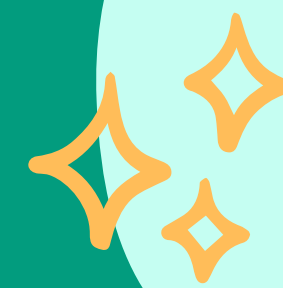




OCEAN  
OBSERVATORY  
JERSEY

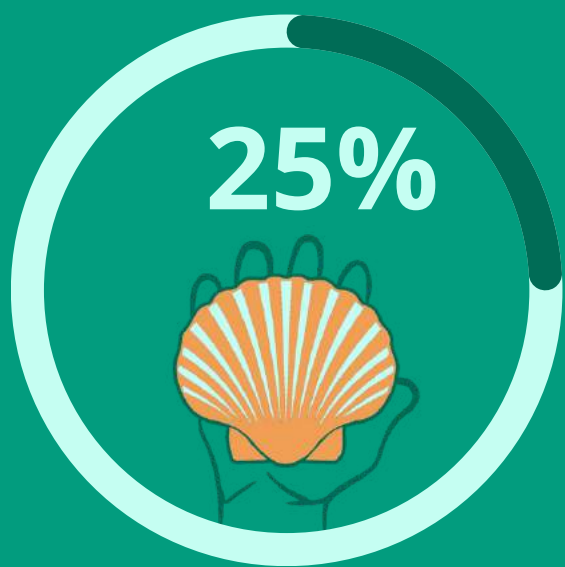


# JERSEY HAND DIVED

Jersey has some of the most amazing **coastal waters** in the whole of Europe which provide homes for many different types of seafood such as **scallops**. Fishing has been an important part of Jersey's culture for hundreds of years, with many different ways to fish. Some types of fishing are more sustainable than others, such as **potting** and **hand-diving**, meaning they have a **low-impact** on the sea and the marine life that lives within it.



© Matt Sharp



Around **25% of Jersey's scallops** are caught by **hand-diving**. This is where a diver swims down to the seabed and hand-gathers the scallops into a netted bag. This is incredibly **selective** as the diver only collects the scallops that they want meaning no other marine life is caught in the process (called bycatch) and the rest of the seabed is left undisturbed.

To help support the scallop divers, a seafood label called **'Jersey Hand Dived'** has been created so that everyone can see which scallops are hand-dived when buying them from a shop or restaurant, and also to teach people about this low-impact form of fishing. There are 7 divers who use the 'Jersey Hand Dived' label, who between them have over **100 years** of experience diving for scallops!



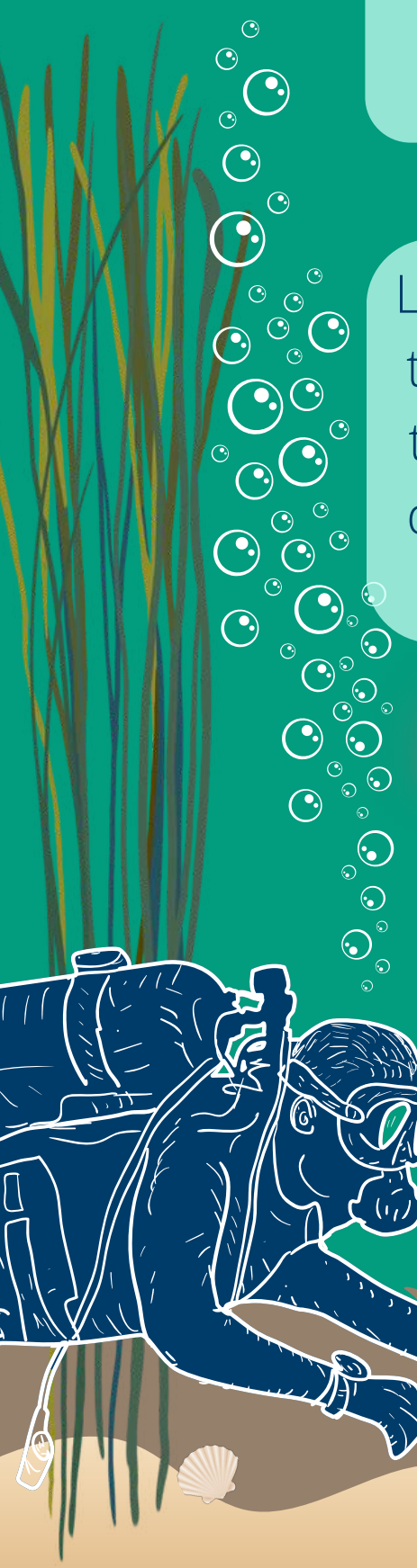
Look out for the logo (above) on windows and cards in **restaurants and shops**, as it's these places that cook and serve Jersey Hand Dived scallops, or it will simply say "Jersey Hand Dived scallops" on the menu. What **food we choose to eat** makes a big difference in **helping the environment**, so don't be afraid to ask questions about where your food has come from so you can choose seafood that has been caught by low-impact fishing.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The public of Jersey (that's all of us!) own the **seabed**, and our scallop divers are doing a great job of making sure it is well looked after. Thank you to our brave divers for being great **friends of the sea!**



