

Fisheries and Marine Resources Annual Report 2008



Fisheries & Marine Resources
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Environment Division
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Executive Summary

2008 was characterised by a number of significant events that touched both the fishing industry and the wider marine environment. A major storm on 10/ 11 March appeared to cause considerable silt loads to be activated in the Granville Bay and this was visible for a number of months and may have had other more lasting effects. Fuel prices increased very markedly and although they declined again by the end of the year they undoubtedly had an effect on fishing effort. Research work revealed that the whelk population had continued on its decline and there was some concern about recruitment to the stock. Finally the Coastal Zone Management Strategy was agreed by the States Assembly and work began implementing the strategy.

Although substantially less gear was set at sea the capture fishery in 2008 fared quite well and landings generally were good. The only stock currently giving rise to concern is the whelk stock and talks to improve management measures have begun with the relevant fishing communities.

There was a small increase in the intertidal area farmed which, coupled with more efficient use of existing areas, saw an increase in the production of farmed shellfish to 955 tons an increase of 21% and the highest production recorded.

The value of the total landing catch (including aquaculture) in 2008 increased by 14% from 2007. The total value of the industry was £6.75m in 2008.

Research and monitoring work on the important species confirmed that whilst lobster and ormer stocks were holding up the whelk stock was currently in decline. This was mirrored by similar French work and a dialogue had now begun amongst the fishing communities to improve management of the stock.

This information has already been circulated to the fishing community via a regular newsletter and updates onto the Fisheries website (www.gov.je/Fisheries) at frequent intervals.

Enforcement work continued apace and did not give rise to many serious unexpected incidents and fishing effort at sea was found to have reduced marginally probably because of the fuel crisis. The role of marine enforcement continues to widen with regulation of the wider marine environment becoming an important aspect of the work undertaken. The majority of complaints from the public concerned beach set nets and hooks and although a variety of gear types were seized no cases resulted in a court appearance usually because the offender could not be identified. The regulatory section of the team has also been heavily involved in new pieces of legislation most of which should come before the States in 2009.

In October 2008 the States Assembly approved the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy and to implement this the post of Marine and Coastal Officer was created within the Environment Division with no increase in overall headcount by reorganisation in other areas.

The officer appointed will work within the Fisheries and Marine Resources section thus the role of the section has expanded to cover the wider responsibility and the officer will be able to call upon the facilities available within the section to undertake his work.

To enhance this wider environmental role the Fisheries and Marine Resources Panel was also joined by the Chairman of the Marine Biology section of the Société Jersiaise.

In summary 2008 was an eventful year in which landings of fish and shellfish were maintained. The section has pursued its regulatory work with diligence and has provided wide ranging advice to a variety of bodies including the Fisheries and Marine Resources Panel. The section has also widened its sphere of operation to encompass the agreed Coastal Zone Management Strategy and will be joined by a Marine and Coastal Officer to put the strategy into action in early 2009.

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1. International Work

1.1 France

Work has continued with France mainly in the administration of the Granville Bay Treaty with two meetings in France and one in Jersey being held between fishermen, research staff and administrators in this respect. Two officers also attended the Basse Normandie whelk fishermen's meeting in Carteret to discuss whelk management in April.

1.2 Europe

The Senior Fisheries Inspector attended one of the EU Regional Advisory Committee meetings in Paris to present the views of the Granville Bay participants concerning the new EU Technical Conservation Regulations.

1.3 United Kingdom

Meetings of the Chief Fishery Officers, the UK Sea Fisheries Committees, the UK Crustacea management group were also attended. The annual meeting between Defra and Jersey officers to discuss the operation of the Fisheries Management Agreement between the UK and Jersey was held in London in November. The UK Shellfish Managers meeting last year held in Guernsey was also attended and one of the keynote papers on joint fisheries management was presented by Simon Bossy.

The Food and Environment Protection Act (FEPA) regulates dumping and building works in the sea. To keep the administration of this Act in Jersey the same as in the UK a "Marine Consents" meeting was attended in London which acted as a forum for both industry and administrators addressing the functioning of the Act throughout Britain.

2. Legislation

The following legislation was agreed by the States in 2008.

