



**Isle of Man
Government**

Reiltys Ellan Vannin

Developing a Marine Nature Reserve for Ramsey



Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture

Rheynn Chymmltaght, Bee as Eirinys

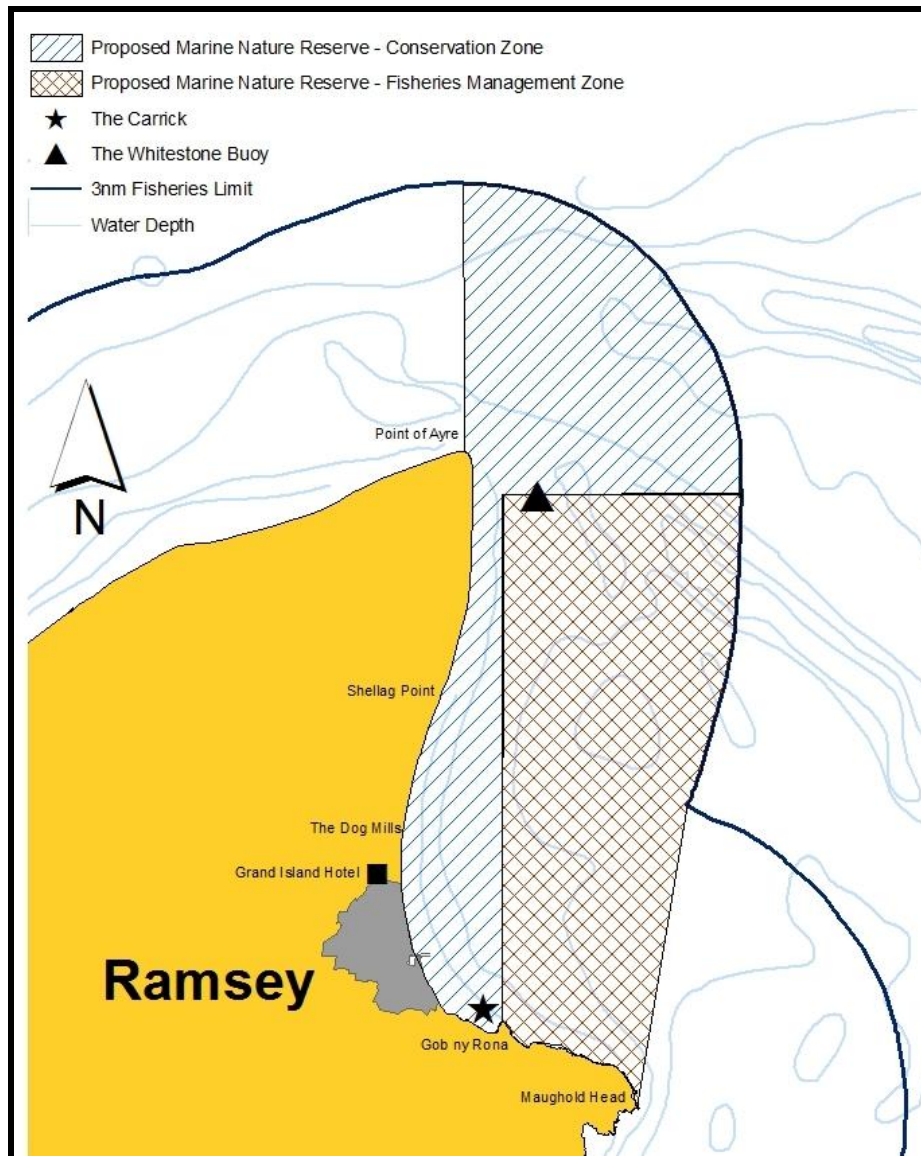
Summary Consultation Document

December 2010

The Proposal Ramsey Marine Nature Reserve Summary Consultation Document

- Please note this is a condensed version of the full technical consultation document which can be found at: www.gov.im/consultations or a paper copy can be requested from DEFA.
- The Isle of Man Government has a commitment to establish the first Marine Nature Reserve in Manx waters in 2011
- Well-managed Marine Nature Reserves can bring diverse ecological and social benefits.
- This consultation seeks the input of all marine users, interest groups and the wider public to develop an effective Marine Nature Reserve in Ramsey based on a proposal put forward by the Manx Fish Producers' Organisation.
- The site includes areas of habitats of conservation value including maerl beds and eelgrass meadows in Ramsey Bay and an extensive horse mussel reef in the Ballacash Channel (see Map 1 on page 3 of this Summary).
- The Manx Fish Producers' Organisation have proposed that the Conservation Zone of the proposed Marine Nature Reserve be closed to trawling and dredging for scallops and queenies.
- There are ongoing discussions on how the Fisheries Management Zone of the Marine Nature Reserve could be owned and managed by the MFPO as a scallop ranching area.
- Additional management measures will be required to manage the area effectively which will be based on scientific information, knowledge of uses of the area and their impact on important features and additional local knowledge.
- The input of marine users and the wider public of Ramsey and the rest of the Isle of Man will be important in taking this proposal forward successfully.
- With your help we can develop an effective Marine Nature Reserve which will protect marine biodiversity, safeguard marine habitats, support sustainable fisheries and enhance opportunities for tourism, recreation and education in Ramsey Bay.
- **The consultation closes on Monday 28 February 2011.**
- **You can respond quickly to this consultation using the Survey Monkey website:**
www.surveymonkey.com/s/KGNKWJB
- **We can take you through the consultation questions at one of our drop-in sessions at Ramsey Town Hall on Saturday 15 January 2011 (10am to 5pm) and Tuesday 18 January 2pm-8pm).**
- **For more information or to send in your consultation responses contact:**
Fiona Gell, Senior Marine Biodiversity Officer,
