Tourism & Recreation


MMEA Chapter 7.1

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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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Further baseline information</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Search and Rescue Services – e.g. Marine Operations Centre, IOM Coastguard and the RNLI.</td>
<td>See MMEA Chapter 6.2 – Shipping and Navigation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine protected areas – for fisheries and conservation purposes</td>
<td>See MMEA Chapter 3.7 - Marine and Coastal Conservation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>See MMEA Chapter 4.1 - Commercial Fisheries and Sea Angling.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water and sediment quality</td>
<td>See MMEA Chapter 2.4. Marine Pollution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine mammals, basking sharks and birds</td>
<td>Chapters within MMEA Ecology/ Biodiversity Section (3.4, 3.5 and 3.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underwater and coastal habitats, species and features.</td>
<td>Chapters within MMEA Ecology/ Biodiversity Section (3.1, 3.2 and 3.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coastal Geological features</td>
<td>See MMEA Chapter 2.4. Coastal Geology.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural heritage assets (e.g. shipwrecks).</td>
<td>See MMEA Chapter 5.1 Marine and Coastal Historic Environment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 & 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 16 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 (approx. 25th July – 25th August).

**Isle of Man Tourism Awards**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 2 Recent winners of the IOM Tourism Awards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Attraction of the Year</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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/](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:


and


Progress is underway with a £40m program of work associated with the first phase of the Regional Sewage Treatment Strategy, which will bring modern sewage treatment facilities to the remainder of the Island’s towns and villages. Recently completed replacement sewage treatment plants at Patrick, Dalby, and Bride, and projects for Glen Maye, Glen Mona, Corony and Jurby have started with design work ongoing for Maughold, Port Lewaigue, Booilushag, Kirk Michael, Andreas and Ramsey.

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:

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, coasteering, 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: [http://www.gov.im/mnh/](http://www.gov.im/mnh/).

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/](http://www.gov.im/categories/travel,-traffic-and-motoring/harbours/marinas/)

**Marine Emergency Response**


**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.
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 3 Sailing Clubs on the Isle of Man.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sailing Clubs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Isle of Man Yacht Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port St Mary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manx Sailing and cruising club, Ramsey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laxey Sailing Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peel Sailing Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castletown and Derbyhaven motorboat and yacht club</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.**

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:
- www.manxsailracer.com
- www.msandcc.org

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 4 Snapshot of sailing race events in Manx waters

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

Table 5 Other boating events in Manx waters.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Approx. people involved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Queenie Festival – Trawler race</td>
<td>Port St Mary</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>Approx. 6 fishing vessels. Part of bigger festival.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honda Powerboat Championships</td>
<td>Douglas Bay</td>
<td>Annual – 2days</td>
<td>*See subsequent section of this document.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rib Runs</td>
<td>IOM to Ireland RTN</td>
<td>At least annually</td>
<td>Approx. 6 boats (50 people).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Viking Longboat Race</td>
<td>Peel</td>
<td>Annual – 1 day</td>
<td>Over 100 boat entries. Approx 1000 + people to Peel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tin Baths Race</td>
<td>Castletown</td>
<td>Annual – 1day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RNLI Days</td>
<td>Peel</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(demonstration days and fundraising events)</td>
<td>Port St Mary, Port Erin, Ramsey, Douglas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Powerboat Racing

The Honda Formula 4 stroke power boat series sees 225hp and 150hp race boats contesting a multi-lap course of Douglas Bay. The racing first appeared in Manx waters in 2005. A ‘Round the Island Race’ is also held. Racing in Douglas Bay brings fleets tight to the shoreline, creating a spectacle for watching from shore along Douglas promenade. In addition, the regional finals of the Honda RYA Youth RIB Championships are also held.

Racing is usually held in the afternoons on two days over a weekend and is weather dependent as Manx waters can be very rough and unpredictable at times.

Race organisers and their teams are advised about the presence of basking sharks in Manx waters which may cause a physical obstruction at sea, with collision risk to both the animals and the race teams. Powerboat race organisers are advised to liaise with Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture and Manx Basking Shark Watch (of Manx Wildlife Trust) for updates on recent public sightings. Observers around the race course are mandatory to keep a sharp watch for basking sharks and an elevated shore-based location is often preferable to observations by boat, to gain an enhanced view in changeable conditions.

For further information and contacts please see: http://honda.class1uk.co.uk/.

