

Manx Marine Environmental Assessment

Tourism & Recreation



Surfing in *Baie ny Carrickey*. Photo: R. Lucas, 2012.

MMEA Chapter 7.1

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Manx Marine Environmental Assessment

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Introduction

The Isle of Man is a beautiful island with breathtaking scenery, unspoilt beaches, heather moorlands and a relaxed pace of life. By plane or boat the Island is within easy reach of England, Scotland, Ireland, Northern Ireland and Wales and for the thousands of visitors who are welcomed each year it is an unforgettable holiday and short break destination.

Marine Tourism and Recreation is recognised to be increasingly important economically to the Island and this chapter contains a brief introduction to the current tourism and recreation activities and facilities in Manx territorial waters and at the coast.

It is not the intention to provide detailed information on each activity and facility of the Isle of Man; instead this summary provides an initial baseline, contacts for key groups and organisations and links to other key sources of local information.

A brief and initial assessment of potential generic effects (which may affect tourism and recreation activities) from future developments in Manx waters is also provided. At this strategic level there are considerable uncertainties associated with the latter, as it deals with human responses to changes in the marine environment and the nature and scope of future developments are unknown. Consequently only very general comments can be made.

Baseline information is also provided in other chapters of the MMEA

Table 1. Other chapters featuring information relevant to Tourism and Recreation.

Further baseline information	Chapter
Search and Rescue Services – e.g. Marine Operations Centre, IOM Coastguard and the RNLI	See MMEA Chapter 6.2 – Shipping and Navigation
Marine protected areas – for fisheries and conservation purposes	See MMEA Chapter 3.7 - Marine and Coastal Conservation. See MMEA Chapter 4.1 - Commercial Fisheries and Sea Angling
Water and sediment quality	See MMEA Chapter 2.4. Marine Pollution
Marine mammals, basking sharks and birds	Chapters within MMEA Ecology/ Biodiversity Section (3.4, 3.5 and 3.6)
Underwater and coastal habitats, species and features	Chapters within MMEA Ecology/ Biodiversity Section (3.1, 3.2 and 3.3)
Coastal Geological features	See MMEA Chapter 2.4.Coastal Geology
Cultural heritage assets (e.g. shipwrecks)	See MMEA Chapter 5.1 Marine and Coastal Historic Environment

Baseline

The Isle of Man has approximately 118km of coastline, predominantly cliff-backed rocky shore, with sheltered sandy bays in the south and long exposed sand or shingle beaches in the north. A wide range of land-based activities take place along the Manx coast, including walking, hiking, cycling, camping, golf, beach recreation, bird and marine wildlife watching, rock pooling, horse riding, angling and occasionally the use of motorised vehicles. The most important examples of land-based leisure infrastructure on the coast and adjacent to it are the golf courses, campsites and rural car parks (which provide access points necessary for most land and water based leisure activities). The steam railway and tram network also operates along several key stretches of the Manx coast with views out to sea.

There are great opportunities for visitors and residents to see marine wildlife from shore and by boat including the resident seals and porpoise, and the occasional dolphin and whale. The Isle of Man is also a world renowned Basking Shark hotspot with hundreds of public sightings made predominantly from land, during the summer months (usually May until September).

Manx waters are extremely diverse and offer excellent scuba diving opportunities, from scenic shore dives and snorkelling explorations, to technical diving on offshore reefs and submerged shipwrecks. The Island is well recognised for its progress towards sustainable fishing with a network of closed and restricted areas for fisheries purposes. In 2011, the Island designated its first Marine Nature Reserve in Ramsey Bay for both fisheries and conservation purposes with support of the local fishing industry. It is envisaged that marine tourism and recreation may benefit indirectly from such initiatives.

Interest in watersports on the Island is stronger than ever and there is a growing uptake of marine and coastal leisure activities off the coast such as kayaking, scuba diving, jet skiing, kite surfing, coasteering, surfing, wind surfing, sea angling, sea swimming and climbing. The main infrastructure for water-based activities include marinas (Peel and Douglas), yacht moorings, dingy parks and launching slips for sailing and power-boat activities. The Island has remained a popular sailing destination for some time and 6 sailing and yacht clubs are listed by the Royal Yachting Association (RYA). Visiting yachts and pleasure boats often take advantage of the local restaurants, amenities and events, and also tend to purchase fuel and supplies for their vessels thereby adding to the Manx economy.

Many of the other important water sports practised in Manx waters use the same basic recreational infrastructure, or do not require coastal infrastructure other than land access to the coast.

Approximately 20 times a year cruise ships visit the island, bringing visitors ashore on excursions to visit heritage sites, golf courses and key landmarks. There are several commercial sightseeing tour operators and charter boats available and the Island hosts several marine and coastal sporting events, festivals and fun days.

Motorsport is one of the biggest tourist draws to the Island and while racing is the key attraction, many visitors also explore the coast during their stay and visit local attractions.

Popular activities

- Watersports – swimming, scuba diving, kayaking, surfing, etc.
- Coastal activities & sports – walking, hiking, cycling, sea angling, segway tours.
- Heritage and traditional cultural events - visiting castles, monuments and churches, museums, heritage centres, galleries etc.
- Natural history - wildlife excursions (coastal and at sea).
- Sightseeing – including round Island tours and charter boat excursions.
- Visitor Centres – wildlife and heritage.
- Education centres – schools, colleges.
- Public engagement - talks by groups, guided walks.
- Photography and Marine Art – including local events.

Seasonal activity

No area of the Manx coast is without recreational use. Peak activity at the coast generally occurs during weekends, bank holidays (including Tynwald Day 5th July) and school holidays.

Manx Beaches

Recreational use of the Manx beaches varies greatly, mostly due to accessibility and facilities. Port Erin, Peel, Ramsey, Laxey and Douglas are the most accessible shores and relatively sheltered position and sandy beaches make them popular for swimming and various water sports. The Point of Ayre and the Calf Sound are popular sites to visit, with good accessibility and parking, however dangerous water currents in these areas limit the shore usage. There are also many stretches of beach in less developed, quieter, less accessible locations all along the Manx coast.

Beach/ Water Quality

There are currently no Blue Flag beaches on the Island. Castletown and Debyhaven gained Recommended Beach status in the 2012 Marine Conservation Society's Good Beach Guide. <http://www.goodbeachguide.co.uk/>.

The Sewage Treatment Plant at *Meary Veg* has been operating since 2004 and treats sewage from 67% of the Island's population, after which the high-quality effluent is discharged into the Irish Sea off Santon Head. Sewage from Douglas, Onchan, Derbyhaven, Castletown, Port Erin and Port St Mary no longer discharges untreated to sea locally but is pumped to a modern sewage treatment works at Meary Veg.

Samples of sea water are tested every two weeks, between May and September, from the various designated bathing beaches around the Island. The results are then compiled by the Environmental Protection Unit (of DEFA) and displayed at the sampling points and on the DEFA website at: <https://www.gov.im/about-the-government/departments/environment-food-and-agriculture/government-laboratory/bathing-water-quality/>

Progress is complete for a £40m program of work associated with the first phase of the Regional Sewage Treatment Strategy, which has brought modern sewage treatment facilities to the remainder of the Island's towns and villages. Completed replacement sewage treatment plants include Patrick, Dalby, Bride, Jurby and Kirk Michael; new treatment works for Ramsey and Andreas; and further treatment plants in the north and west of the Island have now been completed under phase 1.

A second phase of the Regional Sewage Treatment Strategy, planned for 2016-2021, will provide sewage treatment facilities for those areas not covered by phase one, which include Peel, Laxey, Baldrine, Ballaugh, Sulby and the Central Valley.

Information on the IRIS Regional Sewage Treatment Strategy is available at:

<https://www.manxutilities.im/about-us/our-assets/sewerage/regional-sewage-treatment-strategy-phase-1/>

Further information on Manx beaches, facilities and shore characteristics is available in the 1989 Manx Beach Survey, Spence *et al.* (1989). See also MMEA Chapter 3.2 (Coastal Ecology) and MMEA Chapter 2.4 (Marine Pollution).

Manx Headlands & Cliffs

The rugged Manx coastline facilitates sea angling, coastering, climbing and there are numerous nesting seabird colonies. See also: MMEA Chapter 2.3 (Coastal Geology).

Historic and cultural sites

Heritage forms an important part of Island life and there are many historical attractions and ancient monuments spanning 10,000 years of Manx history. Sites are too numerous list but prominent attractions include:

- Castles
- Neolithic sites
- Viking burial sites
- Standing Stones

Visitor information on each of the Manx museums and heritage attractions is also available via: Manx National Heritage: <https://manxnationalheritage.im/>

MMEA Chapter 5.1 (Marine and Coastal Historic Environment) provides more information and a list of other key contacts with an interest in Manx heritage.

