

MARINE RESOURCES PANEL MEETING
96th Meeting

Brief notes and action points from meeting held at Howard Davis Farm
9th September 2019

Present:	William Peggie – Director Natural Environment (Chairman) Mike Taylor (MT) – representing Jersey Aquaculture Association Peter Moore (PM) – representing Ports of Jersey Stanley Richard-dit-Leschery (SRL) – representing Ports of Jersey Don Thompson (DT) - representing Jersey Fishermen’s Association Paul Bizac (PB) – representing Jersey Fishermen’s Association Chris Isaacs (CI) - representing Jersey Recreational Fishermen Ian Syvret (IS) – representing Jersey Inshore Fishermen Martin Le Maistre (MLM) – representing Boat Owners Associations Natalie Porrit (NP) – representing Jersey Merchants.
In Attendance:	Gregory Guida (GG) – Assistant Minister for Environment Dave Yettram (DY) – Senior Fisheries Officer – Marine Resources Paul Chambers (PC) – Marine & Coastal Manager, Marine Resources John Le Seilleur (JLS) – Seymour Oyster (part of the meetings)
Apologies:	Gareth Jeffreys (GJ) – representing Société Jersiaise; Steve Mullens (SM) – representing Jersey Recreational Fishermen

		Action
1.	Approval of Minutes from the previous meeting and Matters Arising	
	<p>The following amendments to the minutes were noted:</p> <p><i>Item 5 - Potting Management (Potting Working Group)</i> Correction in paragraph one to ‘unsustainably fished’.</p> <p>Subject to the above changes the Minutes from 10 June 2019 were approved.</p> <p>Matters Arising</p> <p><i>Vessel Size Limitation</i> DT requests that, following further discussion, this measure be brought in as soon as possible as part of future proofing for Brexit. DY said that further consultation and more work are needed on the sunset clauses as this will affect</p>	

	<p>Points made included the possibility that the recently decreasing landed weight is part of a natural cycle or that, conversely, fishing pressure was reducing the breeding potential of the stock.</p> <p>DT remarked that industry support for the measures was surprisingly high and that it was better to take action now rather than risk further decreases. IS felt that the measures were proportionate.</p> <p>With regard to individual measures, PB expressed concern about the need to fit escape gaps to crab pots as this would make them ineffective. NP felt that the raising of the minimum size to 88 mm would present issues when importing lobsters from Guernsey. DT said that a move to 88 mm has industry support and that he thinks the move is essential. He noted that an industry survey estimated there to be 28,000 to 30,000 Jersey pots in the water at any one time.</p> <p>NP also felt that there was a discrepancy between the landed weight of lobster declared to MR and the totals received by the merchants. PC said that this had been investigated and that when all the merchant data is totalled, the figures seem broadly comparable. The accuracy of data submitted to MR is something that is currently being examined as changes may be required post-Brexit.</p> <p>PC requested that any additional comments be submitted to MR. The next move would be for MR to scope out the ways in which the measures could be implemented and a timetable. This would be discussed with the Panel in due course.</p>	All
4.	Fish Resale Register: submitted by the JIFA	
	<p>IS presented a paper on the desirability and need for a register of buyers and sellers of fish. He suggested that this might not be a measure to be brought in straight away, it needs to be seriously considered as a stock management tool.</p> <p>DY said that some legislation exists around the illegal selling of fish and shellfish but that the whole issue of buyers and sellers is being examined as part of traceability criteria associated with post-Brexit requirements. Discussions with the Isle of Man found that only 15 people needed to use their register and that it allowed for a restaurant certification scheme.</p> <p>NP said she had used buyer and seller registers in the UK and that, while it entails additional effort, the system does work.</p> <p>CI felt that the sale of illegal fish in Jersey was only a minor issue. DT disagreed with this and said that when the bass bag limit came in he felt that an observed price rise was driven by illegal sales.</p> <p>WP felt that this had potential environmental and economic benefits and that it is worth looking at. GG agreed with this. There was general agreement that traceability is important and that the idea of a register should not be discounted. MR said that this is being investigated as part of Brexit planning but that what may, or may not, be required would not be clearer until later in the year. The</p>	

	Panel will kept informed of any developments.	
5.	Atlantic Bluefin Tuna: submitted by the JFA	
	<p>DT presented his paper outlining the JFA’s desire to have a ban on fishing for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna (ABFT) lifted. Such a ban is unfair and discriminatory and he requested that the Panel should collectively make this point to the Minister and to request a small catch and release quota.</p> <p>DY said that the problem is with the UK zero quota to which Jersey must be compliant via its Fisheries Management Agreement. Quota for ABFT is managed internationally by ICCAT and via this the UK had tried to secure an accidental kill quota but failed. France does have quota from ICCAT and can issue catch and kill permits (one fish only) and catch and release permits (for scientific research).</p> <p>In the discussion that followed points were made about the conservation status of ABFT, about the ability of French vessels to land fish caught in Jersey waters and whether, post-Brexit, Jersey could sign up to ICCAT to gain its own quota.</p> <p>DY said he would attempt to get firm answers on all the points raised through his UK contacts. DT requested that the tuna ban be lifted as a starting point. IS suggested initiating a catch and release fishery in order to provide evidence for a quota allocation. WP said that in a situation where the possible of consequences of Brexit are already difficult to model, arguing a tuna quota may be pushing the envelope.</p> <p>WP instructed MR Officers to produce a paper for the Panel which will explore Jersey’s position with regard to ABFT and look at the rationale and options for a future fishery.</p>	MR Officers
6.	Whelk Management Update	
	<p>PC presented an update on whelk management which outlined state of the stock (well below 2003 levels but relatively stable) and some of the proposals that had results from discussions with members of the JFA. Industry and Panel had been asked to make any additional proposals to MR ahead of a discussion meeting on 11 September. An update on the outcome of these discussions will be presented at the next Panel meeting.</p>	All
7.	Summary Report on Bass	
	<p>PC summarised the current situation regarding bass stocks and the early results from the data gathered from commercial fishing. This indicates that the bass</p>	

	<p>population continues to make a slow but continual recovery which suggests that restricted fishery and other management measures are having an effect.</p> <p>In the discussion that followed points were made about Jersey's need for a diversified commercial fishery (with bass forming a part of this) and on the limited number of commercial licences being issued.</p> <p>PC said that the update did not include autumn data for 2019 and that a full analysis of stocks and fishing effort will be undertaken in the New Year and assessed in relation to advice from ICES. Measures for 2020 would then be discussed with the Minister and fishing representatives.</p>	
8.	Brexit and Granville Bay Updates	
	GM was absent from the meeting and so an update on Brexit and the Bay of Granville Agreement position was postponed until the next meeting.	
	<u>Next Meeting</u>	
	Monday 2 December 2019 @ 14.15 p.m.	