



A short report to the States of Guernsey (Dept. of ACLMS) and La Société Guernesiate

Charlotte Bolton, National Seasearch Coordinator

Covering activities in May 2019 including

a Seasearch Observer course, a short talk at LSG and Guernsey's first BioBlitz at L'Ancrese East

Funding through the Biodiversity Partnership is gratefully acknowledged



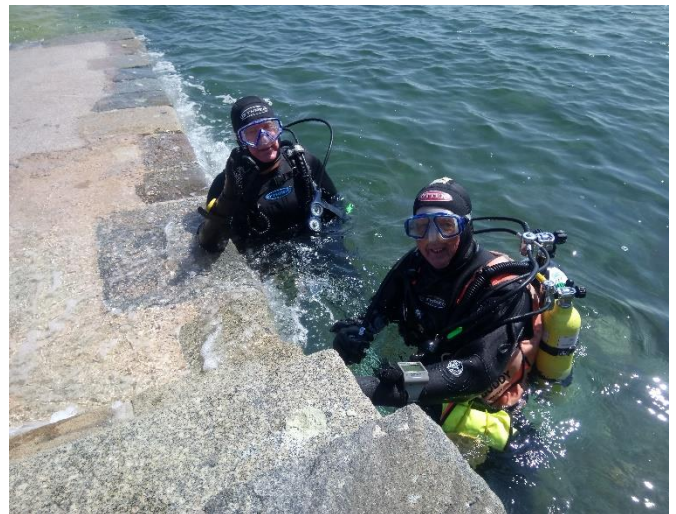
**Biodiversity  
Partnership**

## Summary of activities

1. A **Seasearch Observer course** (the entry-level training) was organised by Laura Bampton and Jessi Jennings and took place on Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup> 2019. The level of interest in the course, from both divers and snorkellers, was exceptionally good and 17 participants attended on the day. Others expressed an interest but were unable to attend so a second course has been scheduled for Saturday July 13<sup>th</sup> 2019. The office of the Constables of St Peter Port provided a grand backdrop for course itself and the ITV interview beforehand (photo left).



2. **Course dive** at Horseshoe Pool, Havelet Bay, Sunday May 12<sup>th</sup> (photo right). A very experienced local diver, Terry Ozanne, accompanied the relatively-new-to-diving Gordon Steele (who has since joined Terry's dive club, Blue Dolphins SAC) on a survey out across the sand from Horseshoe Pool towards a small reef in Havelet Bay. Conditions weren't ideal with underwater visibility of the order of a couple of metres max. but both appeared to have had an enjoyable time underwater and confirmed the presence of a small patch of sparse seagrass in the bay. Several of the course participants took advantage of the sunshine to undertake an unofficial snorkel too.



3. **Evening talk about Guernsey marine life**, Frossard Theatre, Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup> (photo below). A short talk highlighting some of the interesting local marine flora and fauna was presented in the evening after the course.