Harbours & Marinas

Please refer to MMEA Chapter 6.2 (Shipping and Navigation) for information about harbour and marina facilities. See also: <http://www.gov.im/categories/travel,-traffic-and-motoring/harbours/marinas/>

Marine Emergency Response

Please refer to MMEA Chapter 6.2 (Shipping and Navigation) for information about Search and Rescue services for Manx waters and at the coast including collaborative working between the volunteer services provided by Isle of Man Coastguard and the Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLI). See also: <http://www.gov.im/categories/home-and-neighbourhood/emergency-services/coastguard/> and <http://rnli.org/>.

Watersports

Watersports such as sailing, sea swimming, surfing, kitesurfing, kayaking, canoeing, rowing, coasteering and SCUBA diving are popular pastimes with visitors and local residents. Many of these activities are not constrained by particular facilities nor sites, although general trends exist. It is also worth noting that many Manx watersports enthusiasts are not always affiliated to local clubs and many individuals partake on a more occasional basis.

Sailing & Boating

The Isle of Man offers a range of sailing and boating activities which include yacht racing, yacht cruising, dingy racing, dingy cruising, personal watercraft, sport boating, power boating and motor boating.



Dingy sailing in Port Erin Bay. Photo: J. Quillin, 7th Wave.

Recreational boating is a year round activity although generally seasonal with highest activity occurring during the summer period (May – September). Often sailing is weather (wind) permitting/ tide permitting (e.g. Peel & Ramsey harbour access).

There are six sailing clubs on the Island with the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) as their governing body (Table 3.). Isle of Man Yacht Club and Port St Mary Yacht Club organise professionally recognised RYA training for both adults and juniors and all clubs run RYA shore based training courses including first aid and VHF radio courses. There are also two RYA recognised Sailing schools operating on the Island:

- 7th Wave: <http://www.7thwave-iom.com/>.
- The Venture Centre <http://www.adventure-centre.co.uk/>.

Sailing for the Disabled offers adults and children with a wide range of disabilities the chance to enjoy sailing on Pride of Mann II, a 46` Bavaria cruiser: www.sftd-iom.com.

Table 2. Sailing Clubs on the Isle of Man.

Sailing Clubs
Isle of Man Yacht Club
Douglas Bay Yacht Club
Manx Sailing and Cruising Club
Laxey Sailing Club
Peel Sailing Club
Castletown and Derbyhaven Motorboat and Yacht Club.

Locations

The UK Coastal Atlas of Recreational Boating (2008) by The Royal Yachting Association, supported by The Corporation of Trinity House, provides a comprehensive set of charts defining the cruising routes; general sailing and racing areas used by recreational craft around the UK coast and includes Manx waters.

This includes Manx waters in a wider Irish Sea context and an example map from the Coastal Code Atlas is provided in figure 1 on the following page.

Local marine users have suggested that a marine mapping exercise with liaison of local users would be a useful addition, to map spatial and temporal trends of local inshore use in more detail.

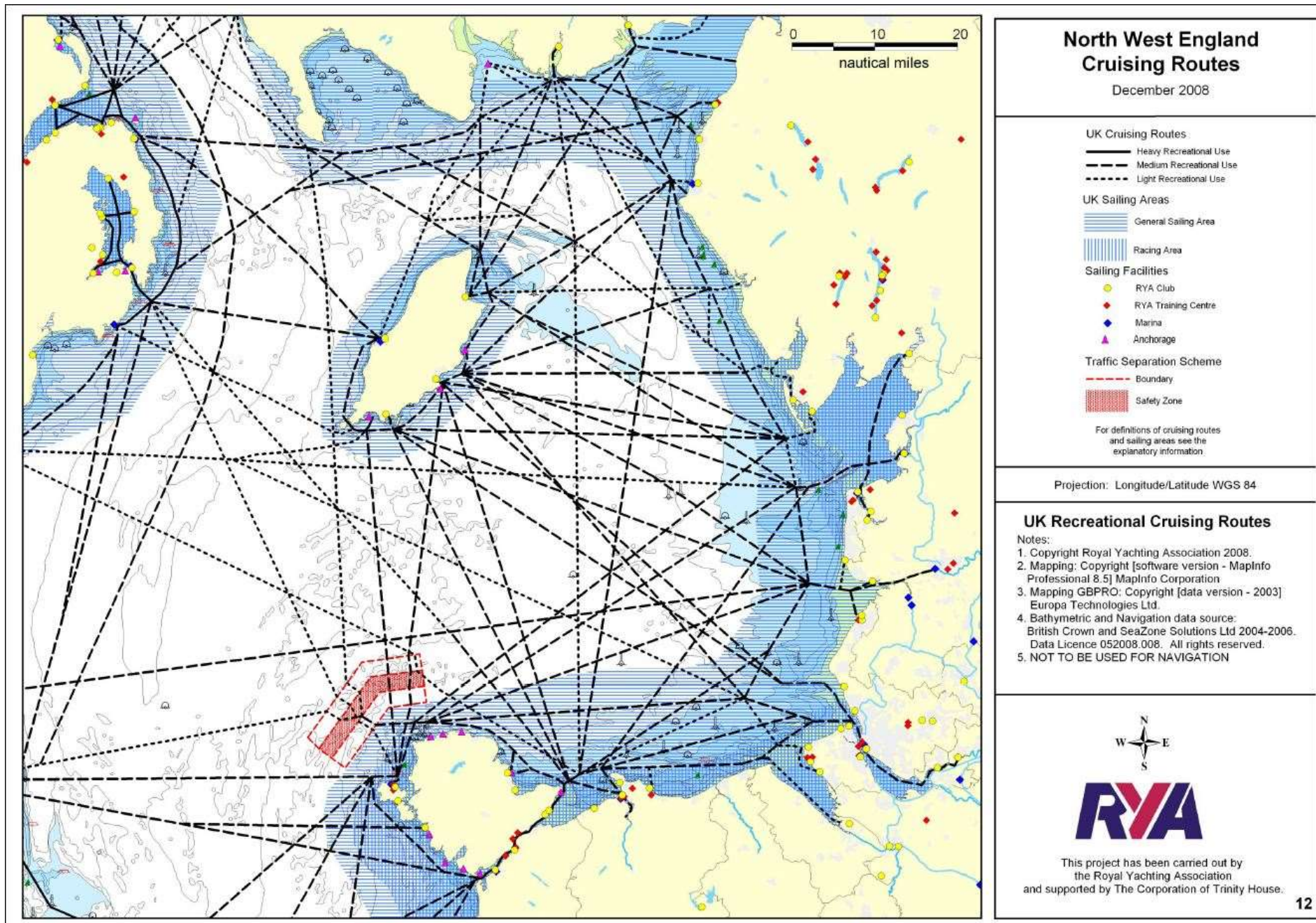


Figure 1. UK Recreational Cruising Routes in Manx waters in the wider Irish Sea context. Data Source of the cruising routes, sailing areas, racing areas and sailing facilities: Royal Yachting Association, 2008. Mapping: Copyright [software version - MapInfo Professional 8.5] MapInfo Corporation; Mapping GBPRO: Copyright [data version - 2003] Europa Technologies Ltd.; bathymetric and Navigation data source: British Crown and SeaZone Solutions Ltd 2004-2006. Data Licence 052008.008. All rights reserved; NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION.

Events

Tables 4 and 5 below provide a snapshot of some of the races and other boating events occurring in Manx waters. There are also regular regattas and sailing sessions listed on club websites.

Historically the Irish Offshore Racing Association (sailing) also used to also visit Manx waters with approximately 20-30 yachts however this event has since been diverted elsewhere.

Table 3. Snapshot of sailing race events in Manx waters.

Event	Location	Period	Approx. people involved
RS Tera Open Event		Annual	Approx 20 locals and 8-10 visiting families
National 18 Championship		Every 4 years	Approx 30 boats Approx 90 competitors plus families visiting the south of the Island.
Wi-Manx Regatta Ramsey		Annual -November	
Round the Island Race	Port St Mary to Ramsey	Annual	Local yachts Approx. 5 visiting boats and crews.
Round the Island Race	Ramsey to Port St Mary	Annual -May	Local yachts Approx. 5 visiting boats and crews.
Peel Traditional Boat Weekend	Peel	Annual -July	Approx. 20 + boats
Isle of Man Dingy Championship		Annual -August	
Island Games 2011	Ramsey	Annual	40 sailors competed
MS&CC Ramsey to Laxey Coastal Race		Annual	
Regattas			
Racing	Port St Mary, Ramsey, Peel		
Dingy Sunday Series			
Dingy Evening Series			

Table 4. Other boating events in Manx waters.

