

MARINE RESOURCES PANEL MEETING

95th Meeting

Brief notes and action points from meeting held at Howard Davis Farm

10th June 2019

Present:	William Peggie – Director Natural Environment (Chairman) Mike Taylor (MT) – representing Jersey Aquaculture Association Peter Moore (PM) – representing Ports of Jersey Don Thompson (DT) - representing Jersey Fishermen’s Association Paul Bizac (PB) – representing Jersey Fishermen’s Association Steve Mullens – representing Jersey Recreational Fishermen Ian Syvret (IS) – representing Jersey Inshore Fishermen Gareth Jeffreys (GJ) – representing Société Jersiaise Natalie Porrit (NT) – representing Jersey Merchants
In Attendance:	Gregory Guida (GG) – Assistant Minister for Environment Greg Morel (GM) – Assistant Director - Marine Resources Dave Yettram (DY) – Senior Fisheries Officer – Marine Resources Paul Chambers (PC) – Marine & Coastal Manager, Marine Resources Francis Binney (FB) – Marine Scientist, Marine Resources Phil Langlois – Marine & Fisheries Assistant Officer Dot Miller (DM) - Minutes
Apologies:	Chris Isaacs (CI) - Jersey Recreational Fishermen Chris Le Masurier – Jersey Aquaculture Association

		Action
1.	Approval of Minutes from the previous meeting and Matters Arising	
	<p>The minutes from the previous meeting held on 4th March 2019 were approved.</p> <p>Matters Arising</p> <p>IVMS DY advised that there was a delay in IVMS agreement being finalised and it was being re-scoped. Issues have been flagged regarding smaller open day boats. DY will keep the panel updated of any progress.</p> <p>Aquaculture MT, on behalf of the Jersey Aquaculture Association, stated that the Association was very unhappy with the way in which the Department had granted a licence to Bay Shellfish. The applicant had not provided additional information as required, has had no practical experience, and has had previous access to confidential financial information.</p> <p>MT comments were duly noted and WP advised that the matter would be discussed further under point 4 in the agenda.</p>	DY

	<u>Safety at Sea</u>	
2.	Changes to the Code of Practice for the Safety of Small Fishing Vessels (PoJ)	
	<p>PM referred to the document circulated to the Panel prior to the meeting and ran through the GAP analysis. PM stated that feedback would be valued and asked that industry respond to the consultation. It was noted that the consultation closes on 2nd December 2019.</p> <p>DT commented that the points will be discussed with JFA members at their meeting on Wednesday 12th June, and feedback will be given to PoJ.</p> <p>Safety at work was discussed and it was noted that compliance/enforcement of the Code of Practice falls under the remit of PoJ, not Environment. DT suggested that this should be made clear in the Fisheries and Marine 2018 annual report.</p>	All
	<u>Capture Fisheries</u>	
3.	Discussion: size limitation for commercial fishing vessels (MR)	
	<p>The paper circulated prior to the meeting asking if there should be a limit on the size of commercial fishing vessels fishing in Jersey waters was reviewed and discussed by the Panel, with the following comments being noted:</p> <p>PB felt that the Panel needed to be wary of this as it could restrict our own fishermen. Doubtful that the French fishermen would agree and they would need to if a limit was introduced.</p> <p>DY explained that the thinking is that this could be used post Brexit. Jersey only have two boats that this would affect and it is likely they would be retiring/selling up soon.</p> <p>DT advised that the JFA Committee had discussed this matter and their position is supportive, with the proviso that it doesn't disadvantage the bigger boats until they retire. If that could be agreed then the JFA felt there was mileage and logic with this restriction.</p> <p>DY confirmed that this restriction can be introduced by licence, therefore quickly, so if Jersey experience a hard Brexit then we can act quickly.</p> <p>DT felt that regardless of Brexit, looking at the demographic of the fleet, with only two large boats the time is right to do this.</p> <p>GG also commented that this would make Jersey more independent; there is no requirement to be exactly the same as the UK. With 'grandfathering' viable, it should be sooner rather than later.</p> <p>With the Panel being in general agreement on this matter, DY to consider/progress further.</p>	DY