Fisheries Directorate, Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture,
Thie Slieau Whallian, Foxdale Road, St John's, Isle of Man IM4 3AS
Tel: (01624) 695738 Email: fiona.gell@gov.im

Summary: The Proposed Boundary for the Ramsey Marine Nature Reserve



Map 1: The area of Ramsey Bay which is proposed as a Marine Nature Reserve

The hatched areas have been proposed by the Manx Fish Producers' Organisation (MFPO) as a potential Marine Nature Reserve. The blue hatched area (on the left and top) is proposed as a Conservation Zone to be protected from dredging and trawling of scallops and queenies. The brown cross hatched area (to the right) is under discussion as a Fisheries Management Zone. The Ramsey Bay Area and the Ballacash Channel Area (to the north east of the Point of Ayre) had both already been shortlisted as potential Marine Nature Reserve areas and both met OSPAR Commission scientific and socio-economic criteria for Marine Protected Areas. Ramsey Bay contains important eelgrass meadows and maerl beds and an extensive horse mussel reef is found in the Ballacash Channel (see Map 2 in the main document).

International scientific recommendations and evidence from Marine Protected Areas elsewhere support the establishment of highly protected marine areas. Through this consultation process, DEFA would also like to identify potential highly protected core areas with the site. Highly protected areas are protected from all extraction of marine resources and from as many additional impacts as possible.

The knowledge and support of all marine users and interest groups is required to identify these sites and to develop an effective management plan and byelaws for the proposed Ramsey Marine Nature Reserve.

With the support of fishermen and the local community it is anticipated that the Marine Nature Reserve will be implemented in 2011.

What is important about Ramsey Bay and the Ballacash Channel?

Ramsey Bay is important because of marine habitats such as horse mussel reefs, maerl beds and eelgrass meadows. These habitats are of conservation importance and are already protected in many other European countries. Ramsey Bay has also been recognised by fishermen as an important source of young scallops that seed other fishing grounds.



Photo 1: Horse mussel reef in the Ballacash Channel – the horse mussels are embedded in the seabed and provide a home for soft corals, sponges and many other animals and plants (Photo Rohan Holt, CCW)



Photo 2: Maerl, a red seaweed with a coral-like structure, in Ramsey Bay (photo taken from the DEFA Fisheries Protection Vessel Barrule). The pink pieces are living maerl and the white pieces are dead maerl.

