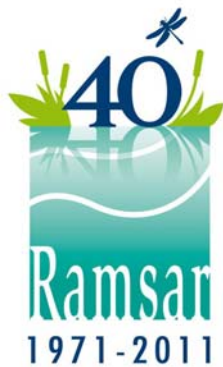


Les Minquiers Ramsar Management Plan

February 2012



States 
of Jersey

Department of the Environment
Environment Division
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Foreword

Jersey is blessed with a rich and diverse coastal and marine environment and the Island's history, heritage and culture is often a story of our relationship with the sea. Good stewardship of our coastal and marine environment is vital for the Island and future generations.

Les Minquiers reef is a key location for marine biodiversity, all kinds of fishing and leisure activity and historical and cultural significance.



The Management Plan for Les Minquiers has been prepared by the Ramsar Management Authority, a group consisting of stakeholders and Government. Many people made significant contributions to the development of the plan.

If Jersey is going to support the natural environment and be a resource for all the other interests it is vital management is responsible and integrated. It must be balanced.

This plan, not only contributes to our obligations under the Ramsar Convention, but also assists in the integrated management of Les Minquiers reef in our coastal waters.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "R. Duhamel". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Deputy Robert Duhamel
Minister for Planning and Environment

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Executive Summary

Introduction

Under the Ramsar Convention, Jersey has an obligation to manage wetlands of International Importance. The Management Plan provides a framework to ensure wise use of the offshore reef of Les Minquiers.

Planning Process

The Minister for Planning and Environment established the Ramsar Management Authority to agree the Management Plan. This Authority is made up of a combination of Government, parish and non-governmental organisations, with meetings open to the public. A public consultation was also undertaken to inform the discussions of the Authority.

Background

The Ramsar principle of “wise use” of wetlands is the sustainable utilisation of wetlands for the benefit of humankind. “Wise use” embodies the concepts of sustainable use, which is in accord with the maintenance of ecological character and the resource requirements of future generations.

Significance of Les Minquiers

Vision

By incorporating integrated natural resource management, the Ramsar Management Plan seeks to:

- conserve the environmental and ecological attributes of the reefs for the benefit of future generations;
- use the natural resources of the reefs in a sustainable manner that is compatible with the maintenance of the ecosystem functions;
- protect and restore natural habitats;
- restore viable populations of native species;
- increase community commitment and awareness;
- fulfil Jersey’s obligations under the Ramsar Convention and other international agreements

Threats

The main environmental and ecological threats to attaining the vision are:-

- Habitat decline due to pollution and climate change
- Conflict of use from fishing, other commercial and recreational use
- Alien invasive species
- Limited jurisdiction

Objectives

The plan proposes four objectives to achieve the Vision; each has a number of strategies and action plans to achieve these objectives.

Objective 1

Integrated environmental management of Les Minquiers with monitoring of biotic indicators to ensure the sustainable, multiple use of the region; and monitoring of management performance against the plan objectives.

Objective 2

Protection of species and habitats and restoration of degraded habitats in the Ramsar area and their conservation for future generations.

Objective 3

Improved awareness among all key stakeholders, including the wider community, of the natural values of Les Minquiers and Ramsar principles expressed in the Management Plan.

Objective 4

Ongoing funds and resources to achieve the objectives of the management plan.