Event	Location	Period	Approx. people involved
Rib Runs	IOM to Ireland RTN	At least annually	Approx. 6 boats (50 people).
International Viking Longboat Race	Peel	Annual – 1 day	Over 100 boat entries. Approx 1000 + people to Peel.
Tin Baths Race	Castletown	Annual – 1day	
RNLI Days (demonstration days and fundraising events)	Peel Port St Mary Port Erin Ramsey Douglas		

Jet Skiing

Use of Personal Water Craft, commonly known under the trade name of 'Jet ski' is a growing year round activity with increasing numbers of private jet ski owners on the Island and the

occasional visiting craft. The activity occurs in almost all sea and weather conditions dependant on skills level and experience. Usage is generally near shore although experienced riders occasionally venture offshore to approximately 2-3 nautical miles. In addition to coastal and near shore activity, a few experienced Isle of Man riders also take occasional trips across the Irish Sea e.g. to locations such as Workington (UK) from Ramsey.

Launch areas have restrictions due to conditions, state of tide and accessibility, and there are also restrictions within harbour areas and near safe bathing areas. A few examples of launch areas include Ramsey, Peel, Douglas (within the harbours); Port St Mary (slipway); Port Erin (beach launch).

Further information and guidance

Further information and guidance for recreational boat users is available in MMEA Chapter 6.2 (Shipping and Navigation).

Guidance on sailing and recreational boating is also available from the Royal Yachting Association including:

- The Green Blue (a joint RYA and BMF initiative): <http://www.thegreenblue.org.uk/>
- RYA Planning & Environment: <http://www.rya.org.uk/infoadvice/planningenvironment/Pages/default.aspx>.

A booklet on Sea Safety Guidelines for personal watercraft users can be obtained from the Royal Yachting Association (RYA), RNLI Sea Safety Officers or from Isle of Man Coastguard.

See also:

- Isle of Man Coastguard: <http://www.gov.im/categories/home-and-neighbourhood/emergency-services/coastguard/> and
- Royal National Life Boat Institute (RNLI): <http://rnli.org/>.

A Manx Coastal Code has been established to help safeguard wildlife, while allowing locals and visitors to enjoy all coastal activities (see item later): https://www.gov.im/media/184257/coastal_code_booklet.pdf

For further information please see: <https://www.gov.im/categories/travel-traffic-and-motoring/harbours/>

SCUBA Diving

The Isle of Man, with its extremely diverse and plentiful marine life offers excellent scuba diving opportunities for all. The waters are clear with generally good visibility (occasionally up to 30m). The Manx underwater environment has interesting physical characteristics including shipwrecks, caves, drop-offs and rocky ledges. Technical deeper dives are also available.

Although scuba diving is more popular during the summer months, diving occurs year round with the sea temperature ranging from 6-15°C.

Several commercial dive companies operate on the Isle of Man, offering both boat and shore based dives, including facilities for pool (sheltered water) training and theory. Diving tourism has increased in recent years, and several companies now offer full diving holiday packages. In addition, several of the local charter boats also operate as dive charters.

Table 5. Commercial Dive Operators.

Dive Operator	Weblink	
Discover Diving, Port St. Mary	http://www.discoverdiving.im/	Range of diver training including technical. Dive trips and charters. Equipment hire. Air fills inc. mixed gases for certified divers.
Isle of Man Diving Charters/ Holidays.	http://www.isleofmandivingholidays.com/	Full diving packages inc. accommodation, charters, air fills and equipment.

A number of local clubs have been established; however, not all locally qualified divers are affiliated to local clubs or club locations. Clubs that are affiliated to the following organisations can be found from following websites:

- www.bsac.com/
- www.scotsac.com/
- www.padi.com
- www.divessi.com/

Table 6. Manx Dive Clubs

Club	Weblink
Isle of Man Sub-Aqua Club	http://www.isleofmansubaquaclub.com/
IOM Aquaholics	
Manx Divers	
Discover Diving	http://www.discoverdiving.im/
Southern Diving Group	
Castaway Sub Aqua Group	http://www.divingtheisleofman.co.uk/index.htm

Other relevant dive groups:

Seasearch is a project for volunteer divers who have an interest in what they're seeing underwater, want to learn more and want to help protect the marine environment around the coasts of Britain and Ireland. MMEA Chapter 3.3 (Subtidal Ecology) gives insight to some

of the key survey work the Seasearch volunteers have been involved in. See also: <http://www.seasearch.co.uk>.

Key dive sites

The Isle of Man has a fantastic choice of exciting and colourful dive sites. In conversations with local scuba diver operators, Jemma Aitken identified over 107 dive sites regularly used for her MSc thesis with the most frequently used sites concentrated in the south of the Island; Port Erin, Port St Mary, The Calf of Man and offshore sites. Regular site use was also identified at Port Erin, Port St. Mary, Peel, and the south at Langness. Other existing sites were identified along the east coast of the Island and further offshore on wrecks.

Deep dives (>40m) to shipwrecks and other offshore features are inaccessible without mixed gas diver training, time, experience and the right environmental conditions (wind, tide, currents) and is therefore not common.

A few key sites are listed in table 8. See also MMEA Chapter 5.1 (Marine and coastal historic environment) for further information about shipwrecks in Manx waters.

Chart information is often inadequate for planning dives and it is advised that information be sought from local experienced divers and clubs. Water quality is also a key consideration for dive site location.

The following books provide comprehensive information on many key dive sites and locations though dated.

- Mitchell M and Hextall B (1994). Dive Isle of Man. Underwater World Publications.
- Sanderson B, McGregor B and Brierley A (1994) Dive Sites and Marine Life of the Calf of Man and Neighbouring Area. Immel Publishing.

Table 7. A few key dive sites.

Site	Summary details
The Liverpool	35040metre steamship, which struck a mine in 1916
Clan McMaster	nestled into the rocks in the Calf Sound
Garden Rock	a pinnacle rising up from the seabed at 18m
Fenella Ann	A fishing trawler lying in 40m
<i>Creg-y-Jaggie</i>	a sheltered site in the entrance to the Calf Sound
The Citrine	a wreck site in 15m water
Port St Mary Ledges	rock gullies with overhangs and lots of lobsters
The Stack	highly tidal, but a good dive
The Sugarloaf Caves	scenic
The Peveril	40m wreck of a Steam Packet ship sunk after a collision in 1899 en route from Liverpool to Douglas
Calf Sound	a drift dive
The Afton	a scenic wreck in 22m water
Thracian	a steel barque which sunk under tow
The Burroo	a scenic dive with rock gullies and overhangs

Other local dive facilities/services

The Isle of Man Hyperbaric Medical Facility is operated by the Kevin Gray Memorial Trust, and provides hyperbaric oxygen therapy not only to divers, but to a wide range of patients suffering from injuries and chronic medical conditions. See: <http://www.hyperbaric.im/>.

Further dive information

Please refer to MMEA Chapter 3.3 (Subtidal Ecology) for information about underwater species and habitats which are of interest to many scuba divers including Seasearch volunteers.

Please refer to MMEA Chapter 5.1 (Marine and Coastal Historic Environment) for information about historic wrecks and requirements for reporting all finds to the Isle of Man Receiver of Wreck.

Snorkelling

Snorkelling activities occur in most locations around the Island and although more popular in the summer season, snorkelling is considered a year round activity. A few key snorkelling sites are provided in table 9 below. Training is available from local scuba diving schools (see previous section).

Table 8. A few key snorkelling sites.

a) Accessible from Shore

Site	Brief details
Chapel Beach, Port St Mary	All abilities Easy training site, gentle sloping out to the raft
The Ledges, Port St Mary	ASSI
Port Erin	Easy access from beach and jetty (to deeper water at 4m)
Port Soderick	Dive/snorkelling planning required
Port Gren	Dive/snorkelling planning required
Fleshwick	Access from beach (tide dependant)
Niarbyl	Access from beach
Fort Island/ Causeway	Caution to avoid disturbance to protected eelgrass habitat.

b) Accessible by Boat

Site	Brief details
Puddle	
Cletts	Seal haul-out. Seasonal and caution to avoid wildlife disturbance.
Kitterland	Seal haul-out. Seasonal and caution to avoid wildlife disturbance. Tide dependant.

Open Water Sea Swimming

Open water swimming is currently enjoying a resurgence of interest across the British Isles (including Manx waters), as evidenced by the immense popularity of the Great Swim series (<http://www.greatswim.org/>). Swimming in a wild environment offers a unique challenge, as well as being a great way to keep fit, meet new people and see new places, or familiar places from a different vantage point.

The Isle of Man has a long history of bay swims, with past events at Douglas, Ramsey, Peel, Laxey, Port Erin and Port St Mary. Having picked up the tradition, the Manx Mile looks set to be a long-running event, with the number of entrants (including those from off-Island) increasing each year.

