## RAMSAR MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY, JERSEY

C/o Societe Jersiaise, 9 Pier Road, St Helier, JE2 4XW 07700706390

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Mr Jackson Chairman Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel Pennine Way Route Orange St. Brelade Jersey. JE3 8GQ

Date: 11/10/19

Dear Mr Jackson

## **Draft Wildlife Law**

This letter has been written on behalf of the Jersey Ramsar Management Authority (RMA), and signed in counterpart by its members as listed in the appendix to this letter.

The RMA has the responsibility to implement a management framework, developed through consultation with local stakeholders and based on clear evidence, for the conservation and wise use of the 18,756 hectares of Jersey's marine environment that have been designated as wetlands of international importance, across the four Ramsar sites of Les Ecn§hous, Les Minquiers, the Paternosters and the South East Coast.

To successfully manage and balance the needs of the environment, community and economy, in areas where there is increasingly intense activity and physical, biological, social, cultural and commercial pressures, an effective enforcement tool is vital to ensure their benefits can be maintained and enjoyed for generations to come. However, the current level of legislation in Jersey is inadequate, especially with regards to specific protection of marine species and habitats, to allow for the implementation of any management policies beyond voluntary codes of conduct and public education programs. These are effective tools for the majority of the public who are willing to

embrace them but provide little deterrent for those who are apathetic to Jersey's local environment and wildlife, who are able to cause decades worth of damage through a single careless or conscious act.

The RMA therefore welcomed the draft Wildlife Law consultation in October 2018, that would significantly improve the ability to appropriately manage and police such sensitive areas of outstanding natural beauty and biodiversity, and allow for more effective and efficient regulation of activities affecting local wildlife and their habitats. It is the RMA's understanding that the final draft of the Wildlife Law is currently being prepared by the Law Draftsmen's Department for submission to the Environmental Scrutiny Panel, before it is lodged with the States Assembly for passing in to legislation.

The delay in finalising the draft Law is of grave concern, as Jersey's Ramsar sites and wider marine and wetland habitats are already experiencing increasingly high levels of activity, and consequently the associated risk of disturbance or damage, without the ability to control it. This concern has been further intensified by the development at Carteret, the closest French harbour to Les Ecrehous, where the number of private berths is to be increased from under 300 to 700 by 2020. Which will undoubtedly further increase the number of private boats, individuals and on occasions dogs entering Ramsar sites directly from France, with potentially catastrophic effects to the reefs' wildlife and habitats if there is no appropriate mechanism to manage it.

The RMA are therefore requesting that the lodging of the draft Wildlife Law with the States Assembly be made a top priority for 2019 to ensure the necessary tools are in place to at the very least maintain Jersey's natural environment and allow it to be enjoyed for generations to come.

Ilook forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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APPENDIX: Letter endorsed by the following RMA Members (signed in counterpart)

Ecrehous Residents' Association	Signed: Name: Position: Date:
Jersey Kayak Adventures	Signed: Name: Position: Date:
Jersey Marine Conservation	Signed: Name: Position: Date:
Jersey National Park	Signed: Name: Position: Date:
Maltresse Tie Residents' Association	Signed: Name: Position: Date: (3,3,4)
Save Our Shoreline, Jersey	Signed: Mul Mul Name: DAVID CABRED Position: Co-OVEDINTEN Date: 19 919
Societe Jersia ise	Signed: Ammin Ben- Name: ALASTINE BEST Position: Printed Date: Marine Sest
The Earth Project Jersey	Signed: Name: AM LE QUESNE Position: CHAIRMAN Date: 19/9/19

Jersey Marine Conservation

Jersey National Park

Maitresse ile Residents' Association

Save Our Shoreline, Jersey

Societe Jersiaise

The Earth Project Jersey

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APPENDIX: Letter endorsed by the following RMA Members (signed  ${\tt 1n}$  counterpart )

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Signed: Name: Position: Date:

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Signed: Name: Position: Date: Kevin McIlwee Chairperson 27/09/2019

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National Trust Jersey

Signed: Name: Position: Date: Matter

Daniel Luce Director 20/09/2019

Signed: Name: Position: Date:

Bob Tompkins Council Member 27/09/2019