4.	Legislation Update	
	<p>New bass legislation has gone through. The bag limit measures is being coordinated and the 18-40 Law and will be brought in at the same time, i.e. second half of 2019.</p>	
	<p>Bay Shellfish With reference to earlier comments in the meeting regarding the granting of a licence to Bay Shellfish, FB confirmed that a site visit will be carried out. With regards to species trialling, the three year licence is now in its second year but nothing has been put in yet so there is no activity at present.</p> <p>MT reported to the Panel that the JAA is concerned. Several points were not considered/adopted for this applicant. It was noted that Mr Le Masurier (Jersey Oyster) had to give the applicant access to his financial data whilst the applicant was working for the States of Jersey producing an aquaculture report on behalf of SOJ. Mr Le Masurier feels that it is due to his financial data that this application for a licence was made.</p> <p>WP recommended that officers should discuss how private financial data should be used/handled. GG suggested that using a competition clause may be appropriate.</p>	MR Officers
5.	Proposed changes to potting management (MR.JFA)	
	<p>PC gave a presentation to the Panel regarding lobster stock. It was noted that the lobster stock, by some criteria such is used by the Marine Stewardship Council, are on the edge of being a sustainable fished.</p> <p>Potting Working Group PC reported that there are signs of stress in the lobster stock including evidence which suggests that female lobsters are maturing at a smaller size and that the average lobster size at capture is close to the minimum size.</p> <p>DT expressed his gratitude to the marine officers for their work so far. He stated that fisheries are clearly at a point where measures are needed but these should not affect the size of the fleet.</p> <p>With regard to a suggested phased reduction in the maximum allocation of parlour pots, MT queried the practicality of storing the excess parlour pots. PC suggested giving a year's notice for any changes but MT felt this wasn't enough time.</p> <p>DT commented that the enforcement of the current regime was not strong enough and needs to be improved. A timeline for any changes is needed and if notification can go out soon it will send the correct message but reasonable warning is needed. DT requested that the Panel moved swiftly on this and that measures need to be extended to the recreational sector too.</p> <p>The Panel then discussed the proposed use of escape gaps for all lobster pots. All agreeing that escape gaps should be mandatory for all pots.</p>	MR Officers

	It was agreed that a Lobster Management Working Group should be formed and an invite was extended to stakeholders to join the group. JFA and JIF expressed an interest. Anyone else interested or with management ideas/comments should contact the Marine Resources team.	All
6.	Annual Report 2018	
	The 2018 AR had been circulated ahead of the meeting. PC asked for comments/fundamental changes to be forwarded to officers asap. It will be published online as soon as possible.	All
	<u>Bay of Granville/Brexit</u>	
7.	Update on recent developments (MR)	
	GM advised that although there are lots of discussions and meetings going on in the background there is still no clarity on leaving Brexit. DY advised that work is moving forward with regard to direct landings at French ports. PC advised that the BOG review is ongoing with some positive signs. Other successes concern brown crab measures and a planned joint scallop stock assessment. This was part of a plan to better understand local stock health.	
	<u>Other Matters</u>	
	FEPA DT advised that the T&Cs associated with FEPA licences need to be looked at in the future. PC confirmed that MRT are aware that FEPA legislation is old and in need of modernisation. There has been talk of a complete review, possibly later this year, but this is a large task and will depend on MR and law officer capacity.	
	Bluefin Tuna	
	DT raised the matter of Bluefin Tuna. He noted that France has a quota but that the UK's lack of quota means there is a complete ban for Jersey. DT suggested that a review is needed to consider a catch and release system.	
	<u>Next Meeting</u>	
	Monday 9 th September 2019 @ 2.15 p.m.	
	There being no other business the meeting closed at 4.40 p.m.	