

**RESPONSE TO ENVIRONMENT, HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE SCRUTINY PANEL
("Scrutiny") - REVIEW OF MARINE SPATIAL PLAN ("MSP")
29 AUGUST 2024**

It is evident that a huge amount of work has gone into the preparation of the MSP. We commend this significant step forward in marine protection, and every credit should be given to the Government of Jersey's Marine Resources team and its partners.

We have seen the submission by the Blue Marine Foundation ("Blue Marine") in their letter to Deputy Hilary Jeune dated 23 August 2024.

We are pleased to endorse the comments made by Blue Marine on the MSP. In particular:

- We believe it is important to ensure the urgent implementation of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) with clear timelines established for implementation and related legislation;
- We share Blue Marine's concerns about the reduction in the proposed protection of maerl, which is one of three key habitats in Jersey's waters requiring protection under the OSPAR Convention, to which Jersey has been signed up since 2002. The reduction from 88% of known maerl extent being protected, in the original proposals, to only 33% being protected by the revised proposals is regrettable. Given that the 88% figure was derived using an evidence-based approach we would expect to see a clear explanation and equivalent evidence provided to support the proposed reduction;
- We agree that adopting the proposed lower level of protection is a missed opportunity for Jersey to be at the forefront of marine protection and will adversely affect the Government's reputation as a leader in the shared mission to tackle our biodiversity and climate crisis.

We understand and sympathise with the concerns of the commercial fishing fleet and the impact that reinstating the greater MPA protections will have on their businesses. We believe it is critical that fair and just transition arrangements are made to protect the fishermen affected. We believe that such an investment by Government will be repaid by creating a truly sustainable¹ fishing industry for the long-term benefit of the Island.



Alan Le Maistre
CEO National Trust for Jersey

¹ The word "sustainable" continues to be overused. Scrutiny could usefully consider whether the MSP proposals truly meet the definition of sustainable development set out in paragraph 27 of the 1987 UN Brundtland Report ie development which "meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."