

Planning and Environment Department

Public Consultation

Ramsar Management Plans

Islanders are being asked for their views on the development of management plans for the Ramsar sites in Jersey and the offshore reefs.

You can find an electronic version of the consultation paper at www.gov.je . It includes the facility to complete an online questionnaire. You can also email your responses and general comments to: fisheries@gov.je, or write to Fisheries and Marine Resources at Howard Davis Farm (see contact details below)

The consultation is open to everyone. Members of the Fisheries and Marine Resources team will be happy to discuss any issues you have relating to this consultation. The deadline for all submissions to the consultation is Friday **18 June 2010**.

Closing date Friday 18 June 2010

Your submission Please note that consultation responses may be made public (sent to other interested parties on request, sent to the Scrutiny Office, quoted in a published report, reported in the media, published on www.gov.je, listed on a consultation summary etc.).

Please delete the following as appropriate:

I agree that my comments may be made public and attributed to me

I agree that my comments may be made public but not attributed (i.e. anonymous)

I don't want my comments made public

Summary

The Ramsar Management Authority is currently developing a Management Plan for the four areas designated under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, more commonly known as the Ramsar Convention. This Plan will set out the management for each of the sites under the principal of conservation and wise use of the resource.

The Authority is keen to know the view of the public on this important environmental issue so that opinions and comments can be considered.

Please send your comments to:

Fisheries and Marine Resources Section
Howard Davis Farm
La Route de la Trinite
Trinity
JE3 5JP

How to contact us

Telephone 01534 441600
Email fisheries@gov.je
Fax 01534 441699

Supporting documents attached

Ramsar Management Plan Consultation Paper

Ramsar Management Plans

The importance of Jersey's coastal zone and territorial waters

Jersey's coastline is 90km long at high water mark, not including the offshore reefs. The length of sea edge is an important influence on the Island's character and the perceptions of its character. During spring tides the difference between low and high tide can be as much as 12m. The south, south-east and west coast have a very shallow, gently sloping shore profile which means that a very large intertidal area is exposed at low tide and the Island almost doubles in size to about 200 square kilometres. By contrast the north and south west coasts are characterised by steep granite cliffs and coastal heath. Both the inland character of Jersey and its marine environment are very much influenced by the great variation in aspect and exposure of its coastal edges.

Jersey's territorial waters stretch out to 12 nautical miles or to the median line between France and Guernsey and cover almost 2,000 square kilometres. This is a surface area more than seventeen times greater than its territorial land mass at high water of 117 square kilometres. Our coastal and marine areas are of outstanding scenic, historic and cultural value boosting Jersey's image both at home and abroad and featuring regularly in tourism marketing material.

Jersey's coastal zone is an area of increasingly intense activity, where complex interactions take place between physical, biological, social, cultural and economic activities. A study carried out in 1995 identified 38 intertidal habitats locally compared to 87 in the whole of the UK. Jersey's location at the junction of the cold and warm temperature marine biogeographical regions together with the warming influence of the Gulf Stream results in important groups of animal and plants associated with the warmer waters of southern Europe, as well as species associated with the cold, northern waters of the UK.

The overall extent and character of the rocky reefs and intertidal sediment flats on the south east coast is found nowhere else in Europe. At low tide an extensive and biologically rich area of 3,210 hectares is exposed. The steep rocky coast, granite rocky platform and beach coast comprise the Jersey shoreline and are equally important. Large reef systems surround Les Ecréhous and the Paternosters and extensive areas of shallow water with mixed sediment habitat stretch southeast from the Violet Bank. Of special interest is the submerged Plateau des Minquiers, an area of water shallower than 10m covering 100 square kilometres.

Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention)

The international importance of Jersey's coastal waters is recognised by the fact that almost 190 square kilometres of inter-tidal habitat, spread across Jersey's south-east coast and offshore reefs, are designated as wetlands of international importance under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance. The Ramsar Convention¹, as it is known, is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. It was adopted in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971 and came into force in

¹ See www.ramsar.org for more information

1975. It is the only global environmental treaty that deals with a particular ecosystem. The Convention's 159 member countries cover all geographic regions of the planet. Jersey has four areas of our coastal waters designated under the Convention after approval by the States of Jersey. The south-east coast was designated in 2000 and the offshore reefs of Les Minquiers, Les Ecrehous and Les Dirouilles and Les Pierres de Lecq were designated in 2005.

