned by island staff. Line fishing was carried out by island visitors and staff and a few visits were made by charter boats with parties of anglers on board.

(6) The warden undertook 48 dives with sports divers in order to provide information to them underwater, to collect material for his own studies or to make records for other biologists.

(7) A particularly detailed study together with underwater sketches was made at the Knoll Pins and a nature trail leaflet has been drafted. Observations, records and line drawings made by the warden have also been used in the draft of a new diving field guide for the reserve.

(8) In the discussion, conclusions and recommendations, it is suggested that a marine warden continues to be appointed either full-time or as the responsibility of a person whose main work is in another field; the code of conduct continues to be enforced; if a warden is required to be a guide, then further field trials should be made with nature trails and with diver-to-diver communication equipment; if the warden is required to carry out research, that research should

be concerned with following the natural changes taking place in plant and animal populations and the results of disturbance; information material should continue to be made available but courses should only be offered if the interest of divers becomes more positive; the structure of the laboratory should be improved; a record of material collected should continue to be maintained and licences should be issued to visiting fishermen staying on Lundy; divers interested in natural history should be encouraged to visit Lundy whilst care should be taken to ensure that the number of divers resident on the island is not excessive; and that the code of conduct or any legislation should ban collecting of marine life except by licence.

Reference to full report:

Thomas, N. S. & Hiscock, K. (1979). *Lundy marine nature reserve. Report of the Marine Warden. May 6th to October 31st, 1978.* (Unpublished report to the Nature Conservancy Council and World Wildlife Fund). viii & 44 pp.

ADDITIONS TO THE LUNDY BIBLIOGRAPHY

Three sections:

1. Reference.

A select bibliography of additions to the bibliographies given in:

- A. & M. Langham. *Lundy*. David & Charles 1970
- Lundy Field Society. 10th Annual Report 1956
(Available as reprint from the Hon. Sec.)

The basis of selection is those books which are sources of information or descriptive material. Those books which repeat published information are not included.

- 2. Fiction
- 3. Scientific papers

Papers not listed in the L.F.S. 10th Annual Report and those not already included in Reports of the Lundy Field Society.

Corrections and/or additions to the lists would be gratefully received.

M. S. Langham

Reigate January 1979

Additions to reference books:

M. Banfield. *A Guide to Ilfracombe*. 1841

James Bathe. *A full account . . . of the life of James Bathe*. Pub. R. Griffiths, London 1775 (Re: *Nightingale*)

A. E. Blackwell. *Some Critical Notes on the Bibliography of Lundy*. Trans. Dev. Assn. Vol. 89, 1957

A. E. Blackwell. *Lundy and Thomas Benson*. Devon & Corn. Notes & Queries. Vol. 27

A. E. Blackwell. *Lundy's Ecclesiastical History*. Trans. Dev. Assn. XCII, 1960.

A. E. Blackwell. *The Charm and History of Lundy*. Unpublished MSS in possession of A. & M. Langham.

A. E. Blackwell. *Account of the Royal Visit to Lundy 1958*. MSS in possession of A. & M. Langham.

A. E. Blackwell in Devon & Corn. Notes & Queries Vol. 27, part 8, Oct. 1957. Re: Shipment of convicts to Lundy

A. E. Blackwell and A. & M. Langham. Scrapbooks from 1906 onwards. In possession of A. & M. Langham.

Sir Alexander Boswell, *Descriptions of Lundy Castle in Antiquities of England and Wales 1785*

Boundary Commission Report 1950; Constituency of Torrington. H.M.S.O. Command 8100

M. R. Bouquet. *West Country Sail*. David & Charles 1970