

# THE REGULATIONS

The 'ormering season' is open from  
**1<sup>st</sup> October to 30<sup>th</sup> April.**

During these times fishing may only take place on the first day of each new or full moon, and the three days following.

It is also an offence to possess or export fresh ormers between these dates, on the first day of each new or full moon and the five days following.

No SCUBA equipment may be used to assist with the gathering of ormers.

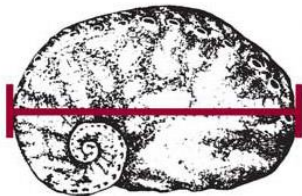
There is a **bag limit** of 20 ormers per person, per day. If you are on a boat, there is a total bag limit of 100 per boat, per day.

For example:

4 people on board, bag limit 80

5 people on board, bag limit 100

6 people on board, bag limit 100



**The minimum size is 9cm**

For local weather updates contact the Met Office:

**0900 665 0022** (60p / min)

**Jersey Coastguard:**

**VHF:** Channels 16 / 25 / 82

**Phone:** 112 or 999 (emergencies)

447 705 (routine)

To report the sighting of a marine mammal:

<http://www.gov.je/Environment/LandMarineWildlife/Mammals/Pages/Dolphins.aspx>

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**For further information contact Marine Resources:**

MARINE RESOURCES

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

HOWARD DAVIS FARM

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JE3 5JP

**Phone:** 01534 441600

**Email:** fisheries@gov.je

**WWW:** [www.gov.je/fisheries](http://www.gov.je/fisheries)



**Find us on Facebook:**

'States of Jersey Fisheries and Marine Resources'

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These details are correct at time of printing. Copies of appropriate legislation are available from the States Greffe and Fisheries website.

Version issued Aug 2017

States   
of Jersey

# The Ormer

*Haliotis tuberculata*

Information and  
Regulations in Jersey



**Marine Resources**

## WHAT ARE ORMERS?

Ormer is the local name for what are known worldwide as abalones - gastropod molluscs (marine snails). The shell covers their soft body and, when removed, the inside of the shell is smooth, iridescent mother of pearl.

The ormer is attached to the seabed by a muscular 'foot'. Around the outside of the foot is a series of tentacles which are involved in predator and food detection.

Ormers have a feeding organ known as a 'radula' - a tongue-like organ covered with teeth used to rasp food. Juveniles scrape algae off the rocks, whilst larger ormers graze on seaweed attached to the seabed and drifting in the current.

From July - September, when the sea is warm enough, the adults spawn. Females release ~ 1 million eggs which, once hatched, rise into the water column for 3 - 6 days. They then sink to the seabed and change into tiny juvenile ormers.

After a year they reach the size of a fingernail, and after 3 - 4 years will reach the minimum landing size of 9cm. They can live for over 15 years and be up to 155mm in length.

## ORMERS IN JERSEY

Ormers are found in crevices and under overhangs or boulders. They are generally a sub-tidal species, extending from the low water spring tide level to around 20 metres depth, although some will be exposed during big spring tides. They prefer areas of high current or turbulence, where the water contains a higher level of oxygen.



In Jersey no commercial fishery exists for ormers - they can only be caught at low water by recreational fishermen. Commercial fisheries exist elsewhere, such as Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand and South Africa, however many of these have collapsed.

Historically, ormer fishing was prominent around Guernsey until over fishing led to the collapse of the wild stocks. Ormer shells were exported in bulk from Jersey in the 18<sup>th</sup> century to be used as inlay in furniture of that period. To this day ormer mother of pearl is sought after for inlay in certain musical instruments.

## PROTECTION OF ORMERS

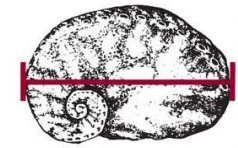
Due to the biology and the social importance of this species the fishery must be carefully managed. Although no commercial fishery exists, there are strict regulations regarding the recreational fishery. This includes a closed season, minimum landing size, and a mandatory bag limits. The details of these regulations can be found overleaf.

To protect ormers their habitat must be protected too. It is important to follow the code of conduct whilst low water fishing:

- Return anything that you do not intend to use
- Gather ormers for personal consumption only, not for sale or financial gain
- "Turn it and Return it" – if you turn over any rocks you must return them to their original position\*
- Advise us of any fishing activity that appears suspicious or contravenes the regulations

*\* The wildlife that lives underneath rocks can die from exposure if the rock is left the wrong way up. If this happens the environment found underneath the rock can take many years to recover.*

# LOW WATER FISHING FOR ORMERS



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

## WHAT ARE THEY?



'Ormer' (*Haliotis tuberculata*) is the local name for abalones, a species of marine snail. They can live for over 15 years, and can grow up to 15.5cm long.

They are an important part of the island's heritage – the flesh being a popular food source, and the mother of pearl shell historically being exported in high quantities.

## WHERE ARE THEY FOUND?



Ormers have a muscular 'foot' that they use to attach themselves to rocks and boulders, much like limpets.

They are found at the low water mark down to around 20m.

They have a tongue-like organ which they use to graze seaweed off the rocks.

## WHY DO THEY NEED PROTECTING?



Worldwide there have been many commercial fisheries for ormers, including in Guernsey. Many of these have collapsed as a result of overfishing.

In Jersey there is only a recreational fishery, yet despite careful management it is sadly in decline, with wild stocks at risk of collapse.

## HOW DO WE PROTECT THEM?



Turn back any rocks you overturn whilst looking for ormers, return all catch you do not wish to use, and do not take more than what you need for your own personal use.

You must also follow the regulations in place for the gathering of ormers →

## THE REGULATIONS

Minimum size: 9cm

'Ormering season':  
1<sup>st</sup> October to 30<sup>th</sup> April.

Between these dates fishing may only occur on the first day of each new or full moon, and three following days.

Possession or exportation of fresh ormers may only take place five days after each new or full moon.

Scuba diving for ormers is not allowed.

There is a **bag limit** of 20 ormers per person, per day. If you are on a boat, there is a total bag limit of 100 per boat, per day.

For example:

4 people on board, bag limit 80  
5 people on board, bag limit 100  
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Etc....