Jet Skiing

Use of Personal Water Craft, commonly known under the trade name of ‘Jetski’ 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/
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:


For further information please see: [www.gov.im/infrastructure/harbours](http://www.gov.im/infrastructure/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 6. Commercial Dive Operators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dive Operator</th>
<th>Weblink</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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/](http://www.bsac.com/)
- [www.scotsac.com/](http://www.scotsac.com/)
- [www.padi.com](http://www.padi.com)
- [www.divessi.com/](http://www.divessi.com/)

### Table 7. Manx Dive Clubs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Club</th>
<th>Weblink</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Castle Rushen Divers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IOM Aquaholics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manx Divers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southside Divers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Diving Group</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castaway Sub Aqua Group</td>
<td><a href="http://www.divingtheisleofman.co.uk/index.htm">http://www.divingtheisleofman.co.uk/index.htm</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Other relevant dive groups:**

**Seasearch** is a project for volunteer sports divers who have an interest in what they're seeing under water, 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/](http://www.seasearch.co.uk/).
The Isle of Man Underwater Photography Society (IOMUPS) is a group of keen local underwater photographers who meet several times a year with a mission: ‘To promote underwater photography for Isle of Man residents’. The society organised its first annual ‘Splash-in’ event in 2011 as a “friendly” competition where photographs taken underwater over a single weekend were expertly judged under several categories. For a selection of underwater photographs taken in Manx waters please see the IOMUPS Facebook Page or website: http://www.divingtheisleofman.co.uk/. For further details contact Tim Nicholson group chairman via tim.nicholson@pdms.com.

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 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.


Table 8 A few key dive sites.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Summary details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Liverpool</td>
<td>35040metre steamship, which struck a mine in 1916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clan McMaster</td>
<td>nestled into the rocks in the Calf Sound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garden Rock</td>
<td>a pinnacle rising up from the seabed at 18m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fenella Ann</td>
<td>A fishing trawler lying in 40m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creg-y-Jaggie</td>
<td>a sheltered site in the entrance to the Calf Sound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Citrine</td>
<td>a wreck site in 15m water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port St Mary Ledges</td>
<td>rock gullies with overhangs and lots of lobsters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Stack</td>
<td>highly tidal, but a good dive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Sugarloaf Caves</td>
<td>scenic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Site | Summary details
--- | ---
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**

Diving air services in Douglas (White Hoe) - Air fills.

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/](http://www.hyperbaric.im/).

**Local dive events**

Isle of Man Dive Conference.

Seasearch events – Training, dives, specialist marine life searches.

Manx Wildlife Trust - BioBlitz.

Isle of Man Underwater Photography Society - Splash- In.

**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 9 A few key snorkelling sites.

a) Accessible from Shore

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

b) Accessible by Boat.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Brief details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scarlett</td>
<td>Seal haul-out. Seasonal and caution to avoid wildlife disturbance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puddle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cletts</td>
<td>Seal haul-out. Seasonal and caution to avoid wildlife disturbance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitterland</td>
<td>Seal haul-out. Seasonal and caution to avoid wildlife disturbance. Tide dependant.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

Events
The Manx Mile is an annual event, run in conjunction with the Queenie Festival which sees swimmers undertake a course one mile long from the beach, round the bay and back again. See Mezeron Manx Mile Open Water Swim: http://queeniefestival.com/.

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. See also, Wet Way Round: http://www.wetwayround.com/

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 10 Estimated number of active participants in Sea Kayaking.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Winter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekend</td>
<td>60 - 200</td>
<td>30 – 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Throughout week – day &amp; evening</td>
<td>60 - 300</td>
<td>15 - 60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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
- Ardwihlin 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, 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: http://www.gov.im/transport/harbours/legislation.xml.

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 11. Summary of local kayaking events.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Organiser / Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Isle of Man Adventure Race</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>Adventurous Experiences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isle of Man Sea Kayak Symposium</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Adventurous Experiences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Round the Calf trips</td>
<td>Near shore</td>
<td>Year round</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Limited during</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>seal pupping</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>season.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Round the Island kayaking</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circumnavigation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trip across the Irish Sea to Ireland/ Cumbria.</td>
<td>Open water</td>
<td>Occasional</td>
<td>Not club orientated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunset trips</td>
<td>Near shore</td>
<td>Seasonal.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mostly April –</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>October</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Night-time trips</td>
<td>Near shore</td>
<td>Mostly Winter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isle of Man Kayak Fishing</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competition</td>
<td></td>
<td>September</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Persons Sea Kayaking</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>Venture Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adventure Journeys</td>
<td></td>
<td>August</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelvin’s Tackle Kayak Fishing competition</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>September</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isle of Man fishing club –</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sea kayak fishing trip</td>
<td></td>
<td>July</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queenie Festival – ‘try’ sessions</td>
<td>Port St Mary</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>July</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Coasteering & Gorgewalking

Coasteering is a relatively recent but now well established activity 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 highly popular activity that involves climbing waterfalls and swimming across ponds while negotiating a river bed.