© James Bowden



# THE LIFE OF A SCALLOP DIVER



Scallop divers need a lot of **equipment** before they go fishing to make sure they are safe and warm. To make a dive even trickier, sometimes the divers can't see very far underwater due to bad **visibility**, or they must battle against **strong tides**. In the winter, they have to brave the **cold weather** to get out diving whenever they can. It's a challenging job, but they do it so we can get scallops in the most environmentally friendly way!



## MASK

This helps the diver see underwater and spot the scallops on the seabed

## DIVE WATCH

This is worn to help the diver keep track of how long they are underwater and how deep they have dived

## SCUBA GEAR & TANK

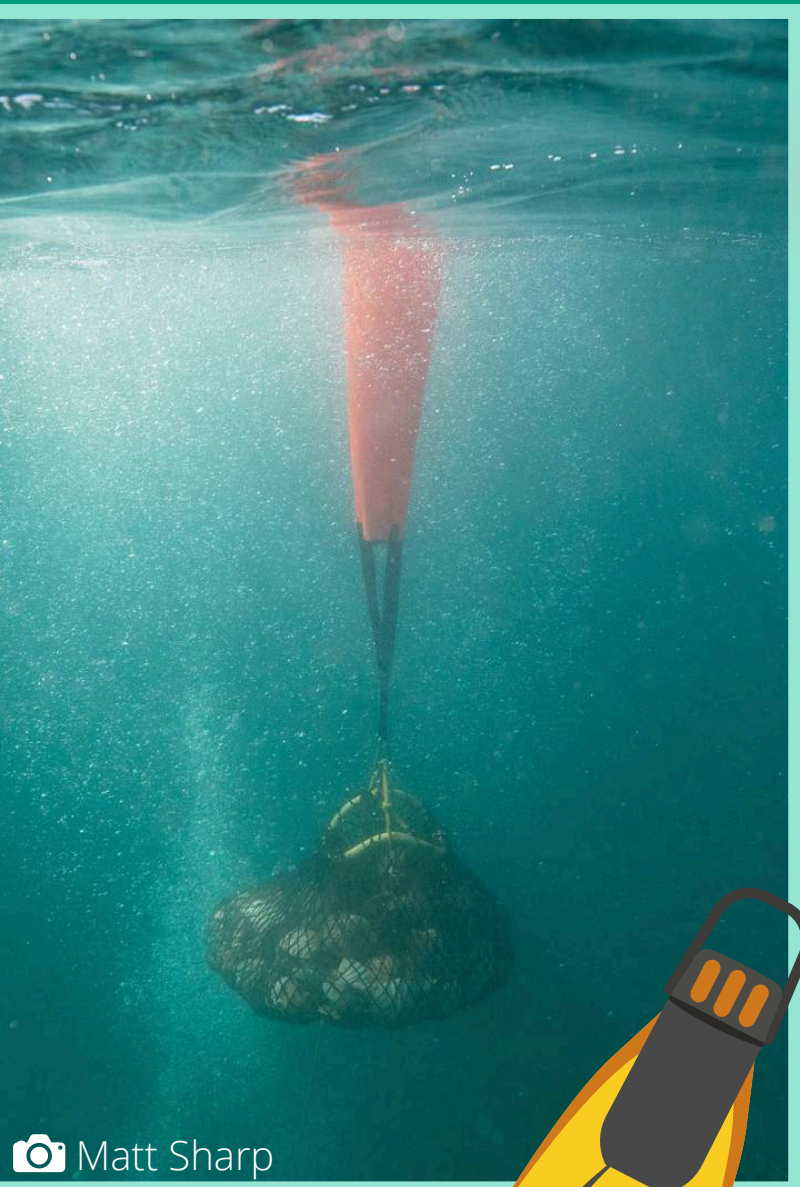
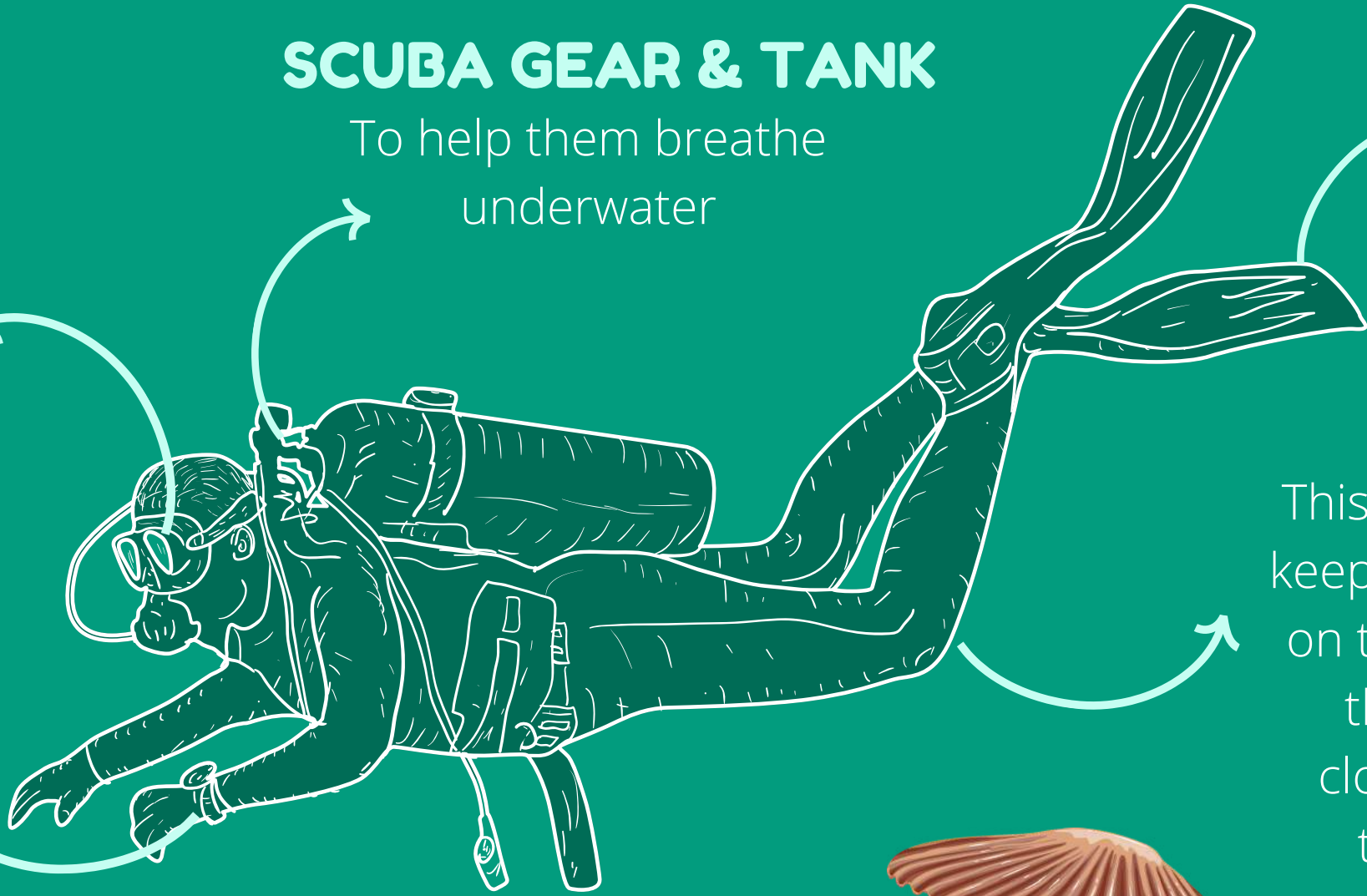
To help them breathe underwater

## FINS

To help them swim faster

## DRY SUIT

This is like a wetsuit, but it keeps them completely dry on the inside. This means they can wear warm clothes underneath so they don't get cold!



## DID YOU KNOW?

Divers can fit around **300 scallops** in one bag! That's a lot of tasty scallops for our plates, but also a lot of weight for the divers to carry around and pull up to the surface. To help this, divers attach a **lift bag** to their bag of scallops, which inflates and helps lift the weight of the scallop bag. They can then inflate a **Safety Marker Buoy (SMB)** to the surface so the boat driver can find them!



Max Burnett



Kathryn Smith

To make sure the young scallops aren't collected, all scallops caught in Jersey have to have a width of at least 102mm, which is called the **Minimum Landing Size (MLS)**. This is to ensure the smaller scallops can grow big enough to reproduce before they are able to be caught from the sea.

## HONORARY SCIENTISTS!

A few of our local scallop divers take part in important **research** to help scientists look at how many scallops are inside our Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) compared to the unprotected areas. So far it seems that there are a lot more inside the MPAs- with on average twice as many scallops found here than in the unprotected areas!

