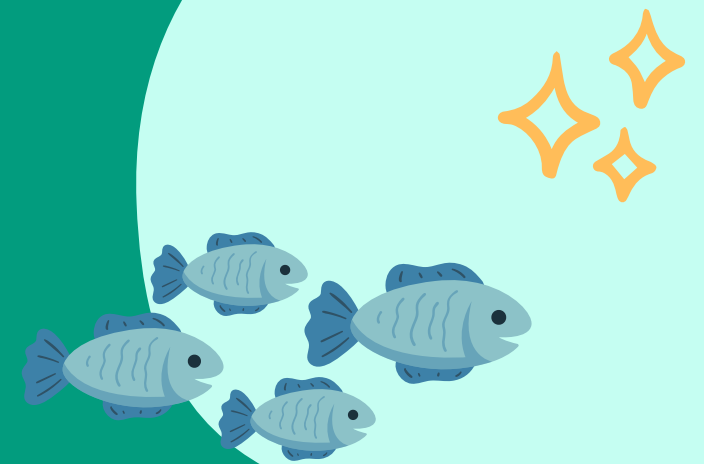




**OCEAN
OBSERVATORY**
JERSEY



PROTECTING JERSEY'S SEA

WHAT ARE MARINE PROTECTED AREAS (MPAS)?

Much like nature reserves on land **Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)** are areas of the ocean that help protect species and habitats. In MPAs, certain activities may be limited or even completely stopped to keep the sea healthy. MPAs can stop all fishing (called **No-Take Zones**) or stop only certain types of fishing, like Jersey's MPAs which have removed all **mobile fishing gear**. This is any gear that moves through the water like **dredging** (for scallops) or **trawling** (for fish). These methods can drag fishing gear across the seabed which can damage the marine life it touches and release a lot of **carbon** leading to more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.



DID YOU KNOW?

Jersey is made up of **95% sea** and only **5% land**, so we really need to look to the sea to help tackle climate change!

Creating MPAs not only **helps marine life** recover and thrive but it also benefits our communities. By protecting areas of the sea, biodiversity can be improved. This creates **more fish** for fishermen to catch and increases the amount of carbon that is absorbed and stored in the sea which helps to tackle **climate change**. This creates a **healthier ocean** which is great for the marine creatures that live in it, as well as for us by creating a healthy Jersey!

JERSEY'S NEW MARINE PLAN

The Government of Jersey has written an exciting marine plan on how they think Jersey's sea should be used and looked after, not just to **help marine life** but to **benefit everyone** in Jersey. Within this '**Marine Spatial Plan**', these scientists recommended that our MPAs should increase to around **23%** of Jersey's sea, which would remove any mobile fishing gear in those areas. This would protect a huge amount of our important **marine habitats**, helping to ensure our sea is healthy and that there is plenty of seafood for us to enjoy in the future.



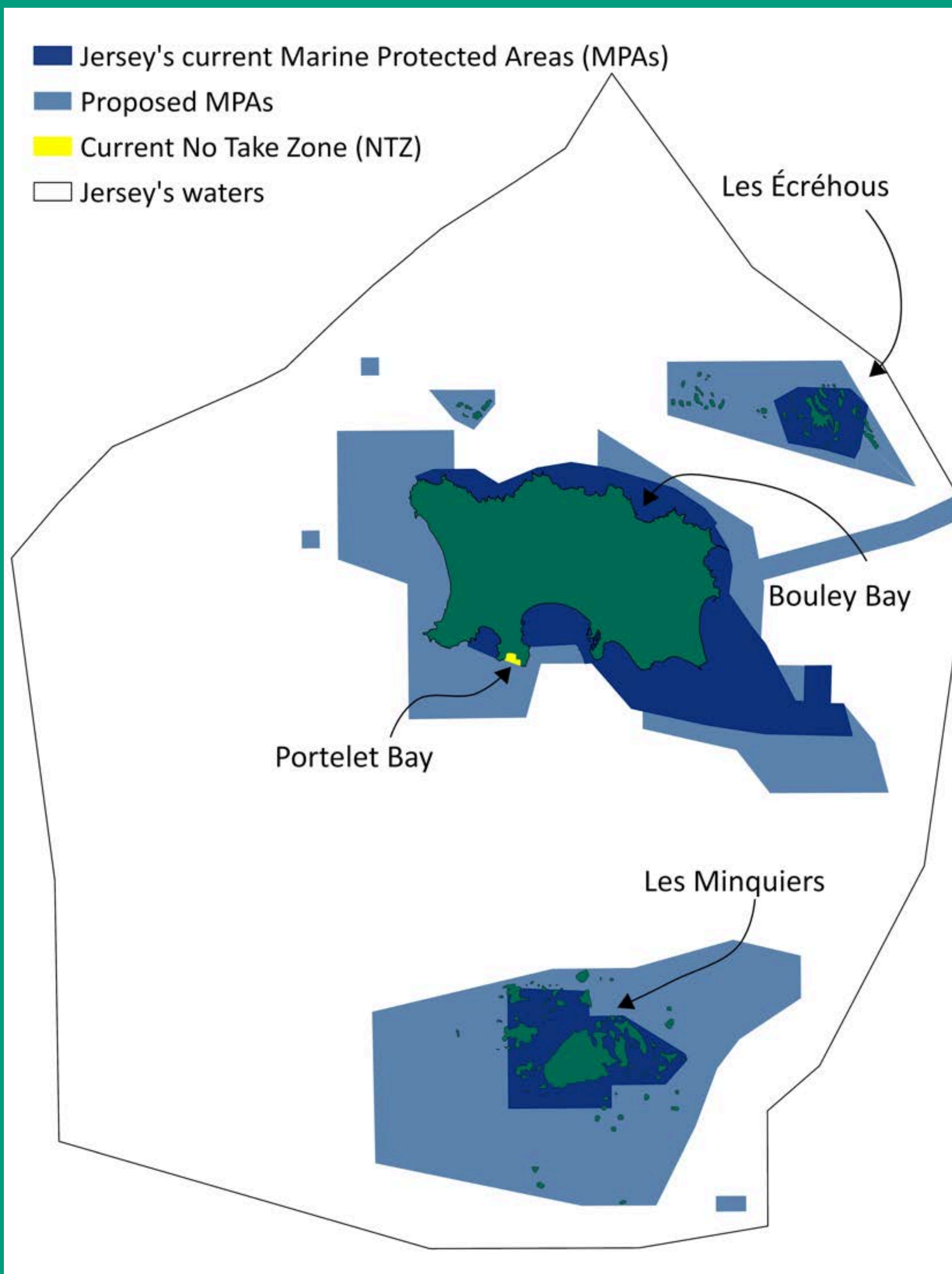
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To write this plan, scientists studied lots of **data and evidence** that was collected in Jersey over several years. An example is a group of divers from Jersey and Blue Marine Foundation who carried out multiple **dive surveys** on a rocky reef called '**Les Sauvages**'. Here they recorded lots of incredible marine life such as **jewel anemones** (above right photo) and rare **pink sea fans** to show how incredible the biodiversity is on this reef. Because of this, the Government has suggested that this should be another **No-Take Zone** like Portelet Bay.