Location Map

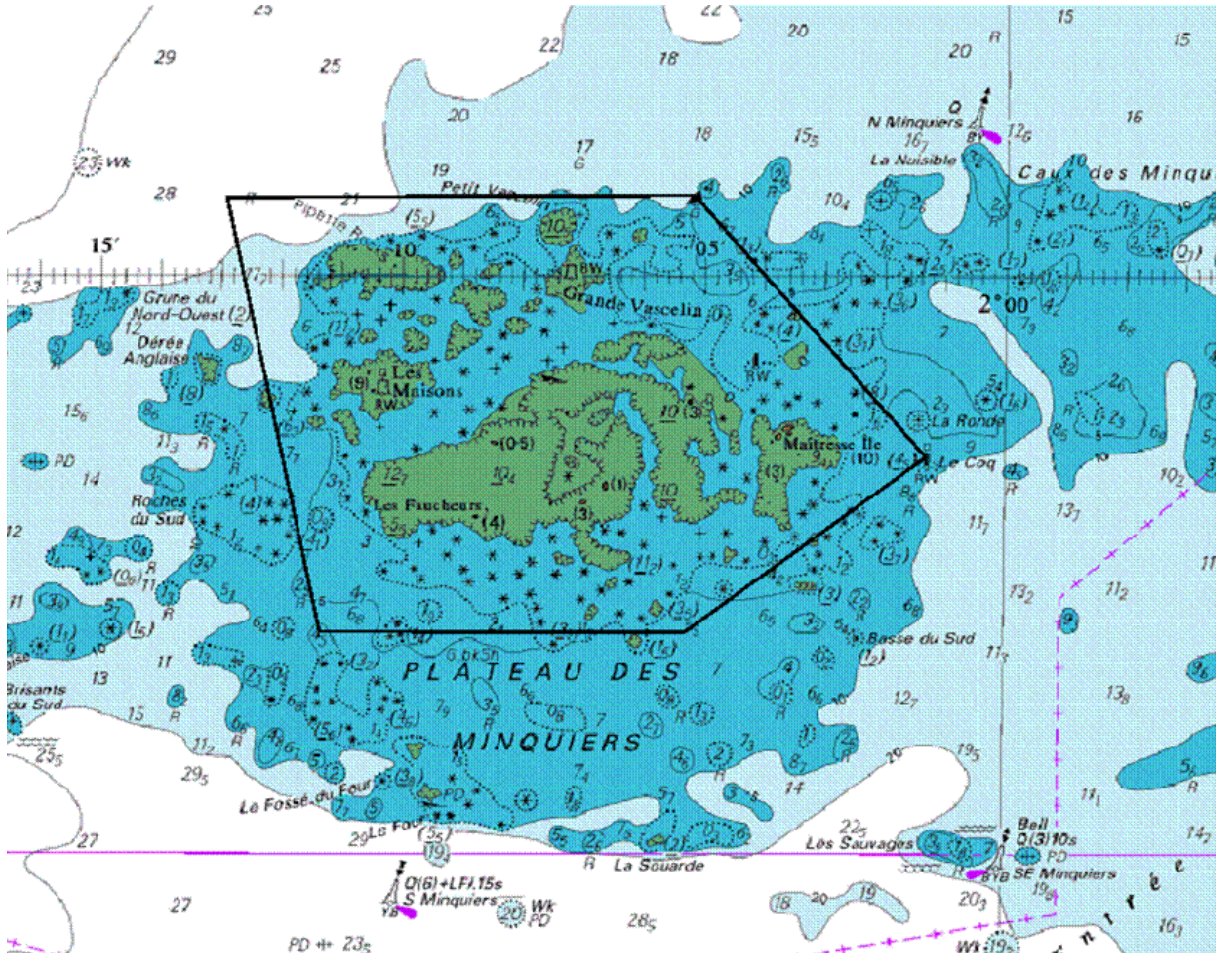


Figure 1. Extent of Les Minquiers Ramsar Site

Introduction

The offshore reef of Les Minquiers, was declared a Wetland of International Importance in 2005 under the Ramsar Convention. This Management Plan will, in part, fulfil Jersey's obligations under the Convention by providing a framework for the wise use of the area. It aims to integrate the environmental management of the Ramsar area so that the ecological character of the area is conserved, in conjunction with the area's important social and economic functions.

The Plan includes a Vision for the area, analyses threats to attaining the Vision and proposes management objectives and actions.

Management Planning Process

As the competent authority under the UK government, the signatory to the Ramsar convention, Jersey has an obligation to prepare management plans for its Wetlands of International Importance. The Island's constitutional position, as a Crown Dependency, requires treaties such as this to be signed by the UK government on Jersey's behalf. As such, formal correspondence regarding the Convention is made through the relevant UK government department. Responsibility for implementation of the Convention, however, is devolved to the competent Jersey authorities. Regardless of the obligation there is a clear need for an integrated management plan for the area given its ecological, cultural and economic value and the current and potential pressures on the site.

The Ramsar Management process began in the late 1990s when a group of Government representatives and non-governmental organisations convened, under the chairmanship of Deputy M Dubras, the president of the then Planning and Environment Committee, to discuss and agree the Island's first Ramsar site. Jersey's south east coast was officially designated a Ramsar site in 2000. A similar group was re-established later which led to the designation of the offshore reefs as three more Ramsar sites in 2005. At this time management plans were not put in place for the sites.

At the beginning of 2010 the Department of Planning and Environment commenced the process to produce management plans which included the formation of a Ramsar Management Authority. In March 2010 the inaugural meeting of the Ramsar Management Authority was held. It was proposed and subsequently agreed, that the Authority be made up of a combination of government, parish and non-governmental organisations¹. It was also agreed that meetings of the Ramsar Authority would be open to the public. Terms of reference for the Authority were also agreed².

A consultation paper was prepared by the Department based on Authority discussions to ascertain the views of members of the public with respect to management of the Ramsar sites in Jersey. This consultation was distributed directly to Authority members, Government Departments, established environmental forums, and marine and coastal stakeholders. The consultation was also launched on the

¹ See Appendix 1

² See Appendix 2

Government “have your say” consultation website together with press releases and advertisements in the local media.

All the responses from the consultation were consolidated and presented to the Authority for consideration as part of their discussions in formulating the management plan.

The Department of the Environment provided technical, scientific and administrative support to the Management Authority throughout the planning process.

The Minister of Planning and Environment also established a Ramsar Management Authority – technical subgroup to address specific developments that had the potential to impact on the Ramsar site. This group provided significantly improved communication between the Ramsar Authority, regulators and those involved in development on or adjacent to the site.