Table 1. Size of Jersey's Ramsar sites

Site	Size (km ²)
Les Ecréhous and the Dirouilles	55
Les Minquiers	96
Pierres de Lecq	5
South East Coast	32

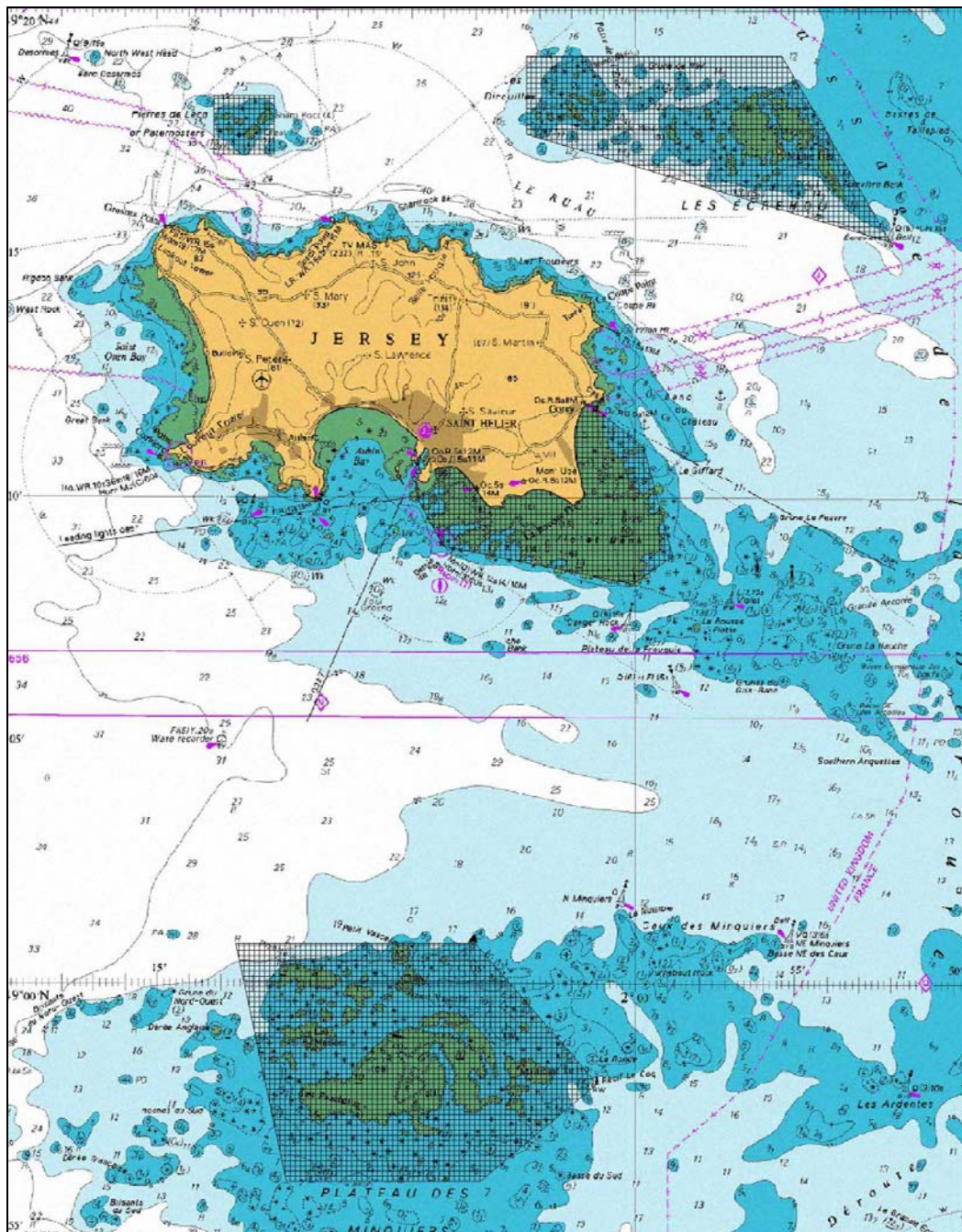


Figure 1 Jersey's Ramsar sites.

Ramsar Management Plans

The Convention requires management plans for each site to be developed by the stakeholders. The management plan is part of a dynamic and continuing planning process for the site and should only be as complex as is needed. It should be a technical document and consist of five sections, reflecting the main steps in the management planning process.

- a) Preamble/Policy
- b) Description
- c) Evaluation
- d) Objectives
- e) Action Plan

Primarily the management plan identifies the objectives for the site and sets out the management measures required. A local Management Authority should be established to implement the process. The Authority consists of stakeholders including government and parish representatives, Receiver General and various non-governmental organisations. The Management Authority met in March 2010 and agreed the way forward and the need to consult the general public about this important issue.

This public consultation seeks to find out the views and opinions of the public on the Ramsar sites and the issues that should be considered by the Ramsar Management Authority when the management plans are formulated. Some of the questions concern the types of activities that occur in the Ramsar sites and others relate to impacts on the site and the management of activities.