Safe Bathing areas exist but sea swimming is not limited to the immediate shores. For more information on the Safe Bathing areas, see: <http://www.gov.im/about-the-government/departments/infrastructure/harbours/information-and-legislation/safe-bathing-areas/> and The Coastal Code: <http://www.gov.im/about-the-government/departments/infrastructure/harbours/information-and-legislation/coastal-code/>.

Events

The Manx Mile, was an annual event run in conjunction with the Isle of Man Queenie Festival, which saw swimmers undertake a course one mile long from the beach, round the PSM bay and back again.

New Years Day Dips take place in various locations around the Island on New Year's Day.

Peel Bay Swim recommenced in 2012 to coincide with the Peel Castle O'Limpets event organised by Manx National Heritage.

Port Erin Annual Bay Swim as part of the Port Erin Beach Festival and Regatta.

Groups and Links:

A group of dedicated, hearty open water swimmers meet on Sundays throughout the year on the Port Erin jetty. Other meetings take place across the island on an impromptu basis, with numbers participating increasing during the summer months. Details can be found at <http://www.iomswim.im>

Other individuals also sea-swim on a more occasional basis.

Triathlon

The Manx Tri-Club organise competition events on the Isle of Man with swims usually occurring in sheltered bays or Mooragh Park Lake in Ramsey.

For more information including events and contacts please see:

<http://www.manxtriclub.com>

Sea Kayaking

The Isle of Man offers great opportunities to experience the adventure of sea kayaking with dramatic coastline with caves and coves, and opportunities to see marine wildlife. The sport has been growing in popularity, particularly since 2003 when the Islands first Sea Kayak Symposium was held. There are now several organised groups and commercial organisations operating on the Island offering training, tuition, guided journeys and equipment sales. Kayaking is also an informal activity that takes place in Manx waters (mostly near shore). Kayak fishing is a recent addition which is starting to grow in popularity.

Sea kayaking is a popular year round activity in Manx waters, taking advantage of the seasons and what they offer. Each season has its own aspects to watch marine wildlife and to take advantage of the best use of light (photography, perception).

Sea and tide conditions are a key factor for different activities or locations. However skilled sea kayakers may take advantage of the widest range of conditions and so weather and sea state is rarely a limiting factor. There are no pre-requisites to start learning to sea kayak outdoors and although beginners and novices often prefer to start learning indoors, there is normally a sheltered bay somewhere around the island.

An approximate estimate of the number of people actively participating in sea kayaking has been provided initially by a key Outdoor Provider, as shown in table 10 below.

Table 9. Estimated number of active participants in Sea Kayaking.

	Summer	Winter
Weekend	60 - 200	30 – 100
Throughout week – day & evening	60 - 300	15 - 60

Tuition & Training

Introductory sessions and guided journeys around the Manx coast are organised through the following clubs and centres on the Island and several are also members of the Isle of Man Outdoor Providers Group (see subsequent section for contacts):

- Manx Paddlesports
- Adventurous Experiences
- Mobex (at the Childrens Centre)
- The Venture Centre
- Ardwhallin Outdoor Pursuits (DOE)
- 3rd Peel Sea Scout Group
- Kelvins Tackle

Locations and facilities for kayaking

Sea kayaking occurs all around the Isle of Man although most frequent locations are chosen for accessibility e.g. where it is easiest to enter the sea. Locations for activity on the water are often along the most varied stretches of scenic coastline.

High use areas include Peel, Niarbyl, Ramsey, Port Erin, Port St Mary and Laxey with reasonable car parking, public toilets and access to the sea. Other areas are used less often or with smaller groups. The Venture Centre and Manx Paddle Sports run introductory sessions on Mooragh Park Lake (Ramsey) throughout the year. Indoor swimming pools are also key to developing long term local skills for paddlers.

Seasonal restrictions for kayaking

Certain stretches of coastline are restricted seasonally on a volunteer basis by many sea kayakers due to marine wildlife sensitivities e.g. bird nesting seasons and sensitive areas and seal pupping season. There are also codes of conduct provided regarding behaviour proximity to marine wildlife including basking sharks which usually visit Manx waters between May and September.

An initial Manx Coastal Code prepared by the Isle of Man Coastguard is available via the following website link: https://www.gov.im/media/184257/coastal_code_booklet.pdf

Many outdoor activity centres and clubs often follow their own codes of conduct to avoid wildlife disturbances and several groups are also accredited under the WiSe Scheme having received training on wildlife friendly operation (see later).

Table 10. Summary of local kayaking events.

Event	Location	Period	Organiser / Notes
Isle of Man Adventure Race	Various	Annual	Adventurous Experiences
Isle of Man Sea Kayak Symposium	Various	2003	Adventurous Experiences
Round the Calf trips	Near shore	Year round Limited during seal pupping season.	
Round the Island kayaking Circumnavigation	Various		
Trip across the Irish Sea to Ireland/ Cumbria.	Open water	Occasional	Not club orientated.
Sunset trips	Near shore	Seasonal. Mostly April – October	
Night-time trips	Near shore	Mostly Winter	

Isle of Man Kayak Fishing Competition	Various	Annual September	
Young Persons Sea Kayaking Adventure Journeys	Various	Annual August	Venture Centre
Kelvin's Tackle Kayak Fishing competition	Various	Annual September	
Isle of Man fishing club – sea kayak fishing trip	Various	Annual July	

Coasteering & Gorgewalking

Coasteering is a relatively recent but now established activity, albeit a niche one, on the Isle of Man which can be undertaken all year round, and in all conditions. Coasteering involves traversing along a stretch of coastal/intertidal zone, often as part of an organised group activity. Participants travel across rocks and through water, using a variety of techniques including climbing, swimming and jumping into water. Coasteering guides and participants wear appropriate clothing and equipment while undertaking coasteering activities.

Gorge walking is a popular activity that involves climbing waterfalls and swimming across ponds while negotiating a river bed, albeit another niche activity.

Training involves supervised journeys and tuition generally within an organised group by one of the outdoor providers through the intertidal environment. This develops awareness and ability in a variety of disciplines within the environment.

Activities occur in all seasons and conditions although dependent on local knowledge, skill and the desired outcome of a session.

Any rocky coastal/intertidal area of the Manx coast with access may be used for Coasteering though dependant on local awareness of the specific sea conditions, location and risk. Certain areas are used more frequently including at Peel (e.g. the back of Peel castle) and Port Erin. There are no current Coasteering activities around the Calf of Man due to limited accessibility of location and risk of disturbance to marine wildlife.

Surfing

Surfing is a year round activity in Manx near shore waters, dependent on the local weather conditions (particularly wind direction) and the resultant wave height. There are no local clubs, groups or training operators and surfing takes place across the island on an impromptu basis. It is thought to be a growing sport for the Isle of Man although there are

limited opportunities for surf tourism nor commercial operators due to the unpredictable nature of the waves.

Table 12 provides a summary of a few surf spots around the Island which vary in frequency of use, accessibility, and requirements for skills and competency. Some of these sites would also be popular with experienced kayakers, who also use the waves to surf back into shore.

Table 11. A few examples of key surf locations around the Island.

Surf Spot
Drivers – near Kallow Point, Port St Mary
Outfall pipe – behind Port St Mary harbour
The Edge - Santon, near the new runway extension
The Point - Kallow Point, Pt St Mary
Barrel Rock - Kallow Point, Pt St Mary
Sewerage - Next to Drivers, between PSM Harbour and Kallow Point.
The Cove – Santon Gorge
Laxey Bay
Gansey Bay (Bay ny Carrickey)
Peel Bay / Fenella
Derby Haven Bay
Port Erin Beach
Castletown Bay
Glen Mooar – Glen Wyllin
Whitestrans Beach

Further information regarding surfing

Surfers Against Sewage published guidance for offshore renewable developers, 'Guidance on Environmental Impact Assessment of Offshore Renewable Energy Development on Surfing Resources and Recreation (2009). The document is available to download from:

<https://www.sas.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sas-guidance-on-environmental-impact-assessment.pdf>

Kitesurfing

Kite surfing is a relatively new extreme sport which has slowly grown in popularity over the last eight years on the Island. Currently there are approximately 20 or more local Manx residents regularly and actively kite surfing in Manx waters with varied skills levels. They are not affiliated to a local club or organisation. A few other experienced riders occasionally visit from elsewhere and a few residents also have kite buggies.

Not all beaches in the Isle of Man lend themselves to kitesurfing and site use is mainly dictated by weather conditions and state of the tides. There is a preference for inshore water, sandy uniform shores with gentle sloping profile and good water quality. Kite surfing

activities occur from the beach out to approximately ¼ nautical miles to sea, which is restricted by safety implications and experience level. Derbyhaven Bay and Castletown Bay are the most frequently used areas with other sites including Gansey, Douglas, Ramsey, Peel and occasionally Laxey, Niarbyl, Ballaugh and Glen Wyllin.