Background

Ramsar and Wise Use

In February 1971, at the town of Ramsar in Iran, delegates from 18 countries and observers from a number of other countries and non-government organisations met because of concerns at the worldwide loss of waterbirds and their wetland habitats. The result was the first international nature conservation treaty. This was the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat commonly known as the Ramsar Convention after the name of the town where it was negotiated³. Australia became the first signatory to the Convention in December 1975 and was the first country to propose a Wetland of International Importance, the Coburg Peninsula in the Northern Territory.

Contracting parties to the Ramsar Convention are obliged to nominate wetlands that comply with the Convention’s criteria for Wetlands of International Importance. The south east coast was designated as a Wetland of International Importance in 2000. Once wetlands have been designated, the nominating countries are required to prepare management plans for the wetlands which will promote their wise use and the conservation of their ecological character.

Wise Use

The concept of wise use is central to developing an integrated planning process for Wetlands of International Importance. According to the Ramsar the definition is:-

“Wise use of wetlands is the maintenance of their ecological character, achieved through the implementation of ecosystem approaches, within the context of sustainable development.” (Ramsar, 2005)

Sustainable utilisation’ of a wetland is defined as:

³ See www.ramsar.org for treaty text

“Human use of a wetland so that it may yield the greatest continuous benefit to present generations while maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of future generations” and;

‘natural properties of a wetland’ are defined as:

those physical, biological or chemical components, such as soil, water, plants, animals and nutrients and the interactions between them”

It is evident that the concept of wise use is both compatible with and very similar to the principles of ecologically sustainable development and the conservation of biological diversity. Wise use embodies the concepts of sustainable use, which is in accord with the maintenance of ecological character and the resource requirements of future generations.

Ecological Character

Ecological character is defined by the Ramsar Convention as:-

“Ecological character is the sum of the biological, physical, and chemical components of the wetland ecosystem, and their interactions, which maintain the wetland and its products, functions, and attributes. Change in ecological character is the impairment or imbalance in any biological, physical, or chemical components of the wetland ecosystem, or in their interactions, which maintain the wetland and its products, functions and attributes.” (Ramsar, 1999)

These concepts are central to the application of this management plan.

Management Context

The management of Les Minquiers Ramsar site has been considered in the context of a number of planning and policy initiatives that impact on the coastal zone of Jersey. This context includes Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and local legislation and policy.

Significance of Les Minquiers Reefs

Ecological Character

The site is located to the south of the Channel Island of Jersey, which is situated in Le Golfe Normano-Breton, approximately 22km west of France and 136km south of the UK.

The site consists of an extensive shoal area approximately 16km long and 11km wide. Tidal range can exceed 12 metres. At high tide only rocky heads and a small supralittoral area, La Maîtresse Île (which supports some small stone dwellings, known as baraques) are exposed. At low tide various habitats are exposed, including reefs, boulder fields, sandy beaches and shingle banks. The area is fed clean, well-oxygenated water and this, together with the range of habitats and the site's biogeographical position supports a wide range of rich and diverse biotopes and some complex species assemblages.

Jersey is situated at the boundary between the cold and warm temperate marine regions. Overlap between these two regions promotes increased species richness and results in assemblages which include species at the limits of their respective distribution. Species associated with warmer southern European waters such as the ormer, *Haliotis tuberculata*, which are absent from British coasts coexist with those normally associated with colder northern waters such as the beadlet anemone, *Actinia equina*,

The topographical diversity of the site creates a range of sheltered areas which provide conditions favouring recruitment of planktonic larvae. Many species of fish feed and grow in the warm fertile shallows before commencing their autumn migration to spawn elsewhere. The converse is also true with other species wintering in the area and leaving during the summer. The site also provides habitat for the entire life cycle of many smaller marine organisms. This wide diversity provides feeding for dolphins, seals and seabirds.

Fauna and Flora

A survey by the University of Portsmouth in 1992 recorded a total of 225 species, mainly on Maîtresse Île (Culley *et al*, 1993). Since then further work has identified an additional 114 species (Chambers, pers comms).

The areas of shallow water and the large number of intertidal pools within the site provide habitat for many species of fish. The South-East Coast of Jersey surveys recorded 107 marine fish species of which ten are of EU or UK importance and 34 priority marine invertebrates of which 14 are rare or scarce (UK). There is no reason to suppose that this site supports fewer. The enormous water exchanges, strong tidal streams, a wide variety of wave energy conditions and substrate variation provide ideal conditions for the support of a wide diversity of organisms. The combination of biogeographic location, oceanographic circulation and physical features enhances biodiversity. The site contributes to the biodiversity of the Golfe Normano-Breton and thence to the English Channel.

