

RAMSAR MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY MEETING

Brief notes and action points from meeting held at La Société Jersiaise

7th April 2020

Present:	Marine Resources (MR), Société Jersiaise (SJ), Jersey Seafari's (SF), Jersey Kayak Adventures (JKA), National Trust (NT), Societe Jeriaise (SJ/GJ), Ecrehous Residents Association (ERA), Matresse Ille Residents Association (MIRA), Jersey Marine Conservation (JMC), Earth Project Jersey (EPJ), Jersey Tour Guides Association (JTGA), Save Our Shoreline (SOS), Jersey National Park (JNP).
Apologies:	Parish of St Helier (POSH)

		Action
1.	Approval of Minutes from the previous meeting and Matters Arising	
	Minutes to be reviewed and commented on by week's end	All
	Matters Arising	
	a) Photo competition for the CI Ramsar Code of Conduct – unfortunately the competition couldn't go ahead, so RMA members were asked to provide some photos for Ramsar Code of Conduct and website.	All
	b) Signage – Subgroup had a meeting arranged but it had to be postponed due to COVID 19. ERA noted that the various stakeholders had agreed in principle that the SE Coast signage needed to be rationalised, so it should simply be a matter of agreeing a new format for the signage. Subgroup will also work with environment department signage group.	ERA / Signage subgroup
	c) World Wetlands Day – This was a great success, with very positive feedback from the schools, and a big thank you was recorded to all involved and especially to JMC for driving the event. It was noted that next year we are unlikely to be able to use the Radisson again so JMC has already approached St Clement's for the use of the Parish Hall.	
	d) Management plans – owing to other pressures there has been little movement since January, but SJ will provide them to MR for review. They will then be shared with the group for review.	SJ/MR/All
	e) SOS / EPJ – update at future meeting.	
	f) Blue Marine National Park - JNP provided an update on the situation, including that discussions had been held around the Island Plan and a Marine Protection Zone around the island which may link with Ramsar. Progress has been made with the intention of linking up all stakeholders but has been held up by COVID 19. The discussions have highlighted a need to improve politician's understandings of government's obligations under RAMSAR.	
		All

	Action: explore how we can ensure that any relevant bodies understand their obligations under Ramsar. Discuss plan of action at future meeting.	
2.	CI RAMSAR	
	<p>MR advised that the website is now well in development and will be shared with everyone shortly for comment.</p> <p>Signage for offshore reefs should be installed soon by ERA and Ports (COVID 19 allowing). The cameras to record numbers of vessels at the Ecrehous will also be erected as soon as access to the reef resumes.</p>	<p>MR</p> <p>ERA/PoJ/ MR</p>
3.	COVID 19	
	<p>SJ suggested members who are on the seashore or reefs to use the isolation and movement restrictions to monitor wildlife in the absence of disturbance. It provides a near unique opportunity to observe wildlife in these areas at a much lower level of disturbance.</p> <p>MIRA had photos from March at the Minquiers. Tree mallow has virtually all gone, with no apparent reasons. Only sea beet is remaining. Also, at this point there were none of the usual signs of herring gulls nesting.</p> <p>JMC commented that Ecrehous reef was very quiet in Mid-March although ERA noted that this would not be unusual.</p> <p>SJ commented that near shore beach activity may grow as people look for space to exercise during the lockdown. JWA said that there was already heavier usage at the top of the beaches and many more small boats fishing close in.</p> <p>ERA noted that when people can use their boats again there will be a flood of people heading out. It was agreed that it was important that the first visitors to the reefs after the lockdown should be asked to record the wildlife situation in as much detail as possible before normal activity resumes.</p> <p>MR - key environmental testing is ongoing, although some results may be delayed. Three C-Pods are still active in recording dolphin activity, with a further two to be set once MR can be back at sea.</p>	<p>ERA/MIRA/ MR</p>
4.	RMA - format while social distancing	
	<p>SJ suggests continuing with Zoom etc., and possibly restarting Facebook group. There are issues with file sharing owing to government firewalls. However, we can continue to share documents by email now that RMA members have agreed that their email addresses can be shared within the group Anyone who has not confirmed this to MR should do so asap</p> <p>SJ recognised we all have changed / limited capacity under the new conditions. SJ will share areas/projects where work can be done and see who can pick it up</p>	<p>All</p>

	<p>individually or in groups (eg working on public awareness, media presence, Facebook, survey methods, researching online info, gathering of data etc.). SJ keen to look at where subgroups can be brought together to work on specific topics.</p> <p>JMC - working on online engagement tools for children using zoom and other programmes to support Ramsar's education commitment.</p> <p>EPJ - Suggests CI RMA meetings via Zoom as it seems to have worked well for this meeting and it may be very beneficial to have periodic meetings with the other islands.</p> <p>MR undertook to collate people's availability and project ideas.</p> <p>Action: All to provide ideas and availability to MR</p>	All/MR
5.	<u>Next Meetings</u>	
	TBA	

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