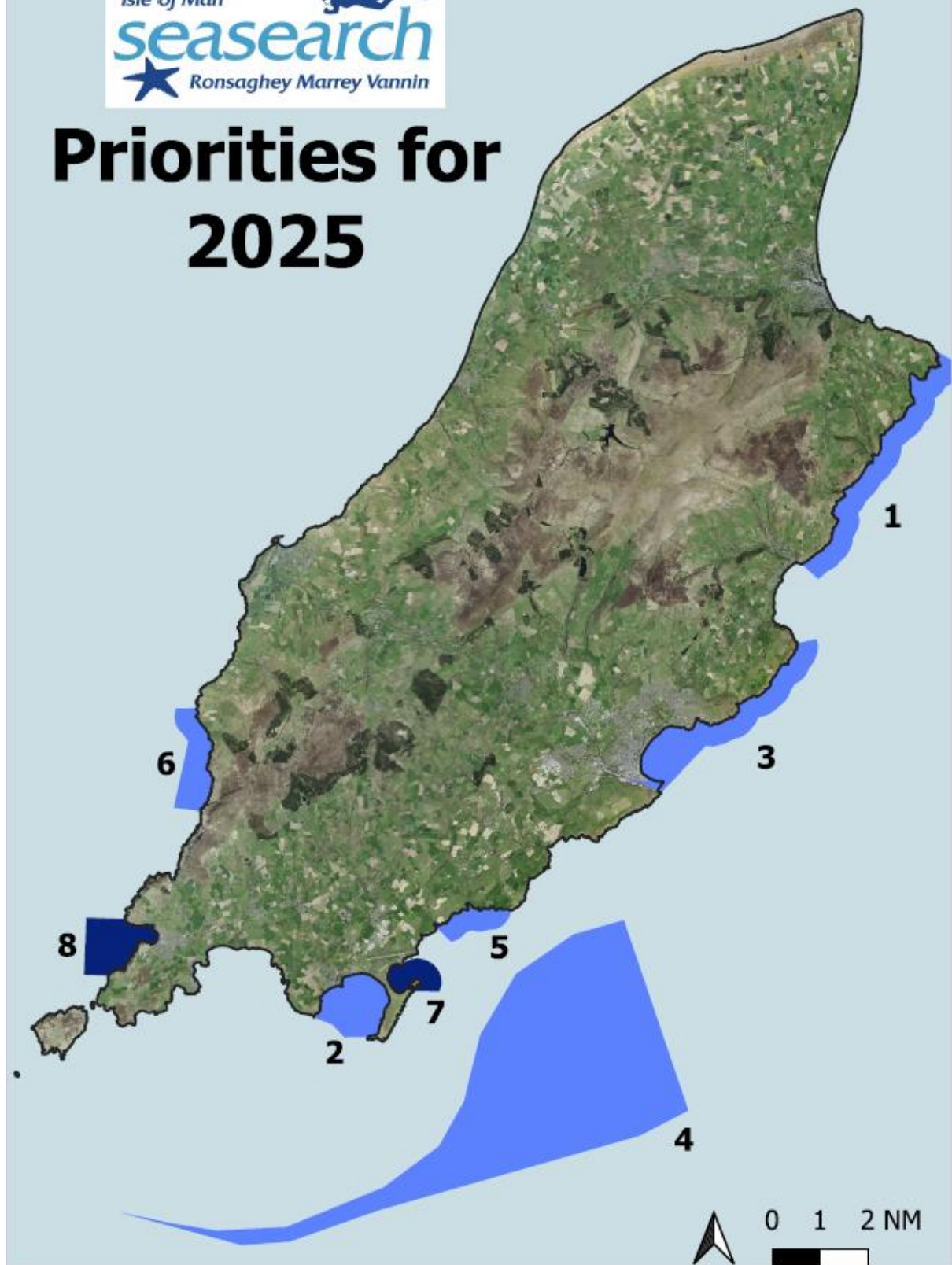


# Priorities for 2025



## Seasearch 2025 Priorities

Location and Priority	Justification
1. Maughold Coast (possible shore and boat diving)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mapping and monitoring of Bulgham eelgrass bed to ensure full protection via an Eelgrass Conservation Zone.</li> <li>2. Locate, explore, map and monitor the reported Cornaa eelgrass bed.</li> <li>3. This coast, from Ramsey South Beach to Cornaa is a <a href="#">Candidate Ramsar Site</a> and an Important Bird Area.</li> <li>4. 24km<sup>2</sup> of the coastal waters here are currently closed to trawling as part of the <a href="#">East of Douglas Experimental Research Area</a> which could feasibly become permanent.</li> <li>5. Notable gap in our Seasearch coverage to date.</li> </ol>
2. Castletown Bay (possible shore and boat diving)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Locate, explore, map and monitor the reported Castletown Bay eelgrass bed.</li> <li>2. Only half of the bay is protected as an MNR (Langness).</li> <li>3. Part of the <a href="#">South Coasts Candidate Ramsar Site</a> and an Important Bird Area.</li> </ol>
3. Douglas Bay MNR, Onchan Harbour, Groudle Bay and Yn Scregganagh (Lonan coast from Groudle to Clay Head) (possible shore and boat diving)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. MNR gap (only Douglas Bay and Onchan Harbour are designated).</li> <li>2. Potential for undiscovered eelgrass beds and Iceland Clam.</li> <li>3. Existing record of extensive brittlestar beds (OSPAR priority habitat) at the north end of the Bay.</li> <li>4. Coastline is an Important Bird Area.</li> <li>5. Notable gap in our Seasearch coverage to date.</li> <li>6. Potentially threatened by the two proposed landfall for the offshore windfarm (Port Skillion and Port Groudle).</li> <li>7. Douglas Bay is only known location for Beaumont's Nudibranch <i>Cumanotus beaumonti</i>.</li> </ol>