Professionally recognised training courses are organised on the Island a few times a year. See: www.kiteboardinglessons.co.uk.

Preference for windy conditions, usually a force 4 or above on the beaufort scale. A force 8-9 (approx 45 knots) becomes too dangerous. Kite surfers seek onshore winds (variations of onshore); low tide or a couple of hours either side of a high or low tide.

Kite surfing is a year round activity on the Island with preference for the summer months, evenings and weekends. In the summer, it is possible for an 'active' Manx kite surfer to surf approximately 3-4 times a week depending on conditions (approx 60/70 sessions a year per person) of a few hours duration.

Windsurfing, waterskiing, wakeboarding

Windsurfing also occurs in Manx waters has growing popularity and often occurs from beaches e.g. Derbyhaven Bay and Castletown Bay. It is condition dependant.

Waterskiing and wakeboarding from powerboat occasionally occurs in sheltered bays e.g. Derbyhaven and Bay ny Carrickey.

Coastal activities and other sports

The Isle of Man coast provides the opportunity for a vast array of coastal sports and recreational activities to be undertaken.

Recreational Fishing/Angling

The Manx coast offers great opportunities for high quality coastal and offshore angling. Shore based locations include piers and promontories, rocks, estuary and beach and angling from a boat or kayak is also a very popular activity. Several local businesses have developed to provide various boat trips for residents and tourists.

Local events include:

- Ramsey Angling Festival in May. See: <http://www.ramseyanglingclub.com/>
- Mannin Angling Club Fishing Festival. See: <http://www.manninanglingclub.co.uk/>

For further details please see MMEA Chapter 4.1 (Commercial Fishing and Sea Angling) which includes links to other local groups and gives record sizes and weights of species caught. Details about local charter boats and facilities are also listed within MMEA Chapter 6.2 (Shipping and Navigation).

Visit our website for further information about Angling on the Isle of Man:

<https://www.visitisleofman.com/things-to-do/activities/fishing>

Walking & Hiking

Walking and hiking is extremely popular all around the Island and is undertaken by visitors and Isle of Man residents alike. Many of the most popular walks are located close to or on the coastline, or in upland areas for their coastal views in addition to cultural and historical aspects.

Visit our website for full details of walking routes with downloadable maps:

<https://www.visitisleofman.com/things-to-do/activities/walking-and-hiking>

The regularly updated Isle of Man Outdoor Leisure Map contains many of the popular walks, as well as highlighting the recognised Rights of Way. This map is available for purchase from <http://www.gov.im/categories/planning-and-building-control/mapping/leisure-mapping/>

Key locations include:

- National Glens: <http://www.gov.im/categories/leisure-and-entertainment/walking/national-glens/>
- Plantations: <http://www.gov.im/categories/leisure-and-entertainment/recreation-on-hill-lands-and-in-plantations/>
- Parks and Gardens: <http://www.gov.im/categories/leisure-and-entertainment/parks-and-gardens/>

Long Distance Paths

The three long distance paths are listed in table 13 and information for these walks is available from: <http://www.iomguide.com/> and the Long Distance Walkers Association: <http://www.ldwa.org.uk/index.php>.

Table 12. Long Distance Footpaths.

Footpath	Distance
Raad ny Foillan(Way of the Gull)	95 miles
Bayr ny Skeddan (Herring Way)	15.5 miles
Millennium Way	24.1 miles

Warden's Walks

A series of interesting and varied self-guided Warden Walks are available from: <https://www.gov.im/categories/leisure-and-entertainment/walking/forestry-wardens-walks/?iomg-device=Mobile>

Walking Events are listed on our website [visitisleofman.com](http://www.visitisleofman.com) and this should be the first point of contact for all events featured below

Isle of Man Walking Festival

The Isle of Man Walking Festival is an annual event, taking place each May for all levels of walkers. Information is available from:

<http://www.visitisleofman.com/whatson>

The Parish Walk

The Parish Walk takes place every year with over 1000 entrants. The full walk covers 85 miles through the 17 island parishes. For further information and a map of the route see:

<http://www.parishwalk.com/>.

End to End Walk

The annual Ramsey Bakery End to End walk is a 39.22 mile walk from the Point of Ayre in the northernmost tip of the island, down the west coast and on to finish at the southernmost tip at The Calf Sound. The event takes place in September on open public highways. For further details and route map see: <http://www.endtoendwalk.org/>.

Guided Walks

Guided walks for a variety of interests are often organised by local groups.

For full details of Guided Tours available on the Isle of Man please see our website.

<https://www.visitisleofman.com/things-to-do/tours-and-sightseeing/guided-tours>

Segway Tours

A private business has recently been established offering Segway Tours along Douglas Promenade and in other locations around the island - <http://www.segway.im/>

The Great Union Camera Obscura

The Great Union Camera Obscura on Douglas Head was built during the 1880s and is now one of only four remaining in the British Isles. Unlike other Camera Obscura' which were originally built for astronomical purposes, the Great Union was built purely as an attraction for the flourishing Manx tourist industry. Through a series of mirrors and lens units it provided visitors with spectacular views of Douglas, as well as opportunities to spy on other tourists on Douglas Head. The Camera Obscura was refurbished in 2005. It is manned by the Isle of Man Victorian Society on a voluntary basis and is open on weekends and bank holidays during summer.

For further information please contact the Isle of Man Victorian Society or see:

<http://www.isle-of-man.com/manxnotebook/towns/douglas/cobscura.htm>

Golf

There are nine golf courses on the Isle of Man (8 are 18-hole) with 5 of the courses located alongside or adjoining the Manx coastline, on sandy soil, linking the beaches to the arable land further inland. Many of the other Manx courses also boast extensive sea views. The courses are listed in table 16 below.

For further information and contact details please see:

<http://www.gov.im/tourism/thingstoseeanddo/active/golf.xml>

Table 13: Golf Courses on the Isle of Man.

Golf Courses on the Isle of Man
Castletown Golf Course
King Edward Bay Golf Course
Mount Murray Golf Course
Port St Mary Golf Course
Ramsey Golf Course
Rowany Golf Course
Peel Golf Course
Douglas Golf Course

Cycling

Cycling is a very popular sport on the Isle of Man and many cycle routes and roadways have unique coastal views. Popular route information is available from:

<https://www.visitisleofman.com/things-to-do/activities/cycling>

The Isle of Man Cycling Association is the governing body for Cycling on the Isle of Man and affiliated clubs include:

Table 14. Affiliated clubs.

Affiliated cycle clubs
Ellan Vannin CC
Manx Road Club
Manx Viking Wheelers
MMBC
Ramsey BMX

Visitors can also explore the Island by hiring bikes through Isle of Man Cycle hire, Erin Bike Hut and Green Wheels.

Mountain biking is increasingly popular and information about several key routes can be found at: <https://www.visitisleofman.com/things-to-do/activities/cycling>

See also: <http://www.manxmtb.com/>

Events:

'The End 2 End' is an annual mountain biking event, held every September which involves a one day, 75km route of the Isle of Man. It involves a thrilling mixture of fast roads, moorland paths, country lanes and forest singletrack with many coastal views enroute. For further information. See www.manxe2e.org.

Relevant access restrictions:

DEFA welcomes cyclists to many parts of the estate. However, some areas remain out of bounds for reasons of ground and environmental protection, as well as for the safety and enjoyment of the riders and other visitors.

Climbing and Abseiling

Training and guided sessions are available through several of the Isle of Man Outdoor Providers listed in subsequent section below.

Training is also available at the Islands newest all weather climbing facility, 'Hot Rocks', see: <https://www.visitisleofman.com/things-to-do/hot-rocks-climbing-wall-p1290831>

Climbing and abseiling are more popular activities along certain parts of the coast than others. Users are encouraged to consult the Code of Conduct for Outdoor Providers to obtain information about seasonal restrictions in the vicinity of seabird colonies, or to contact the DEFA or Manx National Heritage for further advice.



Experienced rock climber abseiling at the Chasms. R. Lucas 2012.

Camping

Camping is one type of accommodation available on the Isle of Man. However, yurts, bunkhouses and log cabins are also available.

Camping is popular on the Isle of Man by visitors and residents alike. Many visitors choose organised sites with facilities, especially during the TT fortnight. For further information about accommodation, campsite locations, contacts and lists of facilities please see:

<https://www.visitisleofman.com/where-to-stay/camping-glamping-and-motorhomes>

Although camping is generally prohibited on the Ayres National Nature Reserve, up to a maximum of 15 motor homes (no tents) are authorised for overnight camping on the Recreation Area, at the western end of the site, for a maximum of 3 consecutive nights. There are no facilities. For further information please see:

<https://www.gov.im/categories/leisure-and-entertainment/camping/>

Horse riding

Horse riding is a popular activity at the coast for both non-competition ('happy hackers') and competition riders, particularly at Kirk Michael and the Ayres, with beach access to sandy beaches.

