



States of
Guernsey



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Clean
Sailors



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PRESS RELEASE:

Tuesday 30th May 2023

Channel Islands is first major contributor to global seagrass protection campaign

The Bailiwick Eelgrass Exploration Project (BEEP) partners in Guernsey and Alderney and the Government of Jersey become one of the first contributors to the #ProtectOurBeds global campaign showcasing Channel Islands Eelgrass beds digitally, through the savvy navvy navigation app.

The aim of ‘#protectourbeds’ is to help stop vital seagrass being destroyed by selecting alternative anchoring spots. The global campaign was launched earlier this year by not-for-profit, Clean Sailors, the Ocean Conservation Trust and all-in-one boating navigation app, savvy navvy - with Bailiwick Eelgrass Exploration Project (BEEP) Channel Island partners now joining to sustain Eelgrass beds in regional waters.

By collaborating with the campaign, Bailiwick Eelgrass Exploration Project (BEEP) Channel Island partners will be contributing vital data as to the exact location and extent of Channel Islands Eelgrass beds. Eelgrass beds are known to sustain high biological diversity and provide an array of ecosystem services, such as reducing coastal erosion and carbon sequestration and anchoring within Eelgrass beds can sadly damage this fundamentally important marine habitat.

Using the [savvy navvy boating app](#), marine users will now be able to view the Eelgrass beds, which have been mapped through scientific surveys and citizen science projects led by BEEP partners (Alderney Wildlife Trust, La Société Guernesiaise, Guernsey Biological Records Centre, States of Guernsey, and Seasearch) and the Government of Jersey. As new Eelgrass information is surveyed across the Channel Islands it will be added to the app for marine users to view.

Dr Mel Broadhurst-Allen, Living Seas Coordinator of the Alderney Wildlife Trust said: “We are thrilled to help develop this initiative with all the partners involved. The app provides a wonderful new platform for us to showcase our amazing Eelgrass beds and citizen science research. More importantly, it provides marine users the chance to anchor outside the beds, thus reducing any potential impacts upon these sensitive habitats.”

“We are so excited to digitally showcase the Channel Islands’ Eelgrass and be one of the only navigation apps on the market helping to build environmental awareness of this data. While

savvy navvy is all about simplifying boating technology by making navigation safe and easy for everyone, innovative campaigns helping boaters to make better choices when out on the water is something we feel very strongly about,” says David Cusworth, Head of Innovation and Partnerships at savvy navvy.

To find out more about the campaign, visit <https://www.alderneywildlife.org/conservation-projects/bailiwick-eelgrass-exploration-project-beep>

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Information on Seagrass/Eelgrass: Seagrass/Eelgrass is a terrestrial, flowering plant which has adapted to live in the marine environment. It looks like long, green blades of grass poking out of the sand. There are over 70 different Seagrass species globally, with two Eelgrass species found specifically across the Bailiwick of Guernsey and Jersey: Dwarf eelgrass (*Zostera noltei*) and Common Eelgrass (*Zostera marina*).

For further press details, to receive images and footage, or to arrange interviews please contact:

Alderney Wildlife Trust/ BEEP

Dr Mel Broadhurst-Allen (Living Seas Coordinator) – marine@alderneywildlife.org / 07781453976

savvy navvy

PR Manager Isabel Johnston on isabel@savvy-navvy.com or telephone 07818345936

About BEEP:

The Bailiwick Eelgrass Exploration Project (BEEP) is a citizen science project aimed to train volunteers to help record Eelgrass across the Bailiwick of Guernsey. Formed in 2019, it is a collaborative project, founded by several environmental organisations and volunteers from The Alderney Wildlife Trust, La Société Guernesiaise, Guernsey Biological Records Centre, States of Guernsey, and Seasearch. More information can be found here: [Bailiwick Eelgrass Exploration Project \(BEEP\) | Alderney Wildlife Trust](#)



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About savvy navvy

Simplifying boating technology has always been the aim of savvy navvy, founded by lifelong sailor and ex Googler Jelte Liebrand. He was baffled at the amount of data sources you needed to get a clear picture of where you were, what the tide was doing, what weather to expect, how to plot your course to steer and how to find a good anchorage or marina and then how to share your plans with your buddies and family. He focused on tech that is already in the hands of most boaters. So, turning a phone or tablet into your boating buddy seemed like an obvious next step. In less than five years, savvy navvy has attracted global users from all over the world all using the app to help their experience on the water. As part of savvy navvy's continuous growth, they have expanded to support kayakers, jet-skiers and paddleboarders with simplified navigation.

Today savvy navvy is available on Android, IOS, PC and Mac and can be used on an unlimited number of devices simultaneously. Find out more on www.savvy-navvy.com

About Clean Sailors

[Clean Sailors](#) is a not-for-profit, mobilising the global sailing community in conservation of our oceans. Launched in July 2020, Clean Sailors' mission is to set a new standard of sailing within our global sailing community: clean sailing, by raising awareness of ocean conservation opportunities within our sport, our passion, our pastime.

The crew's aim is to make an ocean ambassador of each and every sailor around the world, and Clean Sailor's already counts three-time world champion and four-time Paralympian Hannah Stodel, as well as CJ Perez, the youngest ever sailor to join the SailGP league, as ambassadors to their cause.

In 2021, Clean Sailors launched Cleaner Marina with industry partners including boatfolk, MDL Marinas, savvy navy and Ecoworks Marine, to encourage better, cleaner standards across marinas, ports and harbours, globally. Their global platform, [ReSail](#), connects sailors and their old sailing equipment with projects and businesses around the world who have commercial use for such second-life materials.

In January 2022, Clean Sailors announced the launch of the [Clean Sailors Youth Racing Team](#) with three international Champion sailors; CJ Perez (18) the youngest sailor ever to join the SailGP league and the first latina, Lukas Hesse (22), German Champion 2020 and Swiss sailor Jann Schüpbach (20). They made it to the Grand Finale of the Youth Foiling Gold Cup in 2022 and will be competing for the same through 2023. More information: www.cleansailors.com

About Ocean Conservation Trust

The Ocean Conservation Trust focuses on two key areas: habitat restoration and behaviour change. Following their ground-breaking conservation pathway that has been proven to work, the charity's approach puts people at the centre, working hard to create meaningful connections between people and the Ocean as the first step to inspiring long-term behaviour change. This is done in tandem, with more traditional conservation work, surrounding the protecting, monitoring and restoration of crucial Ocean habitats, with a particular focus on seagrasses. Find out more on www.oceanconservationtrust.org

Through their Ocean Habitats Programme, they design, deliver and monitor active, in situ, Ocean restoration projects, reversing habitat damage and supporting habitats to recover. Their biggest and most ambitious seagrass project yet, Blue Meadows, will deliver a holistic approach to seagrass protection, regeneration and restoration.

Through their Ocean Advocacy Programme, they work tirelessly to advocate for the Ocean, creating inclusive campaigns and digital programmes so that everyone can find their Ocean connection.

Through their Ocean Experiences Programme, they use education and experience to influence perceptions of, and relationships with the Ocean, with the ultimate goal of positive, pro-Ocean behaviour.

Photographs of Common Eelgrass, taken by Tim Harvey.

