

OTHER BIOLOGICAL RECORDS FROM LUNDY

The reports that follow have been compiled by the recorders for each group of organisms. Most of the records have been taken from the pages of the LFS Logbook not devoted to birds, and we thank all of those who have taken the time and trouble to enter their observations of animals, plants, bryophytes, lichens and fungi while on Lundy. We have not attempted to verify all the records, but unusual or interesting observations will have been checked with the originators. Most of the information will also eventually appear on the LFS website and on various national databases.

All visitors to Lundy have a unique opportunity to contribute something truly worthwhile to our knowledge of the natural world. Please keep entering your 2026 sightings and sending us photographs that can be used to illustrate the 2026 Annual Report!

MARINE SPECIES

Keith Hiscock

Names of taxa given here are the most recent in February 2026. For authorities for each species and to check against changes to names, go to www.marinespecies.org. Records are mainly from the LFS logbook but also include entries to iRecord.

Intertidal areas. Records from intertidal areas in 2025 benefited especially from entries in the LFS logbook by Assistant Warden (Marine) Tara McEvoy-Wilding (hereafter Tara M-W) and by visitors. The records of species found on seashore safaris in 2025 together with the addition of species that tend to be 'not noted' because they are so common or that are well known to occur enable a list (below) of 'usually found' intertidal animal species against which unusual records will stand out. Some species need specialist knowledge to identify, and broad groups ('taxa') are included here. Unusual finds can be identified after checking against the 'usually found' list and against spreadsheets which include records from the late 1940s to the last detailed intertidal survey in 2008. Those spreadsheets are held by the Lundy Warden and by the Data Archive for Marine Species and Habitats at the Marine Biological Association. At the time of preparing this report, those spreadsheets are being worked on.



▲ A group of Sunset Cup Corals *Leptopsammia pruvoti* at the Knoll Pins on 10 August. The species was first recorded in Britain at Lundy in 1969 but numbers have declined greatly (photo: Keith Hiscock)

▼ Taxa recorded from seashore safaris in 2025 with addition of 'usually found' species from previous surveys and likely to have been present in 2025 (*). The list is included here to provide a checklist for future observations.

VERNACULAR NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	VERNACULAR NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Sponges	Phylum Porifera	Montagu's/Furrowed Crab	<i>Xantho hydrophilus</i>
* Breadcrumb Sponge	<i>Halichondria panicea</i>	Risso's Crab	<i>Xantho pilipes</i>
* Crumb-of-Bread Sponge	<i>Hymeniacidon perlevis</i>	Hairy Crab	<i>Plummus hirtellus</i>
* Little Vase Sponge	<i>Sycon ciliatum</i>	Molluscs	Phylum Mollusca
* Purse Sponge	<i>Grantia compressa</i>	Chitons	Polyplocophora (Class)
* Pancake Sponge	<i>Leuconia nivea</i>	Limpets	<i>Patella</i> spp**
* Various encrusting sponges	<i>Myxilla</i> sp(p)	* Blue-Rayed Limpet	<i>Patella pellucida</i>
Hydroids, Anemones, Corals	Phylum Cnidaria	* Toothed Topshell	<i>Phorcus lineatus</i>
Garland Hydroid	<i>Dynamena pumila</i>	Grey Topshell	<i>Steromphala cineraria</i>
Beadlet Anemone	<i>Actinia equina</i>	Flat Topshell	<i>Steromphala umbilicalis</i>
Strawberry Anemone	<i>Actinia fragacea</i>	Painted Topshell	<i>Calliostoma zizyphinum</i>
Daisy Anemone	<i>Cereus pedunculatus</i>	Flat Periwinkle***	<i>Littorina obtusata/fabalis</i>
Trumpet Anemone	<i>Aiptasia mutabilis</i>	* Small Periwinkle	<i>Littorina neritoides</i>
Gem Anemone	<i>Bunodactis verrucosa</i>	Rough Periwinkle	<i>Littorina saxatilis</i>
Scarlet & Gold Star Coral	<i>Balanophyllia regia</i>	Dogwhelk	<i>Nucella lapillus</i>
Devonshire Cup Coral	<i>Caryophyllia smithii</i>	Netted Dogwhelk	<i>Nassarius reticulatus</i>
Segmented Worms	Phylum Polychaeta	Common Sea Hare	<i>Aplysia punctata</i>
Green Leaf Worm	<i>Eulalia viridis</i>	Celtic Sea Slug	<i>Onchidella celtica</i>
* Keeled Tube Worm	<i>Spirobranchus triquetus</i>	Sea Lemon	<i>Archidoris pseudoargus</i>
* Spiral Tube Worms	Spirorbiniae (Family)	Sea Mats	Phylum Bryozoa
Crustaceans	Phylum Arthropoda	An encrusting bryozoan	<i>Oshurkovia littoralis</i>
	Subphylum Crustacea		
* Montagu's Stellate Barnacle	<i>Chthamalus montagui</i>	Red Ripple Bryozoan	<i>Watersipora subatra</i>
* Poli's Stellate Barnacle	<i>Chthamalus stellatus</i>	Starfish, Sea Urchins	Phylum Echinodermata
* Perforated/Volcano Barnacle	<i>Perforatus perforatus</i>	Cushion Star	<i>Asterina gibbosa</i>
Northern Rock Barnacle	<i>Semibalanus balanoides</i>	Spiny Starfish	<i>Marthasterias glacialis</i>
Iso-poda indet.	Idoteidae (Family)	Common Brittle Star	<i>Ophiotrix fragilis</i>
Sea Slater	<i>Ligia oceanica</i>	Black Brittle Star	<i>Ophiocomina nigra</i>
Amphipoda indet.	Amphipoda indet.	Green Sea Urchin	<i>Psammchinus miliaris</i>
Common Prawn	<i>Palaemon serratus</i>	Sea Squirts	Phylum Chordata
Common Hermit Crab	<i>Pagurus bernhardus</i>	Light Bulb Sea Squirt	Subphylum Tunicata
Leach's Squat Lobster	<i>Galathea squamifera</i>	* A polyclinid sea squirt	<i>Clavelina lepadiformis</i>
Broad Clawed Porcelain Crab	<i>Porcellana platycheles</i>	A botrylloid sea squirt	<i>Aplidium turbinatum</i>
Long Clawed Porcelain Crab	<i>Pisidia longicornis</i>		<i>Botrylloides leachii</i>
Spider Crabs (various)	Majidae (Family)	Fish	Phylum Chordata
* Common Spider Crab	<i>Maja squinado</i>	Shore Clingfish	Gigaclass Actinopterygii
Edible/Brown Crab	<i>Cancer pagurus</i>	Rock Goby	<i>Lepadogaster lepadogaster</i>
Velvet Swimming Crab	<i>Necora puber</i>	* Shanny	<i>Gobius paganellus</i>
		Worm Pipefish	<i>Lipophrys pholis</i>
		Shore/Three Bearded Rockling	<i>Nerophis lumbriciformes</i>
		Grey Mullet (juveniles)	<i>Gaidropsarus mediterraneus</i>
			<i>Chelon</i> sp.