Sea Fisheries (Inshore Trawling, Netting and Dredging)(Amendment)(Jersey) Regulations 2008.

3 pages

This regulation provides additional controls for the use of set nets on beaches.

The following strategy was agreed by the States in 2008

Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy

39 pages

This strategy sets out to provide a single coherent set of policies to manage Jersey's marine and coastal environment.

3. Industry – Capture Fisheries

3.1. Fishing Vessel Licensing

As of the 31st December 2008 the fleet comprised 163 licensed fishing vessels, 97 of which were shellfish qualified. This included 17 Class A (over 10 metre) licences and 146 Class B (10 metre and under) licences. This created 772 gross tonnes, 13016 kW and 9209 Vessel Capacity Units (VCU's). There has been a continued decrease in the size of the fleet in terms of vessel numbers, and also a reduction in terms of vessel capacity units, largely due to the loss of 3 over 10m vessels; however as 2 of these over 10m boats were not active and the third mainly fished from Brixham their loss is not likely to have much effect on catches in Jersey waters.

Table 1. Number and Vessel Capacity Units (VCUs) of licensed vessels.

Size	1997		1998		1999		2000	
	Nos.	VCU	Nos.	VCU	Nos.	VCU	Nos.	VCU
>10m	33	7069	32	6708	30	6121	29	6105
6-10m	103	6546	96	6345	80	5703	66	4453
<6m	154	3534	160	3535	137	2955	128	2874
Total	290	17149	288	16588	247	14779	223	13432

Size	2001		2002		2003		2004	
	Nos.	VCU	Nos.	VCU	Nos.	VCU	Nos.	VCU
>10m	25	5574	24	5328	26	5535	21	4066
6-10m	68	4608	65	4371	65	4472	65	4251
<6m	120	2809	123	2826	119	2747	112	2579
Total	213	12991	212	12525	210	12754	198	10896

Size	2005		2006		2007		2008	
	Nos.	VCU	Nos.	VCU	Nos.	VCU	Nos.	VCU
>10m	19	3218	20	3390	21	3641	17	3069
6-10m	60	4173	58	3958	61	4176	58	4059
<6m	105	2408	100	2335	89	2037	88	2081
Total	184	9799	178	9683	171	9854	163	9209

3.1.1. Licence Transactions

During the year 21 new licences and 26 new entitlements were issued; however no additional (Piggy Back) licences were issued. Thirty three entitlements have also been used, 22 entitlements were placed onto Jersey vessels, 8 entitlements were transferred to the UK and used to licence UK registered fishing vessels, 2 entitlements was transferred to Guernsey and 1 entitlement lapses. No licence entitlements were transferred from Guernsey to Jersey and no licence entitlements were transferred from the UK to Jersey. As of the 31st December 2008 there were 19 valid Jersey licence entitlements, 7 of which were shellfish qualified.

Table 2. Fate of fishing vessel licences

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
New Licences Issued	32	21	19	24	17	24
New Entitlements Issued	33	35	30	30	24	26
Entitlements Used – Total	46	38	22	29	24	33
Entitlements Used - Jersey	35	22	15	20	16	22
Entitlements Exported - Guernsey	7	7	4	3	1	2
Entitlements Exported - UK	4	8	2	6	7	8
Entitlements Lost	1	3	1	0	0	1
Entitlements Imported - Guernsey	1	1	1	1	0	0
Entitlements Imported - UK	5	3	1	1	0	0
Valid Jersey Entitlements 31 Dec.	18	14	25	28	26	20
Additional Licences Issued	0	1	2	7	4	0

3.2. Gear Fished

It is recorded that the declared number of parlour pots set decreased by 20% to a low of 16,847 pots. Other pots set (normally inkwells) also reduced by 16% to 5,400 pots. These are the lowest parlour pot numbers declared since 2001 when 15,128 were declared and the lowest aggregate pot numbers of 22,304 since the records from

