

Long Distance Swimming

Round Island and Jersey to France swims have become increasingly more popular as a long-distance swimming challenge.

The following information is set out to promote safe practice and to provide as much of the necessary information required, should the need for assistance arise.

Guidance and Advice

Jersey Coastguard and St Helier Vessel Traffic Service (VTS)

- **Pre-planning:** Contact details can be found in Table 1.0

* If planning a long-distance swimming event Jersey Coastguard should be informed a minimum of **48hrs** prior to the swim.

Forward a completed 'Coastguard Long Distance Swimming' form either by email or fax to Jersey Coastguard. (Early notification of any postponement/ cancelation of the swim or changes to the route would be appreciated),

If the swim involves entering French waters, the French authorities should also be informed by the swim organiser.

- **Starting the swim:**

* On the day of the event, before starting the swim, notify Jersey Coastguard on VHF channel 82 of the following:

- ✓ **-Intended start time**
- ✓ **-Confirmed number of swimmers in the water**
- ✓ **-Number of guard vessels**
- ✓ **-Total number of persons on each vessel**
- ✓ **-Any support craft such as kayaks.**

*If a swim start position is located near any traffic lanes, St Helier VTS **MUST** be given the same information as required by Jersey Coastguard (outlined above) via VHF CH14.

VTS will advise of any commercial traffic movements likely to affect the swim, and will either confirm the start of the swim, or notify of a suitable window of time for the swimmer to cross the traffic lanes safely.

Once the swimmer and escorting vessels are clear of the traffic lanes VTS **must** be informed.

- **Recommended Organisations**

Jersey Coastguard recommends that anyone embarking on a long-distance swimming event should join or contact a local club. They have knowledge, experience and expertise in this field, which would be beneficial to any swimmer wishing to take on a long-distance swimming challenge in local waters.

- ✓ *Jersey Long Distance Swimming Club (JLDSC) – www.jerseyseaswims.org
- ✓ *For information on Long Distance swimming - www.channelswimming.net

It is also recommended that any Guard boat leading the swim should be piloted by suitably experienced skipper, with knowledge of local waters, reefs and conditions, and that the vessel is equipped with a Class B AIS transceiver.

Any Guard boat taking on this function for commercial gain, both vessel and skipper must hold the appropriate certification

▪ **Reporting Points and Communications:**

Contact Details - Table 1.0

	Jersey Coastguard	St Helier VTS	CROSS JOBURG – French MRCC
VHF Channels	16 & 82	14	16
Phone	+44(0)1534 447705	+44(0)1534 447722	+33(0)2 3352 7213
Email	jerseycoastguard@ports.je	stheliervts@ports.je	Cross-jobourg@development-durable.gouv.fr

*Reporting points along the course enable Jersey Coastguard to be kept up-to-date with the progress of the swim.

It is recommended at these points to request a weather update. *Communications primarily should be done through VHF channel 82.*

Details of recommended reporting points for a round Island or Jersey to France swim are illustrated on the attached appendix page in figures 1.1 and 1.2.

* For a *round Island* swim; VTS should be informed as the swimmer passes Corbiere and then again at Noirmont Point. caution

St Helier VTS will include information on the swim in their Routine broadcast at +15 past the hour, informing commercial shipping operating within the VTS Area.

*For a *Jersey to France* swim; on commencement of the swim, call CROSS JOBOURG on VHF ch16, request a working channel and pass the relevant details of the swim to them. On crossing Longitude 01°50'.00 W, inform Jersey Coastguard VHF ch82, and once again call CROSS JOBOURG on VHF ch16 and request a working channel to advise them the swim is now entering French waters.

For the duration of the swim a listening watch should be maintained on VHF ch16.

*On completion of a round Island swim; Jersey Coastguard and St Helier VTS should be advised on their respective channels. If the swim terminates in France, then CROSS JOBURG and Jersey Coastguard should be informed.

*On return passage to Jersey a Traffic Report (TR) should be opened with Jersey Coastguard and then closed on safe arrival. Information on TRs can be found on www.portofjersey.je.

Local Information:

▪ **Tides and Sea conditions**

Jersey has some strong tidal currents. Some are notably more prominent at certain states of the tide and at different points along the coast, due to the large tidal range experienced by the Channel Islands and adjacent coast of France.

Information regarding tidal conditions around the coast can be found in the:

- ✓ 'Admiralty Tidal Stream Atlas: The Channel Islands and Adjacent Coasts of France'
- ✓ www.Easytide.com

▪ **Weather**

Jersey's weather can be quite localised and is subject to change due to its location in the Bay of St Malo. Weather conditions are one element that cannot be controlled and is one of the most important factors that needs to be considered when organising a long-distance swimming event.

The weather forecast should be closely monitored up-to and throughout the event. All weather information can be obtained from the Jersey Meteorological Department: www.jerseymet.gov.je .

Jersey Coastguard also broadcasts the latest shipping forecasts on VHF channel 82. The times for these broadcasts can be found on the Port of Jersey Website: www.portofjersey.je

The coastguard also recommends that at each reporting point that the latest weather details are obtained through the coastguard on VHF 82.