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WHAT AREAS OF JERSEY'S SEA ARE PROTECTED?



Jersey's patchwork of MPAs are in three areas (see map) which currently cover **6.5%** of Jersey's sea. The first lies around the **island of Jersey** which includes St Aubin's Bay, the north coast, and one No-Take Zone (NTZ) in Portelet Bay. This NTZ means you can't fish or take anything natural from this bay. The other two MPAs are around the islands and rocks that form **Les Écréhous** and **Les Minquiers** which you can visit by boat. Have you heard of [Jersey Seafaris'](#) rib adventures?

DID YOU KNOW?

Many countries across the world have agreed to **protect 30%** of the world's **land and oceans** by the year **2030**. What an amazing aim to help our planet!

The above map also shows the **23%** of Jersey's sea which will hopefully become MPAs within the next few years. That would mean we would only have 7% left to reach the target of 30% protection by 2030!

WHY THESE MPAS?

These areas of Jersey's sea that the Government plan to protect cover a large proportion of our important marine habitats, such as **maerl, sandmason worms, rocky reefs, seagrass and kelp**. However, there are still a lot of these habitats, like maerl, that are not protected. Hopefully these will be as soon as possible!



WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP JERSEY'S SEA?

If we all make small changes, together we could really make a huge difference! Here are some actions you could take to help our sea...



BEACH CLEAN



Why not organise a beach clean with your class or family? Plastic and rubbish can be left on the beach, blown in to the sea or get carried in by the tide. When in the sea this rubbish can be there for hundreds of years as plastic can not easily break down. When it does break down, it is toxic!

CHOOSE SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD

When choosing what food you eat, including seafood, you can ask how that food has been grown, farmed or fished. If you chose to eat more **local** seafood that has been caught by **low-impact fishing**, like hand-dived scallops, you can help reduce your environmental impact and carbon footprint.



USE YOUR VOICE!

What change would you like to see? You can write to our local politicians by following [this guide](#) to encourage them to help protect our sea. Your voice can make a huge difference in helping to make change and ensure our sea is looked after.



REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

Reducing the amount you use and recycling what you do use can prevent more rubbish ending up in the sea. Reusing things is also important, particularly by choosing second-hand items, as this helps to further reduce your carbon footprint. Charity shops can be a great place to find wetsuits and snorkelling equipment.



USE ECO-FRIENDLY PRODUCTS

Have you looked on the back of your beauty and cleaning products? Some of them say they are harmful to aquatic life with long-lasting effects. Choosing eco-friendly products that are biodegradable and non-toxic to marine life will have a hugely positive impact by ensuring less nasty chemicals make it to the sea from our drains.



SAY NO TO SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

Where possible, choosing to avoid single-use plastics can make a big difference. This prevents plastic from ending up in the sea, which would otherwise harm marine life that can get tangled in the plastic. They can also mistake it for food, like sea turtles who mistake a plastic bag for jellyfish. A lot of plastic can only be recycled once, so it's best we try and avoid using it to start with! Have you got a reusable water bottle?

SPREAD THE KNOWLEDGE

Telling your friends and family about what you learn is a great way to spread knowledge. They can then pass it on, which becomes an incredible ripple effect of information. Let's help other islanders learn about our amazing sea and what we can do to look after it!