Among the most important fish species are the Allis and Twiate shad, *Allosa alosa* and *Alosa fallax*, Basking Shark, *Ceterohinus maximus*, Giant Goby, *Gobius cobitus*, Short-snouted Seahorse, *Hippocampus hippocampus*, Common Goby, *Pomatoschistus microps*, Sand Goby, *Pomatoschistus minutes* and Atlantic Salmon *Salmo salar*

A small population of grey seals *Halichoerus grypus* and one of the largest breeding populations of bottlenose dolphins *Tursiops truncatus* in the British Isles are recorded in the area. Other cetaceans frequenting the site include Common Dolphin, *Delphinus delphis*, White Beaked Dolphin, *Lagenorhynchus albirostris*, Risso's dolphin, *Grampus griseus*, Striped Dolphin, *Stenella coeruleoalba*, Harbour Porpoise, *Phocoena phocoena* and Pilot Whale, *Globicephala melas*

Birds

A survey undertaken by the Societe Jersiaise in 1973 recorded the following species during July.

Breeding species	Migratory and non-breeding species
Shag	Common Tern
Cormorant	Sandwich Tern
Herring Gull	Gannet
Great Black-backed Gull	Turnstone
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Redshank
Oyster Catcher	Blackbird
Storm Petrel	Leaf Warbler
Starling	Rock pipit

Other sightings at the reef include Firecrest, Wheatear, Greenshank, Purple Sandpiper, Kittiwake and Arctic Skua.

Invasive Species

Whilst no detailed survey has been undertaken to examine this, a number of invasive species have had an impact on ecology of the site. Significant amounts of Japweed, *Sargassum muticum* is present as are Slipper limpets, *Crepidula fornicata*. Although no other records exists it is likely that many of the invasive species recorded on mainland Jersey would also be present at Les Minquiers.

Resource Use

The site is extensively used by commercial and recreational interests, both Jersey and French. The site supports an important commercial fishery for various shellfish and wetfish species including lobster, brown crab, bass, whelk and scallop exploited

by Jersey vessels and French boats mainly from the adjacent coasts of Normandy and Brittany.

Recreational fishing occurs extensively throughout the site. Potting, low water fishing and angling are the main métiers employed by the recreational fishing sectors. There is also some recreational scallop diving and spear fishing.

General recreational boating is also popular with many visitors coming to the site, particularly on summer weekends when there can be numerous vessels anchored in the pool near Maitresse Isle, the Pipettes and dotted across the reef.

Cultural and Archaeological value

Les Minquiers became a reef around 8000 years ago when sea levels rose at the end of the last Ice Age.

The Channel Islands and the offshore reefs, were annexed to the Duchy of Normandy in 933 and remained so until 1204 when Philip Augustus conquered mainland Normandy. By 1360 the English Crown had waived the claim to the French crown and Normandy but reserved various territories to England.

As with Les Écréhous, ownership of Les Minquiers was the subject of discussions at the International Court of Justice and in 1953, the court awarded the reef to Jersey. Although there is some dispute, the name 'Les Minquiers' is thought to be derived from the old French word 'minkier' meaning a fish wholesaler, and relates to the abundance of fish found in these waters.

Archaeological excavations have shown that 2000 years ago and earlier the site was used to hunt seals. Fishermen, both Jersey and French, have harvested the bounty of the reef for centuries. In the 18th and 19th centuries fishermen from La Rocque used Maitresse Île as a base during the week, before sailing back to Jersey for market with conger, ormer, lobster and various other fish species. The earliest huts on the reef also date from this time.

Extensive quarrying occurred at Les Minquiers to provide material for the fortification of the town hill and Fort Regent. Large amounts of stone were taken from the northern end of Maitresse Île. This activity was not supported at all by the fishermen and the quarrying of the reef ceased in 1807.

The reef has also been the final resting place for many vessels over the years, including fishing vessels, naval and cargo ships and passenger paddle steamer. What remained of the seaplane 'Cloud of Iona' was also found at the Pipette rocks by two Jersey fishermen two weeks after she disappeared during bad weather.

Economic Value

There are several distinct facets that should be looked at when consideration is given to an assessment of economic value. There are clearly the extractive uses which have an economic value including commercial and recreational fishing. There are also other recreational pursuits that use the site but do not consume resources such as boating, kayaking and wildlife watching.

There is also the tranquillity and scenic value to residents and visitors alike and it is of importance to those who simply value protecting a site and conserving natural resources for future generations. Whilst many of these values may be difficult to quantify there is an inherent value and therefore should be considered.



Maîtresse Île, Les Minquiers

Vision

By incorporating integrated natural resource management, the Ramsar Management Plan seeks to:

- conserve the environmental and ecological attributes of the reefs for the benefit of future generations;
- use the natural resources of the reefs in a sustainable manner that is compatible with the maintenance of the ecosystem functions;
- protect and restore natural habitats;- restore viable populations of native species;
- increase community commitment and awareness;
- fulfil Jersey's obligations under the Ramsar Convention and other international agreements

Threats

Habitat Decline

Pollution

Discharge from the land

The presence of huts, known as baraques could have an impact on the site due to pollution from temporary residents to the Islets. This would include sewage related discharge and litter and could include noise pollution. All visitors to the reef must ensure appropriate disposal of all waste generated within the Ramsar site. As reception facilities on Les Minquiers are not possible all waste must be removed for disposal.