** *Patella* spp (Common limpet *P. vulgata*, Black-Footed Limpet *P. depressa* and China Limpet *P. ulyssiponensis*) are difficult to tell apart without removing them but the proportion of each is related to geographical location.

*** Flat periwinkles include two species that are difficult to tell apart.

Subtidal seabeds. Records from subtidal seabeds were exceptionally sparse in 2025 and I only had dives off Gull Rock and at the Knoll Pins on 10 August in 2025. Off Gull Rock, the attached algae and animals were much as described when surveys were being undertaken except that the abundance of Pink Sea Fans *Eunicella verrucosa* continues to be very low compared to periods up to the mid-1980s. At the Knoll Pins, the 'vibrancy' of the attached animal life continued to be a shadow of its former self (up to the mid-1980s) and the numbers of the nationally rare Sunset Cup Coral *Leptopsammia pruvoti* continued to be about one third of that up until the mid-1980s. Observations were rapid at the two locations: more thorough and repeatable surveys at key locations are needed.

ALGAE

There were no notable sightings in 2025 as there were no systematic or opportunistic surveys.

MARINE INVERTEBRATES AND ASCIDIANS

Gelatinous plankton

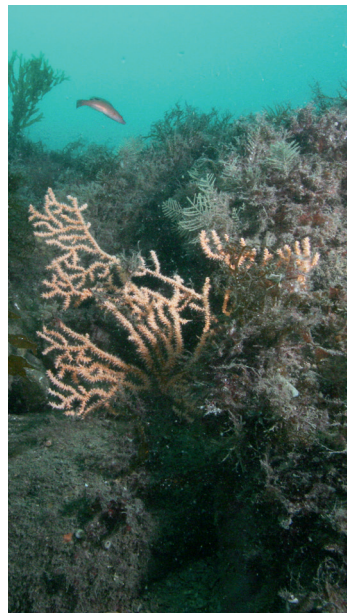
Lundy attracts a wide range of gelatinous plankton species most often seen on snorkel safaris but visible to anyone swimming, diving or looking along the water line – especially in the cove adjacent to Christie's Quay. Main species were listed following snorkel safaris on 3 and 18 May and were: **Crystal Jelly** *Aequorea* sp.; **Blue Jellyfish** *Cyanea lamarkii*; **Purple Jellyfish/Mauve Stinger** *Pelagia noctiluca*; **Compass Jellyfish** *Chrysaora hysoscella*; **Moon Jellyfish** *Aurelia aurita*; **Sea Gooseberry** *Pleurobrachia pileus*; **Northern Comb Jelly** *Bolinopsis infundibulum*.