The following offer pony trekking facilities: <https://www.visitisleofman.com/things-to-do/ballahimmin-riding-and-pony-trekking-centre-p1291511>

Further information and contacts are available from the British Horse Society – IOM Branch which has a Facebook page and website <http://www.bhs.org.uk/bhs-in-your-area/north-west/isle-of-man>

Photography and Marine Art

The dramatic and ever changing Manx coast, the marine life and coastal activities including the Manx fishing industry and recreational activities, are frequently captured by both amateur and professional photographers and artists.

An internet search can provide links to numerous websites and Facebook pages dedicated to the fields of both photography and marine art.

Many professional artists and photographers sell their work both locally and abroad and several are award winning and with international reputations. Training courses and workshops are often organised on the Island for a range of ability.

For further information please see:

The Isle of Man Photographic Society: <http://www.iomps.com/>.

The Western Photographic Society: <https://www.westernphotographic.org/>

The Sayle Gallery in Douglas has artists in residents: <http://www.saylegallery.com/>.

Isle of Man Arts Council: <http://www.gov.im/artscouncil/>.

An Artists Perspective – Personal Thoughts of Marine Artist – Nicola Dixon

The marine environment is a place of peace, a place to gather ones thoughts, and to gather together as they walk on a summers evening along the promenade. Therefore important for the people on the Island in a way that cannot be calculated. It is important for the mental health of the nation, and the spiritual health too.

In Manx mythology, the Island was ruled by Manannan mac Lir, a Celtic sea god, who would draw his misty cloak round the Island to protect it from invaders (from Wikipedia).

The marine environment presents an image and a sense of place that people can readily bring to mind. It is far better that the outside observer of the Isle of Man is home to its basking sharks and wonderful scenery, rather than the fact it is home to banks, trusts and online gambling. This comment arises from posters that greet you when you arrive at Ronaldsway, and made me despair at the image the Island promotes itself.

If someone buys an image of a coastal scene of the Isle of Man for their home, on the Island or abroad, and lives with it daily, then this is a powerful reminder of a place. The reputation of Cornwall as a beautiful place to visit has been hugely enhanced by its artists and their coastal scenes.

Artist Jeremy Paul won several category awards at Wildlife Artist of the year. Norman Sayle frequently painted the Manx coast and was placed several times in the Sunday Times water colour competition. This recognition put their subject matter, frequently the Manx coast to a wider audience.

Photography. Readily, globally dispersible images thanks to digital media for example. Andy North's photography is now used by Manx National Heritage. I shared a file of his wonderful coastal photos on Facebook and got wonderful comments from saying how lovely the Island was from friends all over the world.

Bird & Wildlife Watching

The Manx coastline provides essential breeding and wintering grounds for many bird species and a wide variety of different marine species can be observed around the Manx coast including cetaceans (porpoise, dolphin and whale) and basking sharks.

The Isle of Man is long established as a popular destination for bird and marine wildlife watching activities and more recently specialist marine tourism on the Island has started to increase with a growing number of commercial operators offering boat tours and guided excursions. Boat tours generally operate out of various ports across the Island and can be chartered for a full day or a half days trip. Tour operators are generally residents with extensive local knowledge and experience to share and locations and routes are usually based on very specific local knowledge of the local wildlife and may not be well documented. Many charter boat operators are also affiliated with the WiSe scheme having received training to increase their awareness of the local wildlife and how they can best reduce any impact (see below).

Local organisations including Manx Birdlife, The Manx Wildlife Trust and Manx National Heritage also organise local walks to explore the local wildlife.

Information on Coastal Ecology is provided in MMEA Chapter 3.1

Information on Species of interest including cetaceans, seals, basking shark and birds is provided in the relevant MMEA Chapters 3.4 to 3.7.

In the last few years, the Isle of Man has featured in several key media items and documentaries with focus towards its wide variety of local wildlife including the BBC's One Show, Countryfile and Countrywise. Media items also gain an international audience.

WiSe – Wildlife Watching

The WiSe Scheme is the UK standard for commercial marine wildlife watching. WiSe (Wildlife Safe) aims to promote responsible wildlife-watching, through training, accreditation and awareness-raising and there are several operators listed for the Isle of Man who have undergone training. For a list of Manx operators please see: <http://www.wisescheme.org/operators/isle-of-man/> (please this page is not up to date).

Manx Marine Scene

The Manx Wildlife Trust has a network of marine interpretation sites around the Manx coastline. The initial phase of the project established sites at Marine Drive (Douglas), Port St Mary ledges, Bradda Glen (Port Erin), Niarbyl and Peel breakwater. The second phase saw a display established at Castletown. Each site consists of information panels and a set of fixed, pedestal mounted binoculars, which will be free for the public to use. Information panels give facts about the more frequently seen species, how to spot and identify them, as well as details as to what and when is likely to be seen at that specific location. This facility enables tourists and residents to learn more about what marine wildlife can be seen, as well as giving them the ability to spot and watch them better through the binoculars. The final scene will be installed at the Ayres NNR on the raised platform.

Key Marine and Coastal Events

Queenie Festival/Beach and Sea Festival

From 2008 and until 2015, The Queenie Festival, held in Port St Mary, had been a popular event. However, this stopped in 2016 but has now been incorporated into the Port Erin Beach and Sea Festival in Port Erin. The Festival aims to educate people and to raise

awareness of the diversity of the marine wildlife in the surrounding sea and celebrate all elements that connect with it, including conservation, recreation, fishing and science.

A popular attraction for families during the festival are the Manx Wildlife marine mega tanks, containing local marine creatures for a close up experience. Manned by keen local volunteers and MWT staff the tanks.

Royal National Lifeboat Days (RNLI)

Each of the lifeboat stations on the Island hold event days during the summer for fundraising with rescue demonstrations and fun games. Please see MMEA Chapter 5.1 for a brief history to the RNLI on the Island, or see www.RNLI.org. The RNLI Lifeboat stations are listed and mapped in MMEA Chapter 6.2 (Shipping and Navigation) and a history to the formation of the RNLI is provided in MMEA Chapter 5.1 (Marine and Historic Marine Environment).

Peel Carnival

The carnival takes place along Peel promenade and along the quayside with a variety of live music, activities for children, sand sculpture, classic cars and the Grande parade of decorated floats and fancy dress. See: <http://www.peelonline.net/>

Town Fun Days

Several of the Islands coastal towns host annual family fun day events with activities including sandcastle competitions, beach sports and games and other entertainment.

Motorsport

Motorsport is one of the biggest tourist draws to the Isle of Man and while racing and motorcycle events are the key attraction for many of these specialist visitors, visitors and their families also explore the Island on the 600 miles of local roads to visit local attractions and festival events during their stay.

Motorcycling

The Snaefell Mountain Course or Mountain Course is a road-racing street circuit used in both the world-famous TT race (Tourist Trophy) Festival of motorcycle racing and the Manx Grand Prix races. There are breathtaking views of Manx territorial waters from the Mountain Course. The racing is held on public roads closed for racing by an Act of Tynwald (the parliament of the Isle of Man). The course is 37.733 miles (60.73 km) in length and is the oldest motor-cycle racing circuit still in use.

The 4.25 mile (6.48 km) Billown road circuit near Castletown hosts other events including the Southern 100.

During these festivals many local events are hosted including coastal and beach events, live music etc. to coincide and entertain. In addition several vintage rallies, moto-cross, trials and sand racing also occurs. Sand racing is usually held on the beaches at Peel, Ramsey, Port Erin and Port St Mary (Chapel Beach). Coverage of the TT races is shown in over 80

countries worldwide and media coverage often displays coastal and aerial images of the Island. For further information see:

- Isle of Man TT - <http://www.iomtt.com/>
- Isle of Man Festival of Motorcycling - <http://www.iomfom.com/>
- Southern 100 - <http://www.southern100.com/>

Rallying

The Isle of Man hosts several motorcar rallying events with stages on closed roads including through several Manx coastal towns. These include:

Rally Isle of Man (formally the Manx International Rally or Manx Trophy Rally) a round of the British Open Rally Championship. See: <http://www.rallyisleofman.co.im>

Manx Rally (formerly the Manx National Rally) a round of the British National Rally Championship. See: <http://www.manxrc.com/>

Manx Classic races features cars (old and new) in sprints and hill climbs. See: <http://www.manxmotorracing.com/> The Ramsey Sprint for example occurs along a 1/8 mile strip overlooking Ramsey Bay.