Table 3. Quantity of gear fished by the Jersey fleet

Gear Type	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Parlour pot	18 675	21 244	22 688	19 419	23 709	21 066	16847
Other pot	7 886	7 468	6 475	6 738	6 568	6 535	5457
Whelk pot	1 997	843	781	3 274	3 004	2 907	2308
Prawn pot	359	107	141	172	85	55	32
Tangle net (m)	41 065	43 490	78 890	71 340	69 800	33 710	44000
Trammel net (m)	10 560	16 690	20 221	18 850	17 830	10 430	5770
Mesh net (m)	34 375	33 870	41 065	22 970	26 180	14 310	13330
Dredges	89	57	32	35	35	35	48
Beam trawl (m)	38	31	20	20	9.5	4	10
Otter trawl (m)	143	116	115	94	69	69	74
Longline (nos of hooks)	N/R	N/R	5 195	10 217	10 797	3 751	2610

statistical data began in 1996. Nevertheless catches of crab and lobster were good at 480 tons and 162 tons respectively. It is always a good sign that despite less recorded fishing effort the catch levels for crustacea are maintained. It is also interesting to record that the spider crab fishery which had been poor for a number of years showed signs of recovery with a 69% increase in landings to 178 tons.

3.3. Catches

While the crustacea fishery appeared to flourish, the whelk landings showed a drop of 247 tons or 45% to 297 tons. This may be accounted for in part by fishing effort being directed at whelks for only part of the year by some whelk fishermen who then directed their effort elsewhere. Nevertheless whelk stock assessment work (see research section) has shown that the whelk stocks are in a relatively poor state particularly to the east of the Island and some remedial management measures should be considered by those fishing communities that exploit the stock.

Table 4. Quantity of shellfish landed by the Jersey fleet

Species	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Brown crab	523 850	540 214	540 652	437 650	348 990	412 239	480 844
Crawfish	920	629	550	267	500	170	142
Lobster	156 548	166 612	167 004	138 843	131 296	154 704	162 560
Scallop¹	377 393	309 043	187 675	227 565	303 723	371 837	330 997
Spider crab	269 623	233 427	223 497	163 413	129 291	105 734	178 692
Whelk	204 314	133 601	146 678	442 355	621 011	545 395	297 742
Others²	23 583	9 447	6 623	4 710	5 132	2 047	2 400
Total	1 475 231	1 342 146	1 232 153	1 368 626	1 502 528	1 592 126	1 453 377

Notes

1. 2007 onwards includes dredged and commercial dived.
2. Others include prawn, velvet crab, cuttlefish, squid, praire, amande.

In the wetfish fishery bass landings increased slightly to 18.5 tons which is just above the 10 year running average of 18.4 tons. Conger catches were down by some 10.1 tons to 7.1 tons. This is likely to be a function of fishing effort as the number of longline hooks set also declined by some 30%. In contrast landings of ray were up by 30.1 tons to nearly 80 tons making this fishery the most important wetfish around Jersey by weight and value as in 2007.

Table 5. Quantity of wetfish landed by the Jersey fleet

Species	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Angler	1 142	1 354	663	492	757	262	240
Brill	4 482	3 817	2 697	4 009	1 877	2 435	2 997
Bass	21 362	24 883	19 120	22 193	30 952	18 085	18 564
Cod	5 949	507	852	56	235	46	198
Conger	12 999	24 765	11 519	14 384	21 024	17 314	7 179
Dogfish	18 881	15 697	23 592	16 181	20 544	8 211	10 133
Gurnard/Latchet	6 529	3 858	2 776	1 570	1 911	1 570	2 085
Horse mackerel	8 699	2 929	1 530	1 136	1 100	63	3
John Dory	965	338	195	153	182	14	9
Ling	1 646	717	328	134	214	176	159
Mackerel	10 046	9 985	6 354	9 189	8 270	5 516	7 004
Mullet -grey	5 182	6 370	4 856	7 030	6 205	561	1 470
Mullet -red	3 724	5 231	2 149	1 691	1 268	900	372
Plaice	9 341	4 597	2 159	1 763	2 284	930	2 722
Pollack	12 085	13 189	9 969	8 454	6 374	2 690	7 334
Sea Bream¹	106588	134661	47 945	36 043	7 378	3 066	4 215
Skate/Ray	59 215	87 911	52 413	53 461	59 643	49 801	79 961
Sole	15 147	14 767	6 689	17 048	3 814	1 807	2 194
Tope	882	1 635	2 735	2 280	2 295	1 593	747
Turbot	1 821	2 067	1 208	3 245	896	436	400
Other Species²	-	-	-	1 038	1 865	2 124	2 586
Total	311 145	362 955	201 529	203 093	180 493	117 600	150 572

Notes

1. Figures for some years include catches from outside Jersey Waters

2. Other species included flounder, pouts, rockfish, sandeel, sand sole, shark, smooth hound, trigger fish, whiting and wrasse.