Barrel Jellyfish *Rhizostoma octopus* are particularly conspicuous and can occur in very large numbers. Records in 2025 are: washed up by the Jetty on 28 February; off the Jetty and off the North End on 25 March (Tara M-W); off The Terrace on 30 March (Elise & Steve O'Donnell); off the Quarries (M. Darl....); Landing Bay on 18 May (Tara M-W) and 8 July, recorded on iRecord ('Roundways').

SEASHORE AND SEABED SPECIES



▲ The edge of the boulder tumble off Gull Rock at about 14m below chart datum on 10 August. Branching yellow axinellid sponges and Trumpet Anemones *Aiptasia couchii* amongst sparse foliose algae (photo: Keith Hiscock)



▲ A healthy Pink Sea Fan *Eunicella verrucosa* off Gull Rock on 10 August (photo: Keith Hiscock)

Cnidaria: Octocorallia

Pink Sea Fan *Eunicella verrucosa*

The abundance of Pink Sea Fans has declined since about the mid-1980s at Lundy and so records are kept (where possible) of abundance and condition. Off Gull Rock at the seaward edge of the boulder tumble at about 14m below chart datum and during a 52-minute dive, ten fans (ranking as 'occasional') were counted. However, there were many long-since-dead fans fouled with a wide variety of attached species. Sea Fan abundance at the Knoll Pins was similarly very sparse with only three observed in a 50-minute dive (Keith Hiscock).

Cnidaria: Hexacorallia

Scarlet and Gold Star Coral *Balanophyllia regia*

The Scarlet and Gold Star Coral occurs in several locations around Lundy and is notable because it was recorded from the island by Charles Kingsley soon after its initial description new to science in 1853. A population has developed in the shade of the foot of the Jetty in the Landing Bay and 95 individuals were recorded there on 30 March by Tara M-W.

Mollusca: Gastropoda: Aplysiidae

Sea Hare *Aplysia punctata*

Twenty-five were counted around the edge and in a gully leading into Mermaids' Pool on the south side of the Lametor Peninsula on 18 May (Tara M-W and others).

Mollusca: Gastropoda: Onchidiidae

Celtic Seaslug *Onchidella celtica*

Approximately 15 were counted on 16 May (Tara M-W) and 73 on 25 August (Joe Parker). The population is in a small area of Devil's Kitchen and the species is known to be visible in variable numbers. It is particularly notable that the population (originally found in 2020 by Rosie Ellis) was still present in significant numbers.



▲ A Sea Hare *Aplysia punctata* at Mermaids' Pool on 18 May (photo: Amber Homersham)

Mollusca: Gastropoda: Nudibranchia

A large number of seaslugs (nudibranchs) have been recorded in the past from Lundy but seeing them requires a sharp eye, and knowing where to look (they often have very specific food species). In 2025, a few species were recorded during snorkel safaris: *Doris* cf. *ocelligera*; *Amphorina farrani* and *Facelina auriculata* on 14 July and *Aeolidea papillosa* on the archway on the north side of Rat Island on 31 March (Tara M-W).

Crustacea: Decapoda

Spiny Spider Crab *Maja squinado*

A frequently seen species around Lundy. In 2025, on 23 July during a snorkel safari, large numbers were seen in a moulting aggregation under the Landing Bay jetty where some had already moulted and others were preparing to (Tara M-W).

Bryozoa

Red Ripple Bryozoan *Watersipora subatra*

This non-native species was first found at Lundy on 27 May 2021. Records in 2025 were from the north side of Rat Island and the Jetty (Tara M-W). It is a conspicuous species that is likely to spread in its distribution around the island.

Fish

Chordata: Pisces

There are several fish species commonly seen by snorkelers and divers around Lundy including Bass, Grey Mullet (at the Landing Bay Jetty including juveniles in pools), Pollack, Ballan Wrasse, Cuckoo Wrasse and sandeels. Less frequently sighted species are noted here.

Basking Shark *Cetorhinus maximus*

There have been no validated sightings of Basking Sharks at Lundy since one was seen off the Landing Bay on 8 August 2023. A description of a 'large torpedo-shape in the water with occasionally the tip of one fin just visible' off the east coast on 2 October cannot be confirmed as a Basking Shark but is noted here. (Likely observed by Jackie Macbeth.)



▲ Montagu's Sea Snail, North of Rat Island
(photo: Tara McEvoy-Wilding)

Sunfish *Mola mola*

One approaching Lundy on MV Oldenburg on 14 June (Maggie Gamble and Phillipa Ellam, MARINELife). Off the east side of the island on 3 August (J. Taylor and L. Eskuche).