Guidelines

An Environmental Code for Land use by Motorised Vehicles is provided by Government at: <https://www.gov.im/categories/leisure-and-entertainment/event-safety/environmental-code-for-land-used-for-motorised-events/?iomg-device=Mobile>

Data availability

The main sources of available information for tourism and recreation activities in Manx waters and along the Manx Coast are listed below. Further information may also be obtained from the key departments, key groups and organisations listed in the next section.

Isle of Man Visitor Website

The main Isle of Man visitor website hosted by the Department of Economic Development gives details of local accommodation, events, attractions, activities, TT and motorsport and travel information. See: <http://www.visitisleofman.com>

Tourist Information Centre

The Welcome Centre is open throughout the year at the Sea Terminal Building, Douglas, Isle of Man IM1 2RG.

Other key sources of information include:

- Sightseeing guidebooks.
- Dive guide books.

- Department of Economic Development downloadable leaflets and hard copy “one Stop Guide”.
- Manx Wildlife Trust, Manx National Heritage and others.
- The Royal Yachting Association (RYA) and the Cruising Association (CA) represent the interests of recreational users. Information is also obtainable through discussions with Manx Sailing Clubs.
- Further guidance documents available from the Royal Yachting Association include:
 - o RYA The Green Blue: <http://www.thegreenblue.org.uk/>
 - o RYA Environment & Planning:
<http://www.rya.org.uk/infoadvice/planningenvironment/Pages/default.aspx>
- Information leaflets, booklet and pamphlets available from the Isle of Man Welcome Centre.
- UK Coastal Atlas of Recreational Boating (RYA 2009).
- Admiralty charts: 1411; 1826; 2094 (UK Hydrographic Office).
- Ordnance Survey’s Landranger map (number 95).
- Student theses e.g. PhD, MSc, MBA, BSc.
- A booklet on Sea Safety Guidelines for personal watercraft users can be obtained from the Royal Yachting Association (RYA), RNLI Sea Safety Officers or from Isle of Man Coastguard.
- Personal anecdotal information – local knowledge is extremely valuable and often an untapped resource at a strategic whole Island level.

Key Departments, Groups and Organisations

Department for Enterprise

Information relating to The Department for Enterprises’s role for Tourism and Recreation is available from: <http://www.gov.im/ded/>
<https://www.gov.im/about-the-government/departments/enterprise/tourism/>

The Department for Enterprise – Tourism – launched it’s new strategy document in 2016 the “Isle of Man Destination Management Plan 2016 – 2020. This can be viewed via the following link: <https://www.visitisleofman.com/trade/strategy/strategies>

For further information about Tourism on the Isle of Man please see: <http://www.visitisleofman.com/>

Manx Sport and Recreation (MSR) is part of the Isle of Man Government’s Department of Community, Culture & Leisure and is responsible for operating a range of sporting facilities and for Sports Development throughout the Island. Please see: <https://www.gov.im/about-the-government/departments/education-sport-and-culture/sport-and-recreation/>

The Isle of Man Sports Council

The Sports Council is a semi-autonomous body, which is charged by the Department of Community, Culture & Leisure. Please see: <http://www.isleofmansport.com/>.

The Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture

DEFA is the custodian of some 28,000 acres of land including eighteen mountain and coastal National Glens spread around the Island, preserved and maintained in a semi-natural state by the Forestry, Amenity and Lands Division. The Department also has responsibility for Fisheries and Nature Conservation and for information relating to designated areas including Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI), Ramsey Marine Nature Reserve and other closed and restricted areas for fisheries protection please see MMEA Chapter 3.7 (Marine and Coastal Conservation).

Local Government and The Local Authorities (Town Commissioners)

Beach restrictions – local byelaws e.g. littering, dog access restrictions are generally set by the Town Commissioners. For contacts and further information about the functions of Local Government and The Local Authorities (Town Commissioners) please see: <https://www.gov.im/categories/home-and-neighbourhood/local-authorities/>

Manx National Heritage (MNH)

Manx National Heritage acquires and preserves areas of outstanding natural beauty and ecological significance for wildlife conservation and public enjoyment. The National Trust Service administers over 3,000 acres of land and 35 properties under Manx National Heritage ownership. Table 18 provides a list of lands owned or administered by Manx National Heritage along the Manx coast that are open to the public for rambling.

Table 15. Manx National Heritage land at the coast - open for public rambling.

MNH Land (open)
Spanish Head and the Chasms area
Maughold Head and Brooghs
<i>Gob ny Rona</i>
<i>Port-e-Vullen</i>
Ballakesh and Ballakeyl Ayres
the <i>Dhoon Brooghs</i>
St Michael's Isle
the Calf of Man and Kitterland
Eary Cushlin
the Creggan Mooar Brooghs

Please note that in accordance with the byelaws of the Manx Museum and National Trust, interference with wildlife or archaeological sites, unauthorised shooting and metal detecting are not permitted on Manx National Heritage or Manx Museum and National Trust lands. Persons contravening these byelaws are liable to prosecution.

For further advice on pursuing outdoor activities (such as climbing and coasteering) at sensitive sites, please contact Manx National Heritage or consult the Code of Conduct for

Outdoor Providers.” This is to alert users to the potential for seasonal restrictions on certain activities, particularly at The Chasms, where nesting birds are vulnerable to disturbance.

For further information please see Chapter 5.1. (Marine and Coastal Historic Environment) and refer to the following webpage: <https://manxnationalheritage.im/>

Manx Wildlife Trust (MWT)

The Manx Wildlife Trust is the leading nature conservation charity on the Isle of Man, with concern for both terrestrial and marine environments. Information and maps of all Reserves managed by the Manx Wildlife Trust are available at: http://manxwt.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=57&Itemid=64

At the coast the Manx Wildlife Trust owns *Cronk Y Bing* (15 acres) and other areas are leased as follows:

- Scarlett (the building and car park) but not the foreshore area.
- At the Ayres MWT lease the visitor centre building and adjoining immediate ground. The reserve itself is jointly owned by DEFA and MNH.

The Manx Wildlife Trust operates several projects on the Island with Tourism and Recreational interest including:

The Wildflowers of Mann Project which exists to promote and preserve native Manx wild flowers. The Project is also involved in a multi-year major project - surveying the Island for the Manx Flora Atlas. Work began in March 2009, and more information will be available shortly. Please see:

<http://www.manxwt.org.uk/what-we-do/wildflowers-mann>

Manx Wildlife Trust Education Program. The Manx Wildlife Trust has a strong commitment to education and every year, over two thousand children get closer to nature with first-hand experiences to gain a greater understanding and enjoyment of the natural world and our place within it. Typical outdoor activities include, but are not limited to:

- Pond/River dipping
- Rockpooling
- Mini-beast hunts
- Bird Feeders

See MMEA Chapter 7.2 (Marine Education and Awareness Raising) for further information about other marine education activities or via: <http://www.manxwt.org.uk/what-we-do/outdoor-learning>

BioBlitz. The public are welcomed to participate in the annual terrestrial and marine BioBlitz events, organised by Manx Wildlife Trust (in association with DEFA and other local groups), where two closely located sites including a site at the coast are surveyed by volunteers to locate and identify as many different species as possible, in a single day. A bird, shark and cetacean count from shore also commences and Seasearch divers often coincide one of their underwater survey dives also.

Marine Scene Boards. A series of marine information boards have been installed around the Island to inform locals and visitors of the marine life seen around our coast. Each site also includes a set of binoculars to help spot the wildlife. More information can be found via: <http://www.manxwt.org.uk/discover-our-island/marine-scene-viewing-sites>

Isle of Man Outdoor Providers Group

The IOM Outdoor Providers Group has been set up to share and access information. Participating providers offer a wide range of pursuits including (not comprehensive): coasteering adventures, gorge scrambles, rock climbing, walking, abseiling, hill navigation training, team building activities, bushcraft and 'survival' weekends.

Table 16. Participating groups of the Isle of Man Outdoor Providers Group.

Outdoor Provider	Web link
The Adventure Education Team, part of the Department of Education and Children and Youth Service	https://www2.sch.im/groups/adventureed/
The Venture Centre	http://www.adventure-centre.co.uk/
Adventurous Experience	http://www.adventurousexperiences.com/
Mobex – The Children’s Centre	http://www.thechildrenscentre.org.im/what-we-do/children-young-people/mobex/
Discover Diving	http://www.discoverdiving.im/
Manx Wildlife Trust	http://www.manxwt.org.uk
Go-Mann Adventures	http://www.go-mannadventures.com/
Ape Mann	http://www.apemann.info/
Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture	https://www.gov.im/about-the-government/departments/environment-food-and-agriculture/
Ardwhallan Outdoor Education Centre	https://ardwhallan.im/

Isle of Man Charter Skippers Association

The IOM Charter Skippers Association formed in 2009 and represents the majority of charter boat operators in the Isle of Man who provide fishing, wildlife, diving, filming, pleasure and workboat charters. As the premiere Association that represents charter boat interests, their objective is to improve the professional charter boat operator's image and to provide a strong voice in the Isle of Man. All members of the association are accredited and certified operators. All charter boat businesses contribute to the local and national Manx economy and are playing an increasingly important role in the development of specialist tourism in the Isle of Man.

