

MARINE RESOURCES PANEL MEETING
(79th Meeting)

**Brief notes & action points from meeting held at Howard Davis Farm on
23rd February 2015**

Present: William Peggie (WP) – Director of the Environment/Deputy Chief Officer (Chairman)
Peter Lawrence (PL) – Chief Operating Officer, Marine & Harbour Master
Mike Taylor (MT) – representing Jersey Aquaculture Association
Chris le Masurier (CleM) – representing Jersey Aquaculture Association
Don Thompson (DT) - representing Jersey Fishermen’s Association
Paul Bizec (PB) – representing Jersey Fishermen’s Association
Steve Viney (SV) – representing Jersey Fishermen’s Association
Derek Buesnel (DB) – representing Jersey Recreational Fishermen
Chris Isaacs (CI) - representing Jersey Recreational Fishermen
Francis Binney (FB) – representing Société Jersiaise
Ian Syvret (IS) – representing Jersey Inshore Fishermen’s Association
Natalie Porrit (NP) represent Jersey Merchants
Chris Le Boutillier (CLB) - representing Boat Owners (Northern Section)

In Attendance: Deputy Stephen Luce (SL) – Minister for Planning and Environment
Greg Morel (GM) – Assistant Director - Marine Resources
Derek Henry – Deputy Director of the Environment & Natural Resources, St. Helena
Tony Delahunty (NFFO)
Dot Miller – Minutes

1. Approval of Minutes from the previous meeting and Matters Arising Action

Destruction of green crab – consideration given to extending the netting restriction to St. Ouen’s Bay.

Subject to the above point being included, the minutes from the meeting held on 1st December 2014 were approved.

Matters Arising

- Granville Bay meeting for permits for whelks now has law drafting time, regulation required.

Marine Environment & Administration

2. To receive a briefing on matters discussed at the Granville Bay meetings held in Granville on 5th & 6th February 2015

DT reported to the Panel on the following:

- Ban on spider netting decision was not popular with the Breton fishing industry. Heading towards there being no netting in the Bay during the closed season. To

- be signed of at next JMC. No change to landing spiders from pots.
- Undulate Ray: recording of numbers continues. Fishermen working these grounds are reporting the undulates are forcing other species away.

Chris Le Masurier joined the meeting.

- Submarine power cables: Guernsey to France proposal, it was noted that the cables cause significant problems for fishermen.
- Mobile Gear zone (Ecréhous and Les Minquiers): GM commended the fisherman for their work in putting the report together. There is still work to be done to complete the report before reporting back to the Panel in July.
- Crayfish: Brittany programme to reintroduce spine lobster (possible extinction of the species). The latest position is a closed season for crayfish between 1st January to 31st May in any year as well as a ban on landing females at any time. GM recommended putting these restrictions as a licence condition and then into the Regulation to which the Panel agreed.

GM

3. To discuss the protection of maerl and seagrass beds

The Panel discussed at length and the following was noted:

- Société Jersiaise very keen to see the protection of these areas.
- JFA concerned that this may be just protecting areas of moving sand, however the Société thinks the seagrass may be a larger area that the JFA stating.
- Helpful for the fishing industry to come forward with areas that need to be protected.
- Both biologically and industry valuable areas need to be protected.
- JFA would like to add data to the piece of work already undertaken by the Bretons and Lower Normandy.
- Société Jersiaise will dive or put down drop cameras to check out the area.
- Much further discussion required before amending any charts.
- Société Jersiaise and JFA agreed to meet to discuss further.

4. To discuss the use of disused aquaculture gear

- CLM stated happy to assist with the removal of old gear, however it was noted that none of the gear is his. CLM and FB to liaise.
- It was noted that removal of unused gear is already a condition of the licence but it is hard to enforce. Consideration to be given to develop a system to help enforce the licence conditions.

CLM/FB

GM

CLM left the meeting.

5. To discuss the proposal for the marking of nets

CI ran through the Jersey Recreational Fishermen's recommendations as circulated prior to the meeting.

Panel members discussed the above matter at length and the following was noted:

- Modification to existing regulations (if agreed) would be needed and law drafting required.
- DT disagreed with the case CI had put forward and advised that the JFA are opposed to changing the regulations as there is no evidence to back up the claims that the nets cause a danger to the public.
- IS advised that JFA members were generally supportive of showing flags.
- PL confirmed that there was evidence of boats being tangled in nets but no evidence to show that the nets came for someone who has just set it.
- PL also advised that safety at sea is of prime importance and there is concern about floaty ropes.
- PL requested that any boats getting fouled up to please report this to Harbours, likewise for swimmers and divers.
- CLB confirmed that the Boat Owners (Northern Section) advise members to use a flag and a pole to warn for gear. They do not use floaty rope.

Following discussions it was agreed to:

1. Step up inshore patrols to better police floaty rope, badly or non-marked gear.
2. To issue media release to press, associations, industry etc. to get the message across that fishing gear at sea must be safely set and marked in accordance with fishing regulations; floaty rope must not be used where it could cause a hazard and recommending a small king head on set nets to indicate that a net is present. Also include this information in boat card (French).

Capture Fisheries

6. To discuss the most recent EU measures in respect of Bass management and agree measures to be proposed locally

The following were suggested/discussed:

- Pelagic mid channel ban.
- 3 bass per day for recreational fishermen.
- Minimum landing size to increase to 42cms.
- Bag limits to be proportionate between recreational and commercial fishermen.
- Commercial fishermen are ready and willing to contribute to stock management.
- Restriction on shore netting.
- Stop unregulated fish being sold, regulation required.
- JFA agree bag limits a good idea however agreeing to a minimum size requires much further complicated discussion and is not for deciding at this meeting.
- GM to collate and send out an 'issues and options' paper, Panel members to reply with their thoughts.

GM

7. To discuss French proposals concerning management measures for crayfish

This item was covered by DT as part of the resume of the Granville Bay meetings

8. Date of next meeting

Monday 27th April 2015, 2.15 p.m., Committee Room, Howard Davis Farm.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 5.10 p.m.