

Shallow Seas

There is a fascinating world in the shallow seas surrounding Jersey that is never exposed at low tide and can only be visited by divers or snorkellers. Due to the fact that the Island is almost the most southerly part of the British Isles, summer sea temperatures are usually higher than elsewhere around Britain. Consequently, a good number of species that are rare in Britain can be found in the clean and constantly flowing waters around Jersey. We are also lucky to regularly sight large groups of bottlenose dolphins from the east coast of the Island. It is thought that the local population of these wonderful sea mammals is one of the largest in the British Isles.



Tompot Blenny



Tube Worm



Sun Star



Red Gurnard



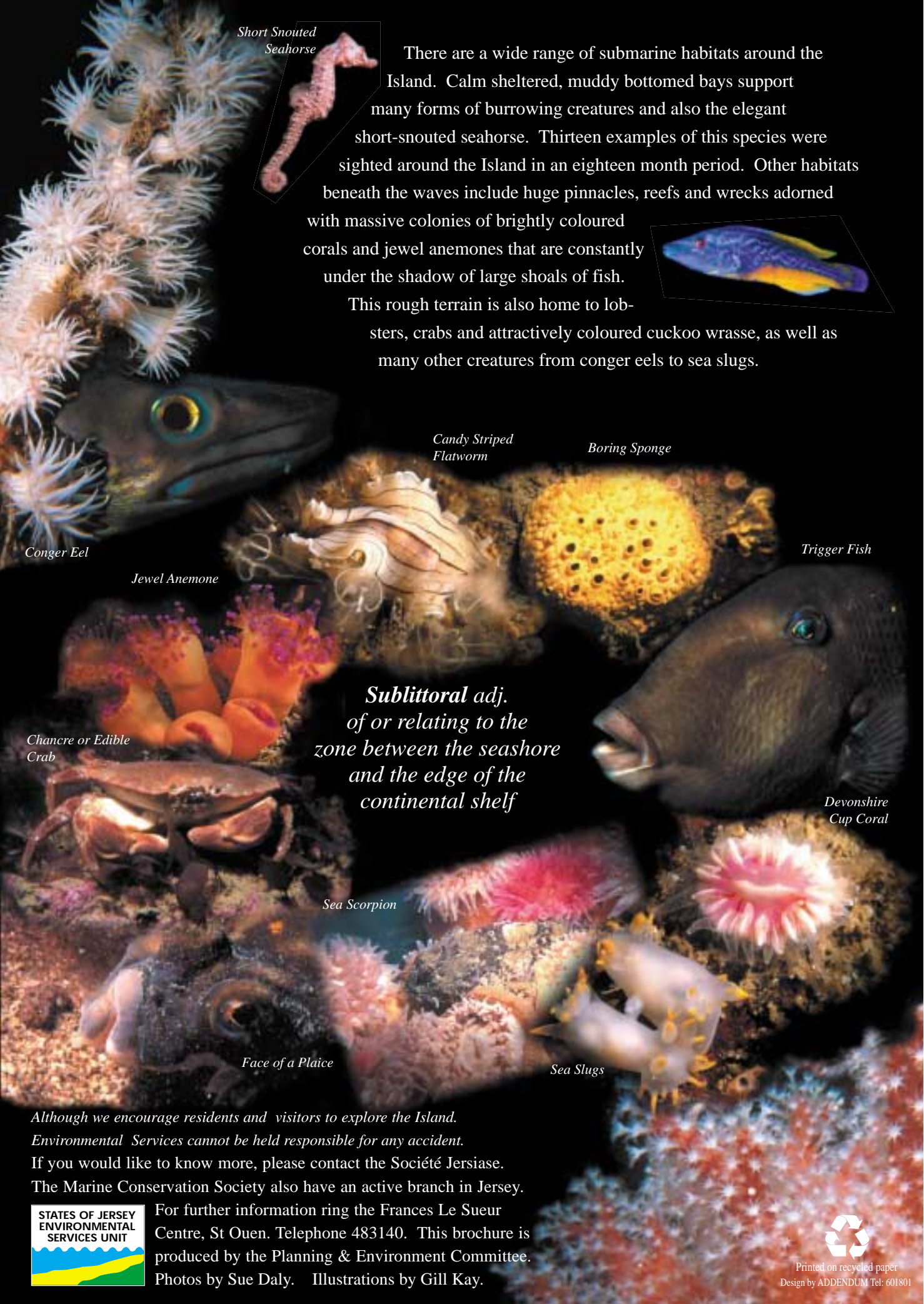
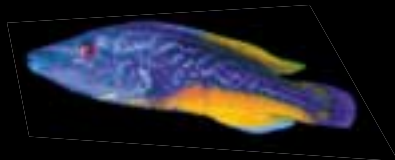
Short Snouted
Seahorse



There are a wide range of submarine habitats around the Island. Calm sheltered, muddy bottomed bays support many forms of burrowing creatures and also the elegant short-snouted seahorse. Thirteen examples of this species were sighted around the Island in an eighteen month period. Other habitats beneath the waves include huge pinnacles, reefs and wrecks adorned with massive colonies of brightly coloured corals and jewel anemones that are constantly under the shadow of large shoals of fish.

This rough terrain is also home to lob-

sters, crabs and attractively coloured cuckoo wrasse, as well as many other creatures from conger eels to sea slugs.



Conger Eel

Jewel Anemone

Candy Striped
Flatworm

Boring Sponge

Trigger Fish

Chancre or Edible
Crab

*Sublittoral adj.
of or relating to the
zone between the seashore
and the edge of the
continental shelf*

Devonshire
Cup Coral

Sea Scorpion

Face of a Plaice

Sea Slugs

Although we encourage residents and visitors to explore the Island. Environmental Services cannot be held responsible for any accident. If you would like to know more, please contact the Société Jersiaise. The Marine Conservation Society also have an active branch in Jersey.



For further information ring the Frances Le Sueur Centre, St Ouen. Telephone 483140. This brochure is produced by the Planning & Environment Committee. Photos by Sue Daly. Illustrations by Gill Kay.



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