Please see: <http://www.ioncharterskippers.com/about.html>

Manx Nature Conservation Forum

The Manx Nature Conservation Forum is mentioned within this Chapter since the participating groups regularly hold popular events which attract visitors and local residents alike.

Please see the Forums website <http://manxbiodiversity.org/> for further details and contact details of the 27 participating local organisations.

Initial Considerations for Future Marine Development

The current key value to DfE/Tourism is as a Cruise Destination, walking and associated activities and as a mode of transport to travel to the Isle of Man. Other activities whilst having an impact on visitor experience, are probably not their main reason for travel. We do continue to promote these activities however and try to collect data in terms of those participating in them.

The Manx marine and coastal environment plays a key part in the Tourism and Recreation sectors for the Isle of Man. As a consequence, any impacts from coastal and offshore development could affect the associated industries, sporting and recreational activities.

The following potential generic effects are noted as a starting point for future discussions with marine stakeholders. The effects listed are not comprehensive. It is important to note that this is a subjective and generalised assessment given that the nature of future development in Manx territorial waters and at the coast is currently unknown. Best practice may be for a developer to carry out appropriate assessments as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment in collaboration with Isle of Man Government and with early engagement with key marine stakeholders.

Access

Development at the coast has the potential to restrict access to sites and the Manx shoreline. This may restrict the use of sites directly or indirectly for example;

- boat launching areas
- footpath
- beach access points
- car parks

Construction activities at the coast including structures at the coast and the installation of cables may lead to restrictions to access certain areas of the Manx coast. The degree and duration of any such restrictions will be dependent on the nature and scope of the development.

Visual impact/ seascape

Many people visit the Isle of Man primarily for its unique coastal scenery, so anything that affects the natural or cultural beauty of the surrounding area could have a potential effect to Tourism and Recreation activities.

Water quality

Development at the coast or offshore has the potential for accidental spillages and leaks which could affect Manx water quality to consequently affect tourism and leisure activities. Washings and plumes may affect areas outside of a construction working area. As such there may be risks due to smothering dependant on physical characteristics e.g. tides.

Noise

Development at the coast or offshore has the potential for increased noise, including underwater noise, due to increased shipping activities, construction activities e.g. piling, installation of cables and devices and the movement of machinery parts.

Increased noise to the marine environment has potential effects on tourism and leisure activities. In particular, underwater percussive noise is likely to have direct adverse effects to marine wildlife and could act as a deterrent to recreational activities and water sports especially scuba diving.

For further information on the effects of underwater noise to marine mammals please see MMEA Chapters 3.4a & 3.4b (Marine Mammals).

Collision risks and access restrictions to certain areas

Any marine devices or structures placed within Manx waters are associated with increased collision risk or displacement to marine activities. Submerged and surface piercing structures would present a potential hazard to other users of the marine environment. Any collision could cause damage to vessels and danger to health and safety.

Avoidance or buffer zones surrounding any future structures or devices may have a negative effect similar to collision risks. Where there is likely to be an increased collision risk, access restrictions may be enforced to reduce the collision risk, however this could also lead to a reduction of traditional marine activity usage.

Please refer to MMEA Chapter 6.2 (Shipping and Navigation).

Conflicts between users

Any future coastal or marine development that benefits one interest may have an effect upon another. There is a current lack of understanding of restrictions between each sport and activity.

Disturbance to marine wildlife

Any potential development at the coast or offshore has potential for disturbing or displacing marine wildlife and fish. Any effect to wildlife is likely to have an associated adverse effect to associated tourism e.g. wildlife watching activities. Generic effects are noted under relevant chapters.

Survey work

Vibrations within the water column from sonar or other acoustic equipment travel long distances and may affect and/or disturb marine animals and scuba divers alike.

Local beach changes – energy effects

Potential changes in wave energy to the coast e.g. through the siting of new coastal or offshore structures may lead to changes to marine processes and wave profiles e.g. erosion, accretion, wave height.

Artificial Reef

New structures underwater have the potential to act as fish aggregating devices and benthic artificial reefs. They may also create new habitat for a few species. However, this is not always the case. Potential will be dependent on the nature of the receiving environment and the structures being put in place.

Creation of tourism and leisure activities – e.g. sight seeing

New and novel devices or structures in Manx waters have the potential to provide a new opportunity for people to gain firsthand experience. There is the potential for a positive opportunity for sightseeing, especially in the short term. If a new marine centre of excellence was opened in tandem with a potential development, such opportunities could be further boosted. However, as an Island the audience potential is limited to population (approx. 80,000) and visitors.

The tourism and recreational industry

As the Marine and coastal tourism and recreational industry develops likely impacts may require sustainable management measures to ensure participants do not unduly impact, damage, alter the environment which attracted them to participate in the first place.

Initial Considerations for handling potential effects from future marine development

Where potential effects have been identified the following general suggestions are made. The following generic information and initial guidelines are provided as a reference source to assist in the initiation of early discussions between potential developers, Isle of Man Government, key marine users and the general public.

Access

- Preserve or enhance existing infrastructure that supports activities where possible e.g. trailer parks and slipways.

Noise disturbance

- Undertake construction, wherever possible, outside of the peak tourist season (April to September) to minimise disruption to visitors and outside of important seasons for marine wildlife e.g. seal pupping.

- Avoid areas of key tourism and leisure activity use e.g. The Calf Sound, and with bays and harbour areas.

Visual impact/ seascape

- Depending on the nature of development use designs that are not surface piercing, are only slightly above sea level, and out of sight from major towns and villages.
- Undertake construction, wherever possible, outside of the peak tourist season.
- Use designs that are sympathetic to the receiving environment, landscape and seascape where possible.

Safety and collision risk/ restriction to access

- Avoid key cruise routes and water sports areas.
- For shoreline devices/ structures or landfall cabling, avoid key recreational areas.
- Where possible facilitate access through or over the developed area.
- Use suitable safety features including lighting, netting and buoys.

Conflicts between Users

- Support the provision of information to marine users, stakeholders and the general public e.g. through initiatives such as this project.
- Facilitate meetings that bring together differences of opinions but take advantage of new facilitated meeting techniques to ensure meetings are constructive.

Survey work

- Provide early and informative updates about survey work being undertaken in Manx waters e.g. use of sonar, or percussive test drilling.
- Appropriate and early liaison with relevant stakeholders.
- Ensure appropriate assessment of impact to marine and water users is carried out with ways to reduce or mitigate against impact applied where feasible.

Water quality

- Avoid areas noted for cleanest water quality e.g. Castletown and Derbyhaven have been identified as Recommended Beaches in the 2012 MCS Good Beach Guide.
- Review cumulative and wider impacts.
- Review impacts in a temporal and spatial context e.g. short versus long term effect, and scale of impact.

Disturbance to wildlife

- Where possible avoid designated areas such as ASSI's (Areas of Special Scientific Interest) and other key wildlife sensitive areas as identified early through early liaison with DEFA and local organisations. Please refer to MMEA Chapter 3.7.
- Carry-out appropriate assessments, survey work and risk assessments depending on the nature, location and scope of the development and its proximity to potential sensitive areas.
- See the relevant Ecology Chapters for other suggestions.

Managing the tourism and recreational industry

- Manage the contact with marine wildlife experiences and in coastal areas.

Energy extraction affecting marine processes and wave profile

- Modelling survey work.

Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

Early consultation offers the best means of avoiding potential conflicts and issues e.g. where impacts are likely to be high and difficult, or costly to remedy or mitigate later. By consulting early, developers can also enact appropriate mitigation into their decisions about siting, design and operation of any future development in Manx waters.

Marine users are encouraged to get involved in and contribute towards Government consultations, such as the Manx Marine Environmental Assessment.

It is recommended that Marine Stakeholders should work with developers and Government to identify the best way forward for the marine environment and activities.

Confidence and Knowledge Gaps

Initial identification of key gaps has identified a current lack of spatial information collated on marine recreation and tourism activities for Manx waters.

There are currently no available studies on risk regarding socio-economics for any future potential marine developments including offshore industries e.g. wind, wave, tidal infrastructure, oil and gas infrastructure to marine recreation and tourist activities.

There is limited information currently available about how tourists and recreation users may react to any future potential development in Manx territorial waters which may be dependent on nature, scope, location, potential impact and whether best practices in development methods are applied.

There is a current lack of socio-economic information about current activities including assessment of the value of Marine and Coastal Tourism other than numbers of people in accommodation which does not reflect the value of the industry, nor the marine environment to the Island.

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