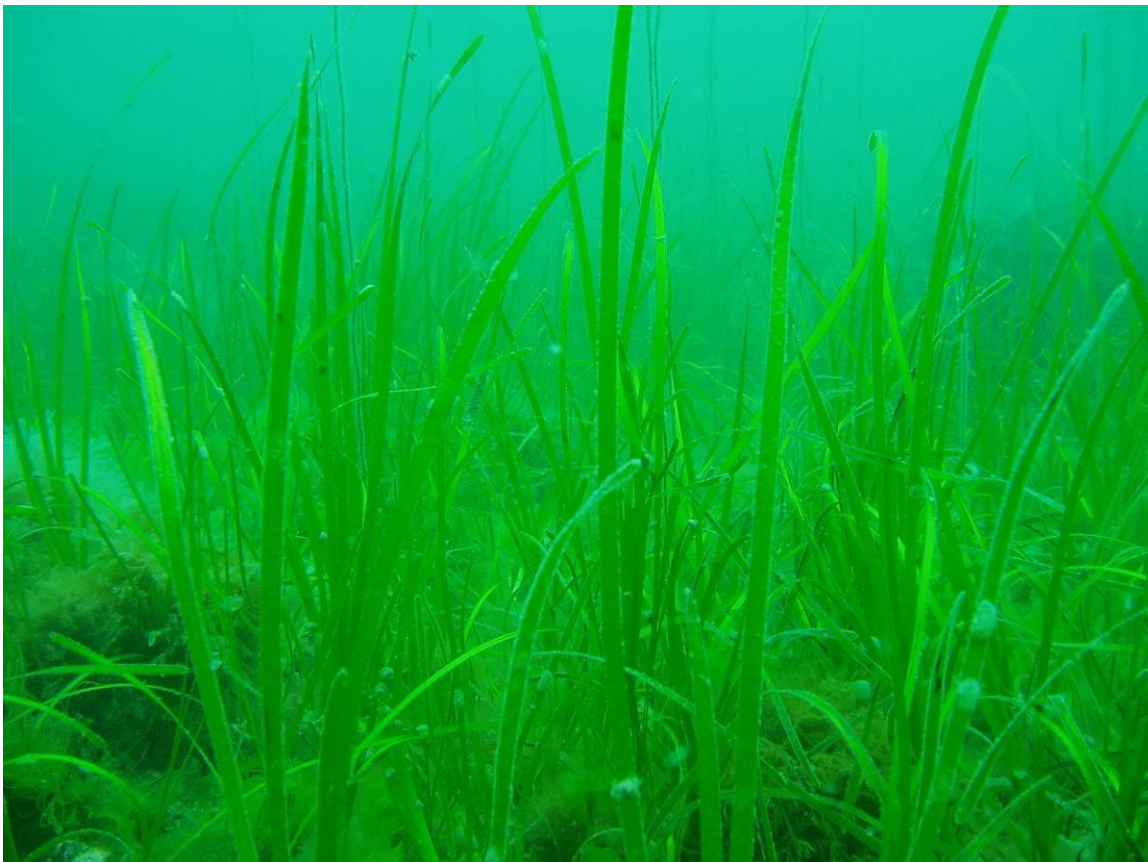
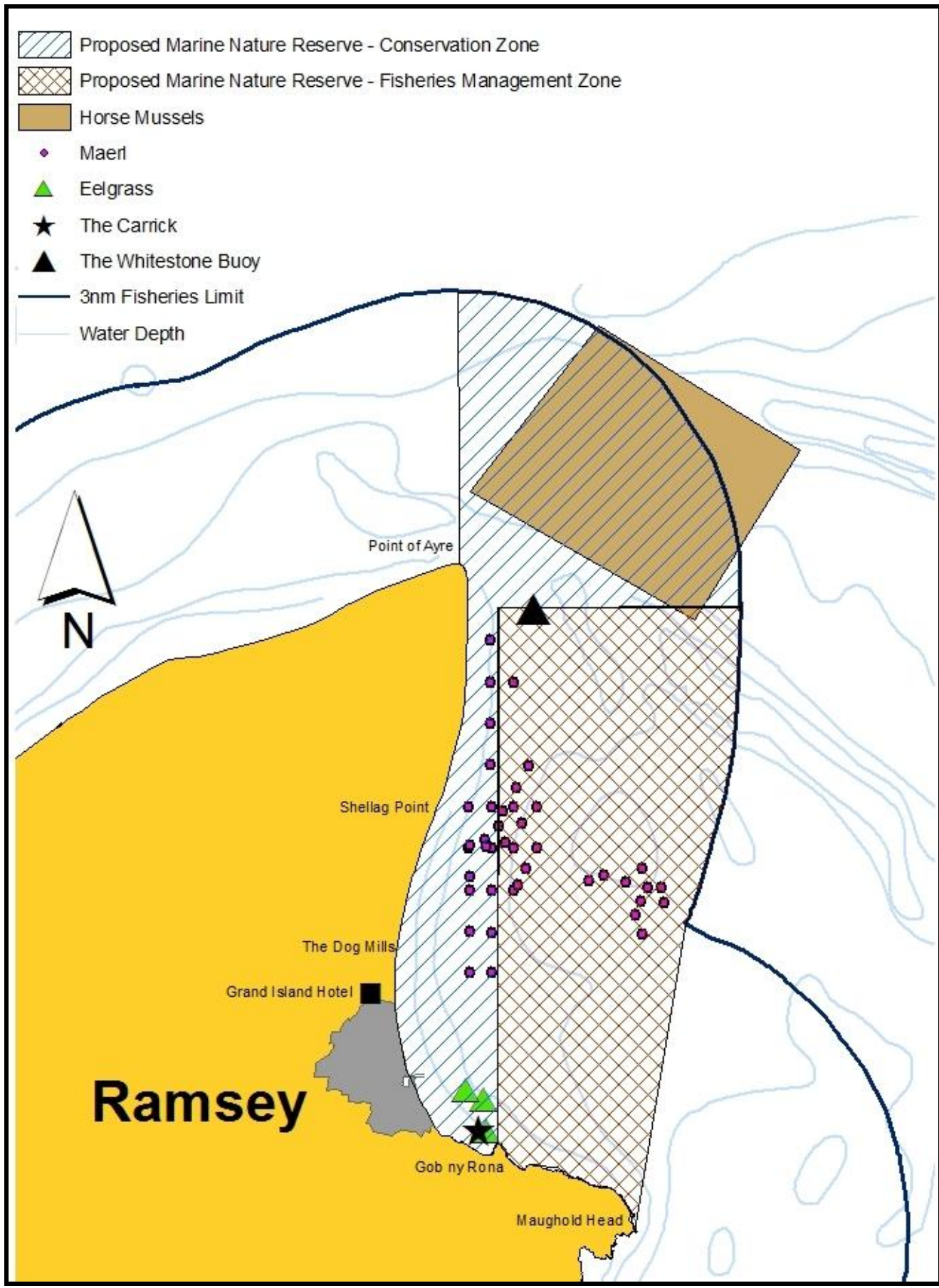