Montagu's Sea Snail *Liparis montagui*

Found on 1 and 2 March north of Rat Island by Tara M-W. Recorded once before at Lundy north of Gannet's Rock in a *Laminaria* holdfast (Pullin, 1978).

WHALES, DOLPHINS AND PORPOISES (CETACEANS)

Chordata: Mammalia

Overall, the number of records and of individuals seen of Harbour Porpoise and Short-beaked Common Dolphin were less than in 2024. There was one sighting (by MARINELife observers) of a Bottlenose Dolphin from the Oldenburg in 2025 (compared to one in 2024, one in 2023, one in 2022, none in 2021 and one in 2020).

MARINELife record sightings of cetaceans on ferry trips between Ilfracombe/Bideford and Lundy. The number of sightings are reported on their website – <https://www.marine-life.org.uk/survey-reports>.

Short-beaked Common Dolphin *Delphinus delphis*

There were seven days (from late January through to early November) on which there were logbook entries for Common Dolphin seen from the island: usually three or four together. MARINELife observers recorded Common Dolphin on six of 16 crossings to/from Lundy. Notably, on 22 January, a pod of 15 or more was seen close in off Brazen Ward (Joe Parker) and likely the same pod off Brazen Ward (Sue Waterfield). Numbers of dolphins in individual sightings were not generally as high as in 2024.

Bottlenose dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*

One was recorded by MARINELife observers on an Ilfracombe/Bideford crossing on 12 April.

Harbour Porpoise *Phocoena phocoena*

There were seven days on which there were logbook entries for Harbour Porpoise, mostly singles or two individuals. Locations were mostly in the tidal races off the NW and SE corners. There were sightings by MARINELife observers on three (out of 16) Oldenburg passages.

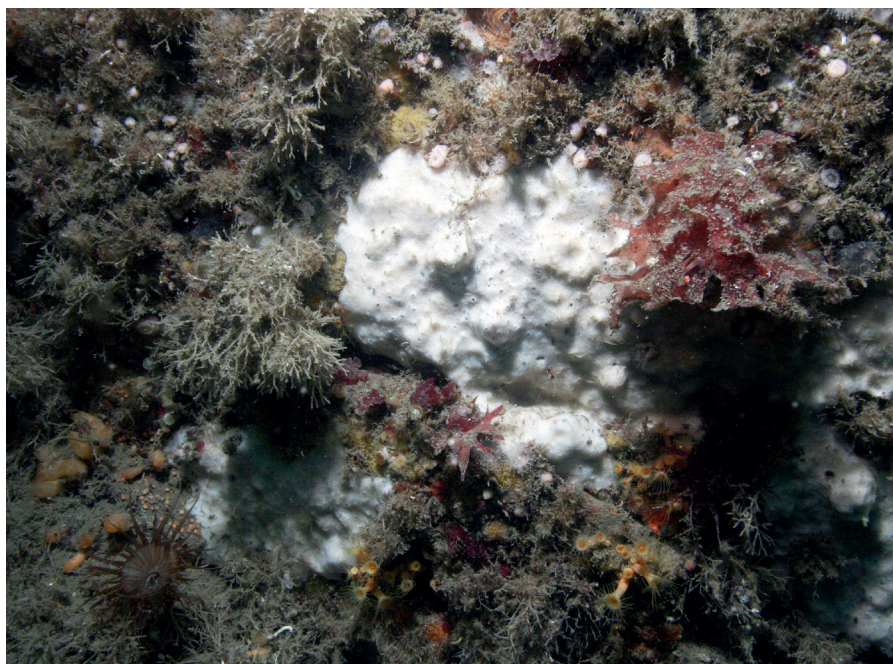
Thanks to all those who reported sightings.

Whales?

Sightings of whales are becoming more frequent off south-west England. There were two sightings that were likely whales at Lundy in 2025 but it was not possible to identify the species with certainty. One was west of the Old Light on 11 May where the whale was observed to be rolling slowly from side-to-side, pausing then repeating and to have a small dark fin. (Elise and Steve O'Donnell) and one off the North Light on 22 September (Jackie Macbeth).

References

Pullin RSV (1978). *The Marine Fauna of Lundy. Pisces (Fishes)*. Annual Report of the Lundy Field Society 28:45-54.



▲ Marine life on the wall of the Knoll Pins Canyon at about 15 m below chart datum on 10 August. The image includes the unusual but plentiful around Lundy sponge *Thymosia guernei*, a Trumpet Anemone *Aiptasia couchii*, Yellow Cluster Anemones *Parazoanthus axinellae*, widely scattered Jewel Anemones *Corynactis viridis*, the branching seaweed *Cellaria* sp. and the orange sea squirt *Stolonica socialis* (photo: Keith Hiscock)