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.

A Code of Conduct for Outdoor providers is currently under development through the Isle of Man Outdoor Providers Group: http://www.adventurousexperiences.com/about-us/

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 12. A few examples of key surf locations around the Island

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surf Spot</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drivers – near Kallow Point, Port St Mary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sh#tpipe – behind Port St Mary harbour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Edge - Santon, near the new runway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>extension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Point - Kallow Point, Pt St Mary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barrel Rock - Kallow Point, Pt St Mary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sewerage - Next to Drivers, between PSM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harbour and Kallow Point.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Cove – Santon Gorge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laxey Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gansey Bay (Bay ny Carrickey)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peel Bay / Fenella</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Derby Haven Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Erin Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castletown Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glen Mooar – Glen Wyllin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitestrand Beach</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Further information regarding surfing


A few local photos are available at: [http://www.bbc.co.uk/isleofman/content/image_galleries/stef_surf_gallery.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/isleofman/content/image_galleries/stef_surf_gallery.shtml).


Kitesurfing

Kite surfing is a relatively new extreme sport which has slowly grown in popularity over the last 8 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 (Bay ny Carricky), Douglas, Ramsey, Peel and occasionally Laxey, Niarbyl, Ballaugh, Glen Wyllin.

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

See also:  
The Professional Kiteboard Riders Association (PKRA) [http://www.prokitetour.com/](http://www.prokitetour.com/)  
The British Kite Surfing Association (BKSA) [http://www.britishkitesurfingassociation.co.uk/](http://www.britishkitesurfingassociation.co.uk/)  
[www.kiteboardinglessons.co.uk](http://www.kiteboardinglessons.co.uk)

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:

Manx Marine Environmental Assessment – November 2013
- 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).

**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.

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:


**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 13. Long Distance Footpaths**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Footpath</th>
<th>Distance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Raad ny Foillan (Way of the Gull)</td>
<td>95miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bayr ny Skeddan (Herring Way)</td>
<td>15.5miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Millennium Way</td>
<td>24.1miles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Warden’s Walks**


**Town Trail Walks**

Several pamphlets are available from Isle of Man Welcome Centre in Douglas including:
- Douglas Maritime Heritage Walk (Town Trail Walks No.1).
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/sports/walkingfest.xml

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:

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 the following local groups:

Table 14. A few key guided walks providers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manx Wildlife Trust</td>
<td>Variety of guided walks with local experts including sand dunes, heath, wildflowers and the wildlife on the strandline and in rockpools. See: <a href="http://manxwt.org.uk/">http://manxwt.org.uk/</a> and Facebook page.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manx National Heritage</td>
<td>Variety of guided walks with local experts including cultural and historic aspects of the coast. See: <a href="http://www.gov.im/mnh/">http://www.gov.im/mnh/</a> and Facebook page.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manx Footpaths Conservation Group</td>
<td>The group extends a very warm Manx welcome to residents and visitors alike and operates a year round programme of guided walks and events. See: <a href="http://www.manxfootpaths.org/">http://www.manxfootpaths.org/</a>.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NB: Please also see subsequent section as many other local groups and organisations also organise guided walks e.g. subsequent section on Marine and Wildlife Watching.

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/index.html
Sightseeing

Several commercial ventures offer sightseeing tours to popular coastal sites and round island excursions (Table 15):