**Jersey Coastguard advise that a long distance swimming attempt should be abandoned if:-

- ✓ **the visibility is greatly reduced i.e. fog,**
- ✓ **or the wind strength increases to F4 or greater**

**Any deterioration in the weather conditions, the safety of the swimmer should be taken into consideration and a decision should be made whether to continue or abandon the attempt. *Do not hesitate to contact Jersey Coastguard on VHF Ch82 for any advice or assistance.*

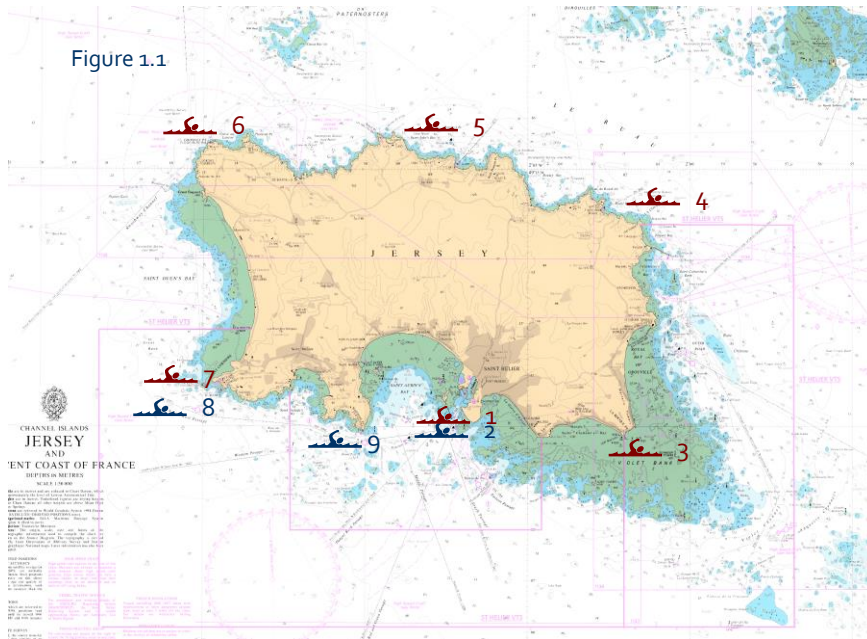
▪ **Commercial Shipping Traffic**

Commercial shipping will be a danger that must be considered when organising a swimming event. A navigational chart must be referred to in order to be familiar with the routes used by ships to enter and leave the Port of Jersey and any restricted or precautionary areas. St Helier VTS must be informed of any swimming that is to take place near any of the main shipping passages or restricted areas on VHF CH 14.

Appendix

Recommended Reporting Points

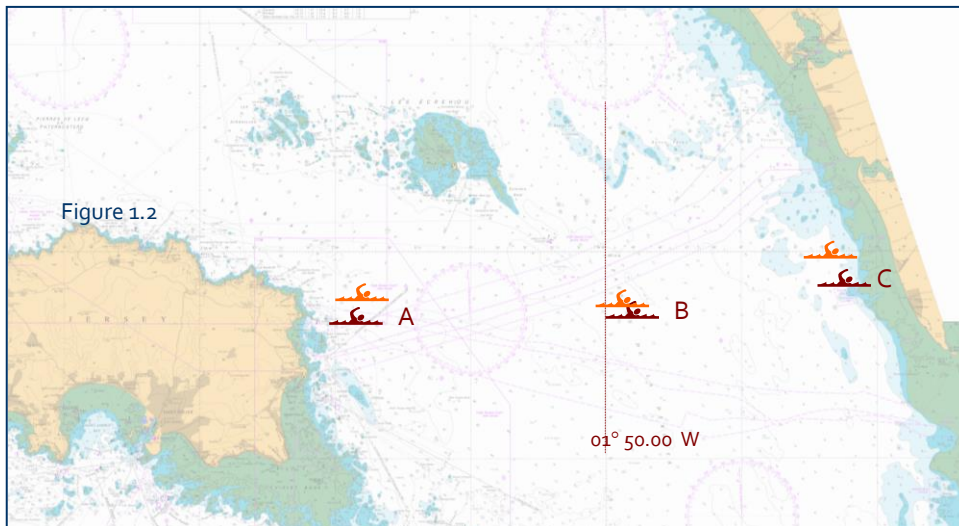
Note: These charts are not to be used for navigation.



-  Jersey Coastguard (JC)
-  St Helier VTS (VTS)
-  CROSS JOBURG (CJ)

Position

- 1 – Start + End of Swim (JC)
- 2 – Before & after crossing 'Small Roads' (VTS)
(At Start + End of Swim)
- 3 – La Rocque Point (JC)
- 4 – La Coupe Point (JC)
- 5 – Demie De Fremont Buoy (JC)
- 6 – Grosnez Point (JC)
- 7 – Corbiere (JC)
- 8 – Corbiere (VTS)
- 9 – Noirmont Point (VTS)



- A – Start of swim (JC + CJ)
- B – Passing 01° 50.00 W (JC + CJ)
- C – Finish (JC + CJ)