Discharge from the sea

Vessels, whether commercial or recreational are a potential threat to the site. Activities ranging from pumping of heads or bilges to discarding litter can have a significant impact.

Climate Change

Climate change is affecting the marine environment. Recent data shows temperatures increasing and changing distributions of species (MCCIP, 2010). This change in species distribution could have a significant effect in Jersey due to the fact that the southern limit of some species occurs in local waters. Climate change is also affecting seabird populations and their breeding success and increasing temperatures may have the potential to increase the geographical range of some harmful algal bloom and other disease species. Significant mortalities of marine species, namely ormer, *Haliotis tuberculata* and oyster, *Crassostrea gigas*, have occurred in recent years, with evidence suggesting increasing temperature playing an important part.

Conflict of Use

Fisheries

Fishing, both commercial and recreational, occurs throughout the site for a number species exploited. Potential exists for localised over exploitation of a species and subsequent ramifications, if appropriate management is not in place to prevent this. The use of an inappropriate metier in general or at a particular location can also present a threat to overall ecological character of the site. The site is frequented by both Jersey and French nationals who fish throughout the reef, on both a commercial and recreational basis

Recreational use

Recreational use can disturb species sensitive to a particular activity or degrade a fragile habitat. Recreational activities can also result in competition for space at

certain times of the year or certain locations. However, current recreational use of the site is limited but can still have an impact particularly if occurring at certain important times of year (e.g. Breeding season)

Speeding vessels, both recreational and commercial can have an impact due to large wash or noise disturbance. The speed of jet skis and other similar craft is restricted to five knots in any waters in Les Minquiers that are five metres or less chart datum.

The volume of general visitors to the reefs can be a potential threat if appropriate management steps are not taken. Up to 20 vessels have been reported on some days at the main anchorage. This number can create increased levels of disturbance to wildlife on the main islets and encourage movement to other less frequented areas of the reef, thus spreading the potential damage caused by disturbance.

Alien Invasive Species

Alien invasive species represent a significant threat to the overall ecological character of the site. Established invasive species have already had a significant visual and ecological impact (e.g. slipper limpet *Crepidula fornicata* , Japweed *Sargassum muticum*)

Invasive species can have an effect in various ways, for example, as a predator removing prey species that have no evolved defence mechanism or as a competitor, out competing the natural species by growing or reproducing faster or utilising a resource more effectively and/or efficiently. Invasive species can become established either intentionally (i.e. deliberate import and release) or unintentionally (e.g. ballast water). Climate change may well increase or exacerbate the problem by facilitating establishment of invasive species as the temperature regime changes.

Limited Jurisdiction

Limited jurisdiction remains an issue as many environmental impacts that affect or have the potential to effect arise from outside of the site and outside Jersey's territorial waters. An example of this would be some aspect of fisheries management, particularly management of pelagic fish stocks, where ultimate authority rests with the UK or EU.

Objectives and Strategies

The plan proposes four objectives to achieve the Vision for the site; each has a number of strategies designed to achieve the objectives. The objectives are of three kinds:

- 1) measures which facilitate change
 - 2) measures which protect the habitats that remain and
 - 3) measures which reverse current processes of environmental degradation.
- Each objective also has an action plan which sets out how each objective will be achieved.

Objective 1

Integrated environmental management of Les Minquiers with monitoring of biotic indicators to ensure the sustainable, multiple use of the region; and monitoring of management performance against the plan objectives.

1. Ensure regular Ramsar Management Authority meetings.
2. Establish monitoring mechanisms to guide review of the management plan to ensure effective implementation and fulfilment of Ramsar objectives.
3. Establish monitoring strategy to include biological, chemical and physical parameters.
4. Establish monitoring strategy for key habitats and species.
5. Establish programme of biological habitat monitoring with NGOs.
6. Ensure that legislation, strategies and policies that affect the area are consistent with the Ramsar principles of wise use and the maintenance of ecological character.

Action Plan and Time Frame

1.1	RMA - Plan and hold RMA meetings	Ongoing
1.2	RMA - Publish monitoring strategy for the Ramsar site	2011 Q4
1.3		
1.4.1		
1.4.2	ENV – Include Les Minquiers in heavy metal monitoring	2011
1.4.3	SJ – Annual seabird survey	2012
1.5	SJ/ENV – Plan and survey reef to produce habitat maps	2012
1.6	SJ/ENV/Seasearch – Undertake seasearch dives	2012
1.7	ENV - Review current legislation, strategies and policies	2011 Q4

Objective 2

Protection of species and habitats and restoration of degraded habitats in the Ramsar area and their conservation for future generations.