Table 15. A few key sightseeing operators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mann Sightseeing Tours</td>
<td>Scheduled open top bus tours around Douglas and other excursions to key landmarks. See: <a href="http://www.mannsightseeingtours.com/">http://www.mannsightseeingtours.com/</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tours (Isle of Man)</td>
<td>Scheduled tours including round the Island tour and other available excursions. Also provides a hop on/off service in Laxey as convenient connection between upper and lower parts of village. See: <a href="http://www.toursisleofman.co.uk/">http://www.toursisleofman.co.uk/</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isle of Man Wildlife Tours</td>
<td><a href="http://www.iomtours.co.uk">www.iomtours.co.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isle of Man Trike Tours</td>
<td>Sightseeing tours by Trike to places of motorcycle and historical interest and breathtaking scenery. Bespoke tours also available. See: <a href="http://www.iomtriketours.com/">http://www.iomtriketours.com/</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calf of Man, pleasure cruises and ferry service</td>
<td>Daily cruises from Raglan Pier Port Erin to see wildlife, landing on the Calf for sightseeing.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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](http://www.isle-of-man.com/manxnotebook/towns/douglas/cobscura.htm)

For information regarding sightseeing from local charter boats please see MMEA Chapter 6.2. (Shipping and Navigation). See also subsequent section on Bird and Marine Wildlife Watching.

Golf

There are 9 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 16: Golf Courses on the Isle of Man.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Golf Courses on the Isle of Man</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Castletown Golf Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glen Truan Golf Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King Edward Bay Golf Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Murray Golf Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port St Mary Golf Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramsey Golf Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rowany Golf Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peel Golf Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulrose Golf Course</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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:  
http://www.gov.im/tourism/thingstoseeanddo/active/cycling.xml

The Isle of Man Cycling Association is the governing body for Cycling on the Isle of Man  
http://www.iomcycling.com/ and affiliated clubs include:

**Table 17. Affiliated clubs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Affiliated cycle clubs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ellan Vannin CC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manx Road Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manx Viking Wheelers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MMBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramsey BMX</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Visitors can also explore the Island by hiring bikes through Isle of Man Cycle hire at:  
http://www.cyclehire.im/

**Mountain biking** is increasingly popular and information about several key routes can be found at:  
http://www.gov.im/tourism/thingstoseeanddo/active/biking.xml  
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.

Manx Marine Environmental Assessment – November 2013
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 Island’s newest all weather climbing facility, ‘Hot Rocks’, see: http://www.hotrocksclimbing.com/.

A list of key coastal climbing locations is currently being compiled by local experts and an interactive map is currently available at: http://www.hotrocksclimbing.com/locations.html.

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 (see p.26) to obtain information about seasonal restrictions in the vicinity of seabird colonies, or to contact the DEFA or Manx National Heritage for further advice.
Camping

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: http://www.visitisleofman.com/accommodation/isle-of-man-hotels.aspx

Although camping is generally prohibited on the Ayres National Nature Reserve, up to a maximum of 15 motor homes (no tents) are authorized 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: http://www.gov.im/categories/the-environment-and-greener-living/protected-sites/the-ayres/
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. There are several riding schools on the Island, especially in the north that offer tuition with opportunities to ride on the beach. A list of approved riding schools is available at: http://www.gov.im/categories/leisure-and-entertainment/horse-riding-establishments/

Further information and contacts are available from the British Horse Society – IOM Branch which has a Facebook page and website: www.bhsiom.com.

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.

Events:

In May 2012, the first Western Open Studio and Art Trail (WOSAT) took place Peel, Patrick and St John’s with forty five artists displaying their work. In Peel, several resident artists opened up their private studios and workshops to members of the public.

For further information please see:
The Isle of Man Photographic Society: http://www.iomps.com/.
The Isle of Man Underwater Society: via Facebook page. See later item under ‘Other groups’.

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

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 charted 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.

Manx Marine Environmental Assessment – November 2013
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).

Commercial operators are listed in previous section under sightseeing. See also groups including those listed as Outdoor Providers.

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

The Manx Wildlife Calendar provides a summary of some of the key species of interest on the Island seasonally. The one page PDF documents can be accessed at the following URL:

http://www.visitisleofman.com/thingstoseeanddo/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.

Data on the value of the industry for the Isle of Man has not been officially compiled.

**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/?page_id=238.

**Manx Marine Scene**

The Manx Wildlife Trust has an ongoing project to implement a network of marine interpretation sites around the Manx coastline. The initial phase of the project will see sites at Marine Drive (Douglas), Port St Mary ledges, Bradda Glen (Port Erin), Niarbyl and Peel breakwater. Each site will consist of information panels and a set of fixed, pedestal mounted binoculars, which will be free for the public to use. Information panels will 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 will enable 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. It is hoped that over time more sites can be added to this network.
Key Marine and Coastal Events

Since 2008, The Queenie Festival and Marine Weekend (Festival of the Sea) has been held in Port St. Mary in early July. The Festival aims to educate people about the local food delicacy the Queenie (or Queen Scallop) and the story it has in Manx life. In addition, it aims 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. Event activities have included live cookery demonstrations, live music, local craft demonstrations, organised leisure and sport activities and evening events including fine seafood dining, live music and a Manx Ceilidh (traditional dance).

