

29 August 2024

Dear Panel,

The development of a Marine Spatial Plan ('the plan') is a necessary tool to enable Jersey to meet its requirements as an international maritime nation. Jersey should strive to surpass international standards of best practice and establish Jersey as an exemplar among our neighboring jurisdictions.

Ensuring that a balanced management plan is established for Jersey's waters is critical to the protection, not only of the waters and the environments they create, but also the livelihoods they support, as well as creating opportunities for the future of our island and its people.

The consultation process for the plan was lengthy and offered many opportunities for stakeholders to engage in its development. No doubt some may now question its validity, weighting or process. These voices should not be ignored, and no doubt the panel will commit some efforts to reassuring them of the process undertaken. We should not allow for this to detract from the plan that is now in motion, the energy created by such conversations should be guided positively to further broaden the plan's reach and fasten it as a valid mechanism within the community for good.

The Panel should ensure that the plan exists within the correct statutory frameworks so that it can be utilised by the current and future governments to provide the guidance to steer a constant course towards a well-managed and healthy environment. The effectiveness of this will only be possible given the correct allocation of funding and resource allowing for accurate and tangible evidence from successfully structured monitoring programmes. Alongside which an empowered and visible enforcement policy should be delivered by Jersey authorities, aligned with the efforts of our neighbouring territories.

It is recognised the plan was developed during a period of socio-economic change, where the Island was emerging from the effects of Covid. The plan should now provide consistency for the maritime community regardless of what further changes may unsettle the future journey.

Ports of Jersey is confident the plan has identified a suitable pathway for Jersey to pursue, this will be key to informing further guidance such as the next Island Plan. Although adjustments may be required to adapt to an ever-changing environment, the tool to now deliver this is established and should be embraced by all stakeholders.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

On behalf of the Harbourmaster.

Phil Le Neveu
Coastguard and VTS Manager
Ports of Jersey

Email: jerseycoastguard@ports.je