Photo 3: Eelgrass in Manx waters. Eelgrass is a flowering plant which grows underwater. It is protected by Manx law.



Map 2: The proposed Marine Nature Reserve areas and some of the main habitat features which would be protected within the area – eelgrass meadows (green triangles), maerl beds (pink dots) and horse mussel reefs (brown rectangle off the Point of Ayre). The Conservation Zone is the area closest to land which is hatched blue and the Fisheries Management Zone is the brown cross-hatched area to the right of the map.

Some of the management issues that are yet to be decided:

The MFPO proposal is a significant step towards the designation of the Isle of Man's first Marine Nature Reserve but many important decisions remain to be made about the site including:

- Whether the Marine Nature Reserve includes all or part of the shore within the area (a Marine Nature Reserve can extend up to the high water mark).
- Where within the proposed Marine Nature Reserve more highly protected core zones or No-Take Zones could be established.
- What other restrictions and management measures may be put in place in zones or throughout the site – for example, mooring buoys to reduce anchor damage, restrictions on damaging uses such as aggregate extraction, land-reclamation and off-shore construction.
- What opportunities can be developed for increasing access and recreational use of the site including interpretation boards, guided visits and involvement of local schools and other organisations.
- What opportunities may exist for developing renewable energy installations within or adjacent to the site.
- How the local community, particularly fishermen and divers, can be involved in research and monitoring of the site.

To make the right decisions on these and many other management issues DEFA needs to input of current users of Ramsey Bay and other members of the community.

Additional management and zoning required for an effective Marine Nature Reserve

In addition to the proposed closure of the Conservation Zone of the Marine Nature Reserve to trawling and dredging for scallops and queenies, some additional management measures may be required to protect the marine habitats within the area. For effective protection of marine habitats and the wider marine ecosystem, numerous scientific studies from around the world have recommended the use of highly protected core zones or "No-Take Zones". These areas allow the seabed to recover to a more natural state and can bring benefits to a much wider range of habitats and species than more limited protection measures. The UK Marine Conservation Zones project is currently developing a new network of Marine Conservation Zones which will incorporate highly protected zones.

Through this consultation process we want to work with marine users to identify damaging or unsustainable activities currently occurring in Ramsey Bay that could be better managed to be more compatible with the protection of marine habitats and the sustainable management of fisheries.

We would also like to identify areas within the proposed Marine Nature Reserve that would benefit from a higher level of protection. These zones are likely to be small areas within the larger Conservation Zone area **and there is no intention of developing the whole area as a No-Take Zone.** However, it may be necessary to close these small core areas to all extractive uses so we will be working closely with commercial fishermen, anglers, conservationists and other groups to identify the best places for these zones.

Consultation Questions

You can print off this section and complete.