A popular attraction for families during the Queenie festival are the Manx Wildlife Trust Touch Tanks, containing local marine creatures for a ‘hand-on’ experience. Manned by keen local volunteers the Touch Tanks also make appearances at other local events throughout the year. See http://queeniefestival.com/ for more information.

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 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 4.25mile (6.48km) 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/](http://www.iomtt.com/)
- Southern 100 - [http://www.southern100.com/](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](http://www.rallyisleofman.co.im).


**Guidelines**

**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/](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 leaflets, pamphlets and brochures.
- Isle of Man Tourism Survey summary reports
- Commissioned research and survey project reports from Port Erin Marine Laboratory, Manx Wildlife Trust, Manx National Heritage and other.
- 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:
  - RYA The Green Blue: http://www.thegreenblue.org.uk/
  - 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 of Economic Development
Information relating to The Department of Economic Development’s role for Tourism and Recreation is available from: http://www.gov.im/ded/.

The Visitor Economy Strategy for 2012-2015, was developed following an in-depth analysis of the Island’s position as a visitor destination within a global context. The document sets out key actions and themes that the Department and its partners may focus on. Its scope includes marketing communications, quality and service, events, product development and motorsport. The Strategy is available to download from: http://www.gov.im/ded/tourism.xml.
For further information about Tourism on the Isle of Man please see: http://www.visitisleofman.com/.

The Department also manages Isle of Man Film as part of the Isle of Man Government’s economic diversification policy. Over recent years, the Isle of Man has become one of the busiest areas of film production in the British Isles. See: http://www.gov.im/ded/iomfilm/.

**Department of Community, Culture & Leisure**
For the role of the Department of Community, Culture and Leisure please see: http://www.gov.im/dcd/.

**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: http://www.gov.im/about-the-government/departments/community,-culture-and-leisure/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/.

A recent major initiative has been the development of the Isle of Man Sport & Recreation Strategy 2002–2012, in partnership with the Department, which was approved by Government in December 2002. Please contact the Department of Community, Culture and Leisure for further information.

**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: http://www.gov.im/transport/msd/corporate/local/.

**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 18 Manx National Heritage land at the coast - open for public rambling.**

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

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 (see p26). 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: [http://www.gov.im/mnh/](http://www.gov.im/mnh/)

**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](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://manxwt.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=67&Itemid=74

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
- Lunchtime and After School wildlife clubs

See MMEA Chapter 7.2 for further information about other marine education activities.

The Manx Basking Shark Watch of the Manx Wildlife Trust runs the public sightings scheme and scientific research into the Manx Basking Sharks. Please see chapter 3.6 for further information.

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.

Isle of Man Outdoor Providers Group

The IOM Outdoor Providers Group has recently 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, abseiling, hill navigation training, team building activities, bushcraft and 'survival' weekends.

Table 19 Participating groups of the Isle of Man Outdoor Providers Group.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outdoor Provider</th>
<th>Web link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Adventure Education Team, part of</td>
<td><a href="https://www2.sch.im/groups/adventureed/">https://www2.sch.im/groups/adventureed/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the Department of Education and Children</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and Youth Service</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Venture Centre</td>
<td><a href="http://www.adventure-centre.co.uk/">http://www.adventure-centre.co.uk/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adventurous Experience</td>
<td><a href="http://www.adventurousexperiences.com/">http://www.adventurousexperiences.com/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discover Diving</td>
<td><a href="http://www.discoverdiving.im/">http://www.discoverdiving.im/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.iomcharterskippers.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 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
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 and the Isle of man Marine Plan.

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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http://www.gov.im/. Isle of Man Coastguard
www.gov.im/infrastructure/harbours
http://www.gov.im/tourism/thingstoseeanddo/active/golf.xml
http://www.gov.im/tourism/thingstoseeanddo/active/cycling.xml
http://www.gov.im/tourism/thingstoseeanddo/active/biking.xml
http://www.manxnationalheritage.im/explore-the-island/places-to-visit/historic-attractions/ and
http://www.manxnationalheritage.im/explore-the-island/places-to-visit/coast-countryside/
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