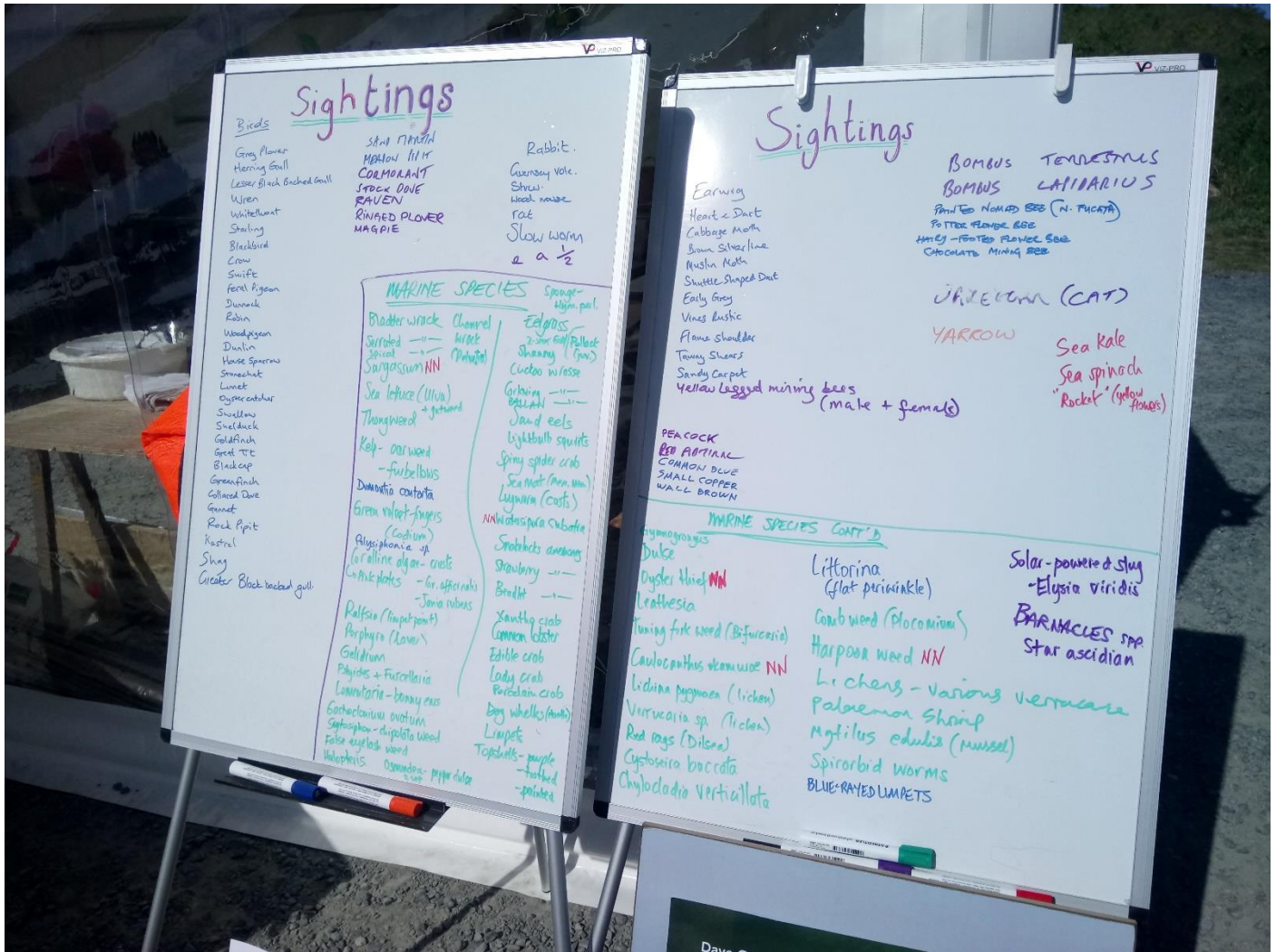
The attendance was disappointing but most of the course participants were understandably worn out after a day of classroom learning and those who did attend were very enthusiastic.

4. **Guernsey's first BioBlitz**, L'Ancrese East, Tuesday May 14<sup>th</sup> (cover photo and below). Strong easterly winds precluded the use of the Blue Dolphins RIB for more offshore dives so the author, accompanied by Lin Baldock (Dorset Seasearch Coordinator) and three intrepid local volunteers (Greg Harvey, Tim Harvey and Phil Le Poidevin) snorkelled in very swelly low viz conditions around the headland and back towards the beach. The three volunteers, clad in wetsuits, headed out into the bay which is composed mostly of sand, and were able to establish the presence of patches of sparse seagrass there. Seagrass (or eelgrass), *Zostera marina*, is a keystone species underpinning a priority habitat and many other associated species. It also provides coastal protection, sediment stabilisation and carbon lockdown ecosystem services and as such is an important target for records for the Guernsey Biodiversity Records Centre. Lin and Charlotte also carried out an intertidal survey taking advantage of Lin's expertise as a phycologist.



Julia Henney (left, Biodiversity Education Officer), Laura Bampton (centre, LSG Marine Biology Section) and Lisa Duggan (right, States of Guernsey Dept of ACLMS) all appear to be enjoying the sunny but windy conditions at the BioBlitz.