4. Jones's Teardrop (offshore - south and east of Langness) (boat diving only)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A <i>Modiolus</i>-based epifaunal benthic habitat first highlighted by N.S. Jones in 1951 for its exceptional biodiversity and habitats.</li> <li>2. It has likely been significantly modified by fishing activity, to an unknown extent. Does it still exist?</li> <li>3. MNR gap.</li> <li>4. Notable gap in our Seasearch coverage to date.</li> </ol>
5. Port Grenaugh (snorkelling and shore diving) 6. Niarbyl Bay (snorkelling and shore diving)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Niarbyl is our only known location for Spotted Kaleidoscope Jellyfish <i>Haliclystus octoradiatus</i> (nursery site found in Niarbyl Bay MNR in 2023).</li> <li>2. Niarbyl Bay and Langness MNRs requiring monitoring.</li> <li>3. Notable gaps in our Seasearch coverage to date.</li> </ol>
7. LONG TERM MARINE MONITORING SITE 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Derbyhaven Bay &amp; Fort Island Gully</li> <li>• (shore diving)</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Long-term MNR proof of concept monitoring.</li> <li>2. Monitoring of eelgrass expansion and health via standardised methodologies for shore dive surveys i.e. frequency, target species and possible fixed transects.</li> <li>3. To highlight need for Eelgrass Conservation Zone in Derbyhaven Bay.</li> <li>4. Potential priority site for eelgrass translocation trials.</li> </ol>
8. LONG TERM MARINE MONITORING SITE 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Port Erin Bay MNR</li> <li>• (shore diving and boat diving)</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Long-term MNR proof of concept monitoring.</li> <li>2. Monitoring of potential eelgrass recolonisation.</li> <li>3. To continue the work of the Port Erin Marine Lab which now spans three different centuries.</li> <li>4. History of dive surveys for Sea Hares (<i>Aplysia punctata</i>) carried out by Discover Diving. Potential to standardise the monitoring.</li> </ol>