



MEDIA RELEASE

Blue Print for Alderney's sea

The Alderney Marine Forum is delighted to announce the publication of the Options Report for Alderney's Marine Management Plan. This is an initial document which sets out the issues important for the light touch management of the island's waters. The approach adopted by the Forum now has the support of the States of Alderney.

The plan as it develops is intended to be a maritime economic and environmental blue print for the island. It will be a community led initiative that will see islanders and government working together to maximise maritime opportunities.

Dave McAllister, Chair of the Alderney Marine Forum explained:

“Alderney's waters will now be designated as a “locally managed marine area”. This is an internationally recognised designation that will put Alderney's green credentials “on the map” and demonstrate to the World our willingness to protect our maritime resources, whilst at the same time ensuring our fishermen and anglers can continue to enjoy the sea's rich resources”.

Other priorities that the Marine Forum will now work with the States of Alderney on, include: the extension of our territorial seas; infrastructure and facilities improvements; support and enhancement of tourism and transport links; and waste management.

The sustainable management of the island's waters to proper international standards will be particularly important given current proposals to extend Alderney's territorial waters from 3 to 12 miles. With Brexit looming this is, of course, doubly important. Forum members have already provided their support to this proposed extension of territorial waters, but have made it clear that Alderney needs assurances in regard to any inherited liabilities associated with the Hurd Deep (which was used as a post-war dumping ground for toxic waste), and the management of the Channel shipping lanes.

On a wider front, the Marine Plan will ensure that all current and future maritime activities are carried out in a sustainable manner that benefits the local economy and enhances Alderney's natural environment and green credentials. It will therefore pay important attention to the needs of Bailiwick fishermen, visiting anglers and all those others who come to enjoy or work in our waters.

The Options Report derives from an extensive consultation process undertaken in 2017. The Forum and staff would like to thank all who provided input. It would also like to thank Professor Steven Fletcher and his team from the United Nations Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) who helped the Forum in these initial stages of their work.

A copy of the report, together with a video of the community interviews can be found on the States of Alderney website: www.alderney.gov.gg/marineforum

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