JERSEY RAMSAR ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

Brief notes and action points from meeting held at St Helier Yacht Club
14th October 2024

Present:	Guest speakers: Lead Engineer, Coastal Engineering (Infrastructure and Environment) – Havre Des Pas Coastal defence strategy Ports of Jersey – harbour redevelopment Chairman AM Natural Environment (Marine Resources) MR Natural Environment (Land Resource Management) LRM Écréhous Residents Association ERA Ports of Jersey POJ Minquiers Residents MIRA National Trust NT Jersey National Park JNP Jersey Heritage (Geopark) JH Earth Project Jersey EPJ Blue Marine Foundation BM Jersey Walk Adventures JWA Jersey Kayak Adventures JKA Jersey Tour Guides JTG Connétable of St. Clement CSC
Apologies:	Jersey Marine Conservation JMC Jersey Seafaris JS Connétable of Grouville
Absences:	

		Action
	Agenda	ALL
	Matters Arising: 1. Update on monitoring activities - any risks / opportunities identified 2. Management Plans - progress report 3. Major works: that might impact Ramsar sites 2025 > 2026 a. Marine Spatial Plan (brief update) b. Harbour redevelopment (presentation from PoJ) c. Coastal Defence Strategy: Havre Des Pas (presentation from Lead Engineer, Coastal Engineering - Government of Jersey) 4. Offshore Reefs - Impact of tourists / visitors - how to monitor / mitigate 5. Point to raise – sharing email addresses amongst members of JRAG	
	Opening remarks	

	Welcome – (AM)– Chair AM thanked SHYC for allowing us to hold the meeting at the Club; he then explained the new structure of JRAG before outlining the agenda and speakers. Finally, AM explained the need under GDPR rules for everyone's permission for their email address to be shared with other members of the group and to ensure they had signed the printed list provided to confirm such permission. Minutes from 9th January 2023 were approved.	
1.	**Presentation on monitoring activities** – Government of Jersey Marine Resources and Land Resource Management MR provided a quick reminder/overview of the risk matrix used in the management plans, and explained how monitoring activity was focussed on those areas where there was deemed to be a higher risk of harm (or the effect of such harm). Some examples of the monitoring being carried out: ● the number of boats/visitors to the offshore reefs as an example, and the methods of collecting data (Trace, Customs, Cameras). NT asked what difference it makes how many visitors there are as it is how they behave when they get there that matters. MR explained that given the size of the locations, the greater the number of people the more it is unavoidable that there is disturbance, even if people are notionally well behaved. ● Sea Surface Temperature Monitoring/Cetacean monitoring ● Terrestrial wildlife (and baseline) monitoring being carried out or considered includes birds, bats and plants i.e. biodiversity generally. Discussed the possibility of using drones for future monitoring.	
2.	**Management Plans** MR provided an update on the status of the plans. Given the timescales, MR asked the meeting to confirm that the members of JRAG were happy to delegate the approval of the final draft of the plans to the Executive Group in order that they can be submitted to the Minister on 30 November. MR advised the meeting of the composition of the Executive Group. **The members present confirmed that they were happy for the Executive Group to finalise the draft Management Plans.** AM reiterated that whilst the Jersey Ramsar Management Authority (now sitting within Marine Resources) is resourced and funded, it cannot cover all the necessary monitoring, and so volunteer 'citizen science' and NGO groups will still be a vital support. MR also explained that whilst communications with Biodiversity teams in France had tailed off during Brexit, discussions with these teams had increased significantly this year and will continue to take place.	

3.	**Major works: that might impact Ramsar sites 2025 > 2026** Brief updates on three projects that either directly or indirectly could impact the various Ramsar sites: ● **Marine Spatial Plan** – MR briefly explained the status of the MSP ie at post consultation phase. There will be a priority list of actions arising from the MSP. Marine Protected Areas are the biggest priority of the Scrutiny Panel currently looking at the MSP. The proposed MPAs are based around the boundary of the Ramsar sites. ● **Harbour redevelopment** - PoJ provided an update to his previous presentation earlier this year and explained the issues with and limitations of the current set up, and that the new plan future proofs the island's freight system by increasing capacity and improving efficiency. One of the key issues is distribution, as standard shipping containers are too big for Jersey roads, so need to be unloaded into smaller vehicles for onwards transportation. Initial plans had been revised to take into account responses to the consultation that took place earlier this year. PoJ gave a description of the dredging that will need to take place to make the unloading area deep enough for the LOLO boats. Different methods are being looked at, including the options for the disposal of the waste. Note that further information can be found at https://harbourmasterplan.je ● **Coastal Defence Strategy: Havre Des Pas** - Lead Engineer, Coastal Engineering-Infrastructure and Environment, Government of Jersey provided an outline of the timescales, scope, and reasons for the need to improve the island's sea defences. Evidence of flooding within the area over the last few years was shown/discussed as well as some projections of sea level rises. It was explained that the whole coastline had been risk assessed for sea level rises and the levels of intervention required: a) No action required b) Maintain current defence line c) Adaptive Management d) Advance the Line Havre des Pas has been identified as the main priority as it is high risk and high impact owing to the number of residential properties impacted. There are about 1000 properties and 2000 people that could be affected by flood events. Havre des Pas has been identified as needing the Advance the Line approach, and, although several options are being considered, the recommended option is to have a new sea wall built further out with the existing wall being the second	

	line of defence. A community space including walkways, cycle paths and gardens will be created between the two. Note that further information, including on timelines, can be found at https://www.gov.je/Environment/ClimateEmergency/JerseyClimateEmergency/pages/shorelinemanagementplan.aspx The Chairman said that future updates on these developments would be needed in order to assess any potential impact on Ramsar sites.	
	AOB There being no other business that had not been covered during the meeting, AM thanked all of the speakers and closed the meeting at 19:40.	
	Next Meeting TBC 2025, St Helier Yacht Club	