1. Establish Ramsar Management Authority Technical Subgroup to assess plans and projects that have potential to impact the site.
2. Establish detailed habitat map and database.
3. Ensure no new intentional imports of any non-local species.
4. Seek to reduce and remove all polluting discharges into the site.
5. Ensure appropriate fisheries management is in place based on sustainability of species and the precautionary principle.
6. Establish mechanism to protect vulnerable species and habitats

Action Plan and Time Frame

2.1	RMA-TS – Meet when required to discuss project/plans.	Ongoing
2.2	ENV – Programme designed for habitat mapping.	2012 Q1
2.4.1	Jersey Harbours – up to date with ballast water legislation and risk assessment of ballast water discharge locally.	As required
2.4.2	Jersey Harbours – Oil Spill Response Plan produced and updated. Training Programme established	Ongoing
2.4.3	ENV/Jersey Harbours – Ensure facilities and education in place to reduce marine litter.	Ongoing
2.5	FMRP – Continue to manage exploited species	Ongoing
2.6	Seabird Protection Area(s) established	2012

Objective 3

Improved awareness among all key stakeholders, including the wider community, of the natural values of Les Minquiers Wetland and Ramsar principles expressed in the Management Plan.

1. Better communication – improved website, communication networks, blogs, social networking etc.
2. Develop schools programme to integrate into local curriculum to promote Ramsar values.
3. Ensure obligations under Ramsar ‘Communication Education Participation Awareness’ (CEPA) programme are fulfilled.
4. Develop interpretation for on-site.
5. Develop information and interpretation material for tourism.
6. Organise periodic forums for discussions.
7. Publish Code of Conduct for users of the site.
8. Provide WiSe training for commercial operators.
9. Ensure representation on national and International Ramsar forum.

Action Plan and Time Frame

3.1	ENV - Review IT support for Ramsar and CEPA programme	2011
3.3		
3.4	RMA – Publish interpretation material for the site	Ongoing
3.5.1		
3.5.2	ENV – French interpretation material available in France at key locations.	2012
3.7.1	LMRA – Code of Conduct to encompass all issues relating specifically to Les Minquiers and to Ramsar ethos	2012 Q4
3.7.2	Jersey Harbours – Licence and Detailed Code of Conduct for Commercial Operators	2010
3.8	ENV – Organise WiSe courses as required	Ongoing
3.9	ENV - Attend Ramsar and N2K forum and steering group meetings in UK	Ongoing

Objective 4

Ongoing funds and resources to achieve the objectives of the management plan.

1. Prepare a funding and sponsorship plan which identifies key funding opportunities and obtains firm commitments from key Government Departments and other organisations for ongoing support for Les Minquiers Ramsar site.

Action Plan and Time Frame

4.1	RMA – Produce funding plan	2011 Q4
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Objective Responsibility – Lead Organisation

RMA	RMA-TS	ENV	SJ	FMRP	JH	LMRA	
1.1	2.1	1.4.2	1.4.3	2.5	2.4.1	3.7.1	
1.2		1.6	1.5		2.4.2		
1.3		2.4.3			3.7.2		
1.4.1		3.1					
3.4		3.3					
3.5.1		3.5.2					
4.1		3.8					
		3.9					

Key

RMA	Ramsar Management Authority
RMA-TS	Ramsar Management Authority – Technical Subgroup
ENV	Department of the Environment
FMRP	Fisheries and Marine Resources Panel
TTS	Transport and Technical Services
JH	Jersey Harbours
SJ	Societe Jersiaise
LMRA	Les Minquiers Resident’s Association

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Appendices

Appendix 1 Ramsar Management Authority Membership (as of February 2011).

R. Duhamel	Chair, Minister, Environment
A. Scate	Chief Officer, Environment
A. Tulley	DEFRA
B. Bree	
C. Le Boutillier	Greve de Lecq Boat Owners
C. Le Masurier	Jersey Aquaculture Association
D. Houseago	Director, EMRE, Environment
D. Murphy	Connetable, Grouville
D. Cabeldu	SOS
D. de Carteret	Jersey Tourism, EDD
D. Thompson	Jersey Fishermens Association
E. Gavey	Les Ecrehous Residents Association
G. Morel	Marine and Coastal Officer, Environment
I. Syvret	Jersey Inshore Fishermens Association
J. Moss	ESC
J. Clarke	Société Jersiaise
J. Le Gresley	Les Minquiers Residents Association
J. Rogers	Chief Officer, TTS
L. Norman	Connetable, St Clement
M. Samson	Greve de Lecq Boat Owners
M. Taylor	Fisheries and Marine Resources Panel
P. Gosselin	Jersey Recreational Fishing Association
P. Lawrence	Jersey Harbours
P. Lewin	Receiver General
S. Yates	Connetable, St Martin
S. Crowcroft	Connetable, St Helier
S. Hardy	National Trust
T. du Feu	Environmental Protection, Environment
W. Peggie	Director of Environment, Environment

Appendix 2. Ramsar Management Authority Terms of Reference.