You can also complete these questions quickly and easily online at:

www.surveymonkey.com/s/KGNKWJB

1. Do you currently use the sea or coast within the Ramsey Bay and Point of Ayre area?

Yes

No

2. What activities are you involved in/what is your interest in Ramsey Bay? Tick those which apply:

Bait collection

Bird/wildlife watching

Fishing (pots)

Fishing (trawling or dredging)

Fishing (other)

Jet skiing

Other watersports

Power boating

Recreational angling from boat

Recreational angling from shore

Sailing

Kayaking/canoeing

Scuba diving

Swimming/walking/visiting beach

None

Other (please give details)

3. Do you represent a particular marine interest group?

Yes Please give details _____

No

4. Have you read the Ramsey Bay Marine Nature Reserve consultation paper ?

Yes

No

5. Have you attended a drop-in session or other meeting about the proposed Ramsey Marine Nature Reserve?

Yes

No

6. Do you support the designation of Ramsey Bay and the Ballacash Channel as a Marine Nature Reserve?

Yes – I strongly support the proposal

Yes – I support the proposal

I can live with it

No – I have reservations about the proposal

No – I oppose the proposal

7. Which aspects of the proposal do you support and why?

8. Which aspects do you have concerns about and why?

9. Which, if any, restrictions do you think should be placed on the following activities in the Marine Nature Reserve (MNR)?

Tick those you agree with	Allow throughout the MNR area	Restrict to some areas within the MNR	Ban throughout the MNR area
Aggregate extraction			
Angling - catch and keep			
Angling - catch and release			
Bait collection			
Diving for scallops			
Dumping of dredged material			
Gill netting			
Jet skiing			
Long lining			
Oil exploration			
Pot fishing			
Power boating			
Queenie trawling			
Scallop dredging			
Scuba diving			
Tidal turbines			
Wave generators			
Windfarms			
Other _____			
Other _____			
Other _____			

10. Based on your knowledge of the uses of Ramsey Bay and its features of conservation importance, which areas of the proposed Marine Nature Reserve do you think should have the highest level of protection? Please describe which areas should be protected and from what damaging activities.

11. Do you have any additional information on current uses of Ramsey Bay?

12. Do you have any other relevant information that will help us make the best management decisions for the site?

13. Would you be interested in joining an advisory group for the development of the proposed Ramsey Marine Nature Reserve?

Yes

No

14. Would you or your organisation like to meet us to discuss this proposal and go through the consultation document?

Yes

No

15. Would you be interested in participating in a workshop to discuss the Marine Nature Reserve proposal in more detail?

Yes

No

16. Are there other marine sites in Manx waters which you think would benefit from protection as a Marine Nature Reserve? If yes, please give details?

Yes (give details below)

No

Don't know

Details of any other sites: _____

17. Do you have any additional comments or questions on the proposal to develop Ramsey Bay as a Marine Nature Reserve?

18. If you haven't already supplied your name and contact details above would you like to be added to our stakeholder list to be kept informed of progress with this project and to find out about opportunities to get involved?

Responding to this Consultation

This stage of the consultation is open for just over 2 months, closing on 28 February 2011.

During this consultation phase we are encouraging marine users and anyone else with an interest in Ramsey Bay or the marine environment to respond to this proposal. Responses can be submitted in writing (letter or email) to the address given below, through one of our workshops to be held in Ramsey over the next two months or directly through a meeting or phone call with us. Please indicate clearly whether or not you wish your comments to be made public (either with your name on them or anonymously).

Contact person: Dr Fiona Gell, Fisheries Directorate, Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture

Telephone: 01624 695738 or 695730

E-mail: fiona.gell@gov.im

Letter: Ramsey Marine Nature Reserve Consultation
Fisheries Directorate
Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture
Thie Slieau Whallian
St John's,
Isle of Man IM4 3AS

Stakeholder workshops: We will also be holding consultation workshops in Ramsey in early January 2011 where you can submit your answers to these questions directly and ask any additional questions you may have:

Saturday 15 January 10am-5pm. Drop-in session to talk to Fisheries Directorate staff, ask questions and respond to consultation questions.

Tuesday 18 January 2pm-8pm. Drop-in session to talk to Fisheries Directorate staff, ask questions and respond to consultation questions.

Individual/Group Meeting: If you have a particular interest in Ramsey Bay or any aspect of this proposal we would be very happy to meet with you or your organisation. We can answer any questions you have and also record any specific information you may be able to contribute. Just get in touch and we'll arrange a suitable time.

This consultation, and all other Isle of Man Government consultation exercises, can be viewed online on the consultation web pages of the Isle of Man Government website at:

www.gov.im/consultations.gov

For more information about the work of the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture see our website at:

www.gov.im/defa

Reference for this document:

Gell, F.R. & L. Hanley. 2010. Developing a Marine Nature Reserve for Ramsey. Summary Consultation Document. Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture, Isle of Man Government. 11 pp.



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