# The trip in numbers



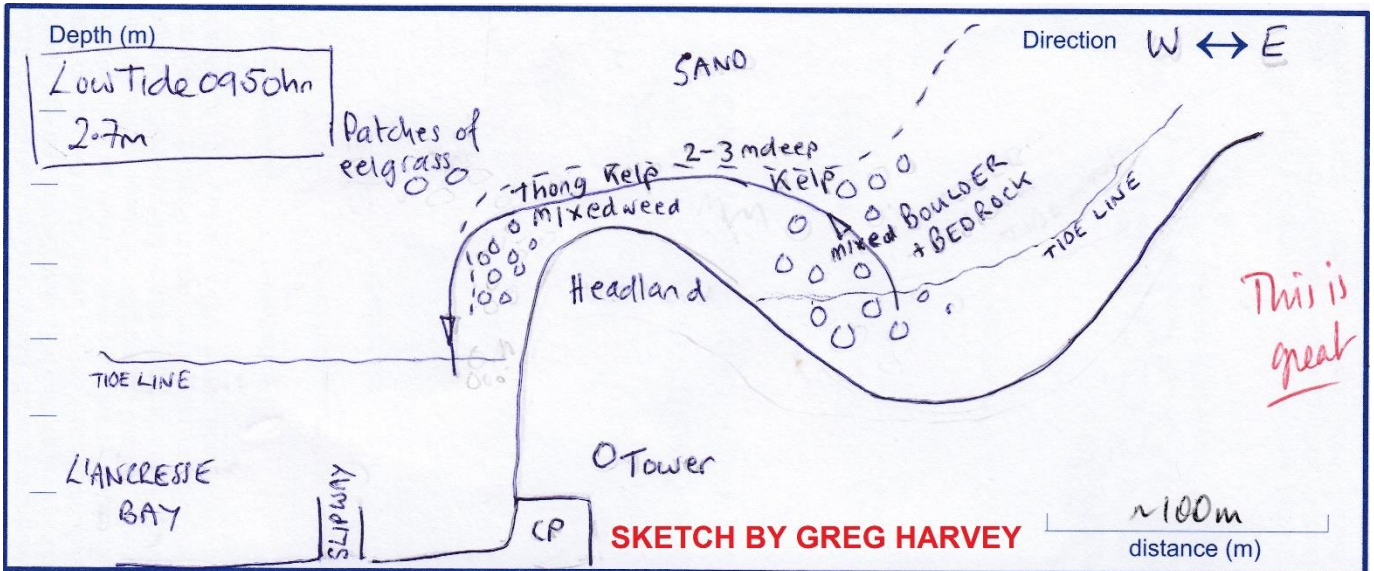
No. of Seasearch Observation forms: 6

No. of Seasearch survey forms: 2

No. of marine taxa (not all recorded to species level) at the BioBlitz: 74

Phylum	Number of taxa (snorkel + beach survey)
Porifera	2 (0+2)
Cnidaria	3 (2+1)
Annelida	1 (1+0)
Crustacea	7 (4+3)
Mollusca	9 (5+4)
Bryozoa	2 (1+1)
Pisces	5 (4+1)
Algae	44 (16+28)
Angiosperms	1 (1+0)
(Lichens)	(0+3)

Non-native species recorded: *Sargassum muticum* (wireweed/japweed), *Asparagopsis armata* (harpoon weed), *Colpomenia peregrina* (oyster thief), *Caulacanthus okamurae*, *Watersipora subatra*