1.0 Background.

Jersey has four areas of our coastal waters and reefs designated under the Ramsar Convention after approval by the States of Jersey. The south-east coast or Violet Reef was designated in 2000 and the offshore reefs of Les Minquiers, Les Ecréhous, the Dirouilles and the Pierres de Lecq were designated in 2005. The Ramsar Convention provides a framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. The Convention requires management plans for each site to be developed by the stakeholders. The Management Plan primarily identifies the objectives for the site and sets out the management measures required. A Management Authority needs to be established to implement the process.

2.0 Description of the Management Authority

The group is known as the Jersey Ramsar Management Authority (hereafter referred to as 'the Authority'.)

The membership shall:

- (i) Include a broad range of representative interests to provide a balance of viewpoints and expertise to enable informed debate;
- (ii) Bring a range of experience to the Authority in matters relating to conservation, use and management of Jersey's marine environment, and in particular the Ramsar sites; and
- (iii) Remain manageable in size in order to ensure that the Authority may function effectively.

Proposals from likely interested parties wishing to join the Authority should be made to the secretariat prior to a meeting and will be subject to agreement by consensus from the members of the Authority. Interested parties may also choose to be copied into the correspondence of the Authority, rather than becoming attending members. Substitutes are allowed on the Authority. To ensure that business is progressed effectively at meetings, members should be aware that any substitute that they appoint should be authorised to speak with authority on their behalf and have the ability to take decisions on issues under consideration.

Before appointment to the Authority, members will be asked to confirm:

- (i) their support of the Authority and its purpose, and a willingness to attend meetings; and
- (ii) a willingness to work within the Vision and Objectives of the Authority.

3.0 Vision and Objectives

To produce and implement the Management Plans for Jersey's Ramsar Sites

Objectives

- To provide a strategic and inclusive approach to the development and publication of Ramsar Management Plans Jersey which will provide a range of benefits for multiple users and the natural, historic and cultural marine environment compatible with the established principles of the Ramsar Convention;
- To promote and foster an informed debate, and disseminate information, about the role of Ramsar sites in the management of the marine environment around Jersey;
- To seek ways of establishing consensus amongst stakeholders;
- To support the delivery of projects which are relevant to the purpose of the Authority;
- To ensure compliance with relevant local, national and international legislation, policies and best practice.

4.0 Administration of the Management Authority

4.1. The Authority

The Authority will consist of at least one representative from each of those organisations specified in the Appendix. Where appropriate, multiple representations will be agreed by the Authority. A member may send a substitute if necessary.

4.2. Secretariat

The Fisheries and Marine Resources section of the Planning and Environment Department will provide the Secretariat for the Authority. Administrative duties such as meeting organisation, minute taking and the drafting and circulation of papers will be undertaken by the section.

4.3. Meeting Frequency

The Authority will meet four times annually or as appropriate. Meetings will be open to the public. Agendas and minutes will also be made publicly available via the States of Jersey website and on request to Fisheries and Marine Resources.

4.4 Responsibility of the Authority members

- To work together to deliver the objectives of the Authority;
- To update other members on relevant developments regularly;

- To report back from the meetings to their members/management/colleagues;
- To act as a point of contact and feedback on the Authority for organisations and interested parties within their sector to ensure the widest possible stakeholder engagement;
- To provide expertise and guidance in their particular field;
- To use only suitably experienced and briefed staff and representatives;
- To operate within the confines of all relevant legislation;
- To attend Authority meetings

5.0 Other Circumstances

5.1. Dealing with External Bodies

Formal contact with the external bodies concerning the work of the Authority will be conducted through the Chair of the Authority. Authority members will provide details to the Secretariat of any other contact with the media related to Ramsar Management Plans.

5.2 Review of the Management Authority arrangements

Authority members will be given the opportunity to review the effectiveness and remit of this Terms of Reference document on an annual basis

**Appendix 3 Ramsar Management Authority Technical Subgroup Membership
(as of February 2011).**

R. Duhamel	Chair, Assistant Minister, Environment
A. Scate	Chief Officer, Environment
B. Bree	
C. Le Masurier	Jersey Aquaculture Association
D. Thompson	Jersey Fishermens Association
G. Morel	Marine and Coastal Officer, Environment
J. Moss	ESC
J. Rogers	Chief Officer, TTS
L. Luke	SOS
M. Jackson	Minister, TTS
P. Gosselin	Jersey Recreational Fishing Association
S. Crowcroft	Connetable, St Helier
S. Braithwaite	ESC
T. du Feu	Environmental Protection, Environment
W. Peggie	Director of Environment, Environment

Appendix 4. International Agreements and Local Management Context.

International Agreement	
Description	History
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	
The Convention on Biological Diversity is concerned with the conservation of species and habitats.	The convention was concluded and signed by the UK in June 1992. Extension to Jersey occurred at the same time as the UK ratified the agreement (June 1994) with the convention in force by September of the same year.
Bonn Convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals	
The Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals aims to conserve terrestrial, marine and avian migratory species throughout their range. Parties to CMS work together to conserve migratory species and their habitats by providing strict protection for the endangered migratory species listed in Appendix I of the Convention, participating with further multilateral Agreements for the conservation and management of migratory species listed in Appendix II and by undertaking co-operative research activities.	The convention was concluded in June 1979 and signed by the UK at the time of completion. Again, ratification was extended to Jersey at the same time as the UK's in July 1985 with the convention coming into force in October 1985.
African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA)	
An affiliated instrument of Appendix II of the Bonn Convention. The AEWA covers 172 species of birds ecologically dependent on wetlands for at least part of their annual cycle. Jersey is an important migratory refuge to at least 50 species of ducks, waders, terns, gulls and geese listed.	The agreement was concluded and signed by the UK in June 1995. Extension to Jersey was completed in March 1999 with the agreement in force by November of the same year.
Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention)	
The aims of this Convention are to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats, especially those species and habitats whose conservation requires the co-operation of several States, and to promote such co-operation. Particular emphasis is given to endangered and vulnerable species, including endangered and vulnerable migratory species.	The UK signed this convention upon it's conclusion in September 1979 with ratification granted and enforcement in place by May 1982. The convention was extended to Jersey in October of 2002.
Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ACSOBANS)	
An affiliated instrument of Appendix II of the Bonn Convention. The ASCOBANS agreement aims to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status of cetaceans by encouraging contracting parties to undertake conservation, research and management measures. 5 ASCOBANS listed species are recorded within Jersey territorial	The ASCOBANS agreement has been signed by 10 countries, concluded in 1991 it entered into force in 1994. The agreement was only extended to Jersey however in September of 2002.

waters.	
International Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic (OSPAR)	
OSPAR is an amalgamation of the Oslo Convention on dumping at sea and Paris Convention on pollution of the marine environment from land based sources, The convention addresses all sources of pollution of the marine environment and takes into account the 'precautionary principle' and the 'polluter pays' principle. This includes the latest update to the agreement, Annex V, concerned with the Protection and Conservation of the Ecosystems and Biological Diversity of the Maritime Area. It is also concerned with drawing up programmes and measures for the control of human activities (covered in Appendix 3 of the Annex).	The OSPAR convention is the amalgamation and extension of two previous conventions. The Oslo Convention for prevention of dumping from ships and aircraft written in December 1972 was extended to Jersey in March of 1976. Unfortunately, it is unclear whether the Paris agreement on pollution from land-based courses was ever ratified by Jersey. The increased requirements of the 1992 joint convention meant Jersey did not achieve ratification as quickly as was hoped. Annexes I-IV were extended to Jersey in November of 2000 after the passing of the Water Pollution Law (Jersey) 2000.

Island Management Context⁴

Description	History
Planning and Building Law 2002 (+ EIA Order)	
Within this zone there is a presumption against all development except those which are essential for navigation, access to water, fishing and fish farming and coastal defence.	The marine protection zone was identified within the Island Plan 2002. The Island Plan currently under public examination includes the marine protection zone
Fisheries Law 1994 (and regulations)	
This Law makes provisions for the regulation of sea fishing and the conservation of sea fish, regulation of mariculture, licensing of fishing vessels and associated powers	The current law came into force in 1994. Regulations are made and amended as required.
Food and Environment Protection Act 1985 Order 1987	
This legislation makes provision for controlling the deposit of substances and articles in the sea or under the seabed.	The order came into force in 1987 and was administered by the then Harbours and Airport Committee. Responsibility was transferred in 2004 and rests with the Department for Planning and Environment.
Conservation of Wildlife Law 2000	
The Law relates to the conservation of wild animals, and birds and wild plants in Jersey, and related	The law came into force in 2000 and fulfils a number of obligations under the CBD, Bonn and Bern Convention
Water Pollution Law 2000	
The Law regulates the control and prevention of pollution in Jersey Waters and implements the provisions of the OSPAR Convention	

⁴ see www.jerseylaw.je for full text of legislation

Sea Beaches (Removal of Sand and Stone) (Jersey) Law 1963	
Regulates the removal of sand, stone, gravel, shingle or loam from beaches and the territorial sea.	
Policing of Beaches (Jersey) Regulations 1959	
Regulates activities that occur on beaches. This includes activities involving horses, dogs and vehicles.	
Boats and Surf-riding (Control)(Jersey) Regulations 1969	
Regulates the registration of vessels and conditions imposed on vessel activity including those vessels available for hire.	This legislation is in the process of being updated by the relevant authorities
Loi (1894) sur la Coupe et la Pêche des Vraics	
Regulates the cutting and fishing for seaweed on the beaches	This is an old piece of legislation that control seaweed collection when large amounts were taken as a field dressing and fertiliser. This is no longer the case and requires updating.
Biodiversity Action Plans⁵	
Action Plans set out the current status, threats and a framework management plan for important locally threatened species. Current relevant BAPs are Zostera, ormer, Brent goose and Shag (in prep.)	The first biodiversity action plan was published in 2005 and a number are added on an annual basis.

⁵ see www.gov.je for Biodiversity Action Plans



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