Non-native brown seaweed *Sargassum muticum*



Superficially-similar brown seaweed *Cystoseira baccata*



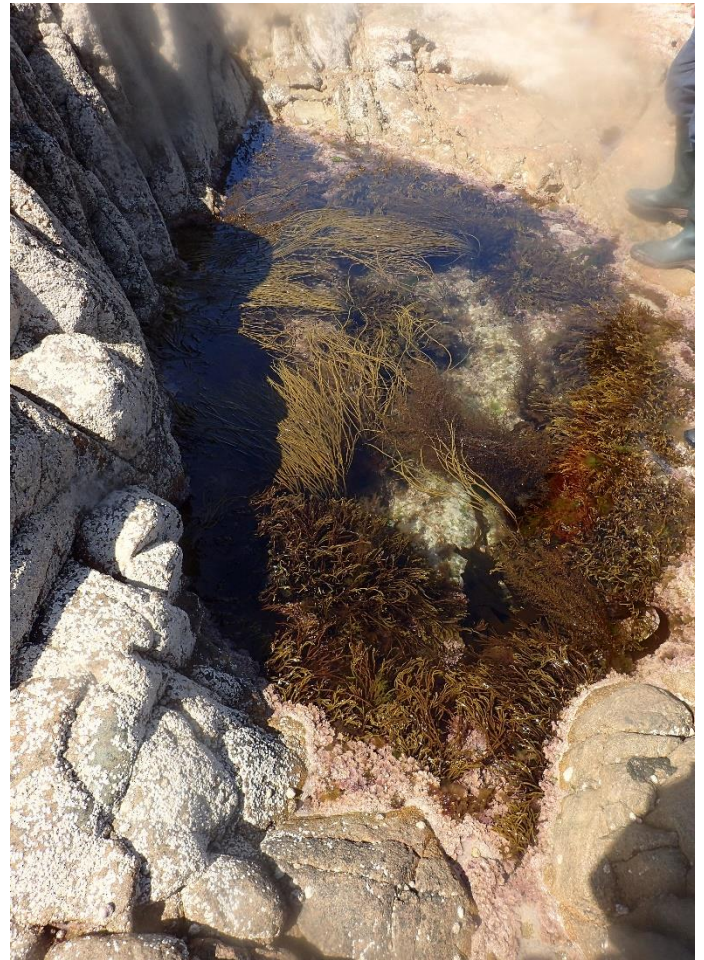
Non-native bryozoan *Watersipora subatra*



Strawberry anemone *Actinia fragacea*



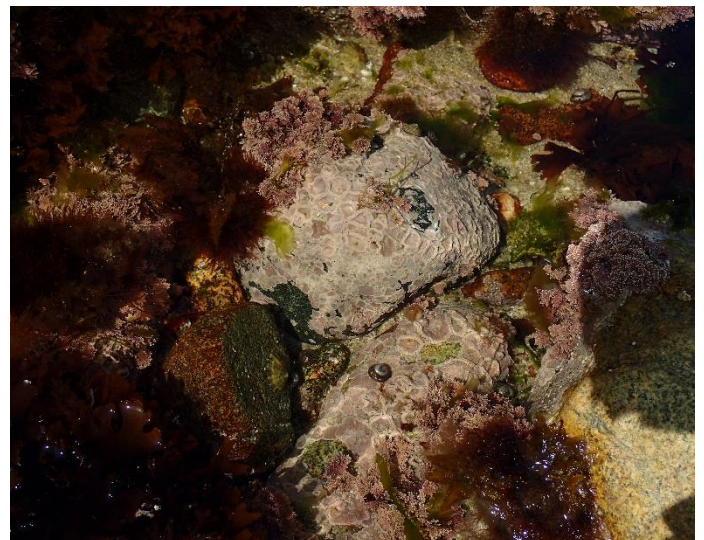
Shallow rockpool with coralline crusts and *Corallina officinalis*, green *Ulva* sp. (gutweed) and the brown algae *Bifurcaria bifurcata* and *Sargassum muticum*.



Biotope LR.FLR.Rkp.Cor.Bif (*Bifurcaria bifurcata* in shallow eu littoral rockpools)



Lichen (*Verrucaria mucosa?*), barnacles, *Patella vulgata* and *Phorcus lineatus* on mid-shore boulders



Biotope LR.FLR.Rkp.Cor.Cor (Coralline crusts and *Corallina officinalis* in shallow eu littoral rockpools)

## Acknowledgements

Bioblitz volunteers: Greg Harvey, Tim Harvey, Phil Le Poidevin. Lin Baldock for her time and phycological expertise. The Biodiversity Partnership for funding. Terry Ozanne and the absent Ian Jowitt for local support. Laura, Lisa, Julia and Liz for enthusiasm and support. Andy McCutcheon (shore survey). All photographs © Charlotte Bolton 2019.