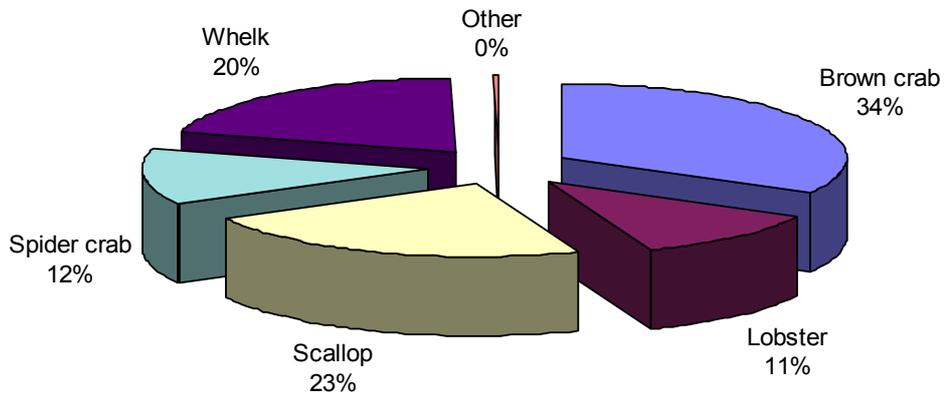


Figure 1. Shellfish landed by weight

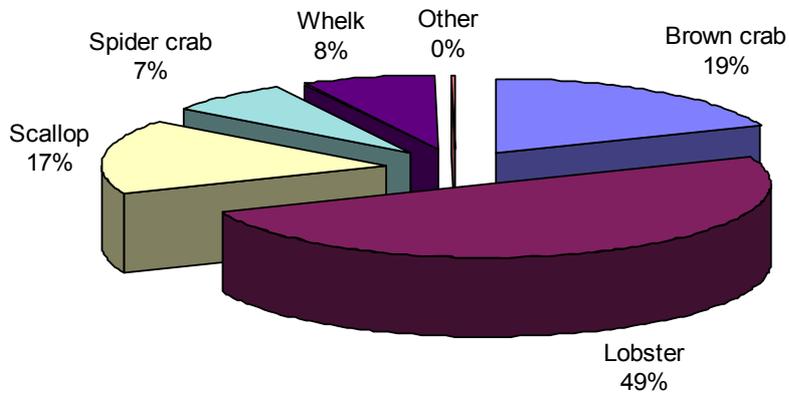


Figure 2. Shellfish landed by value

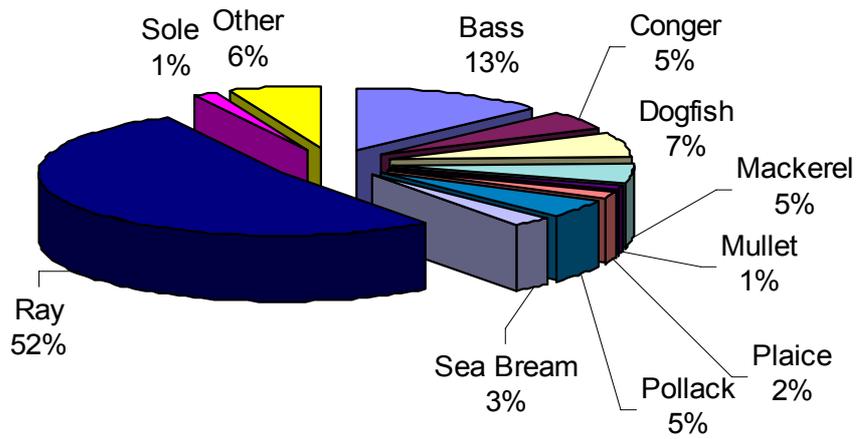


Figure 3. Wetfish landed by weight

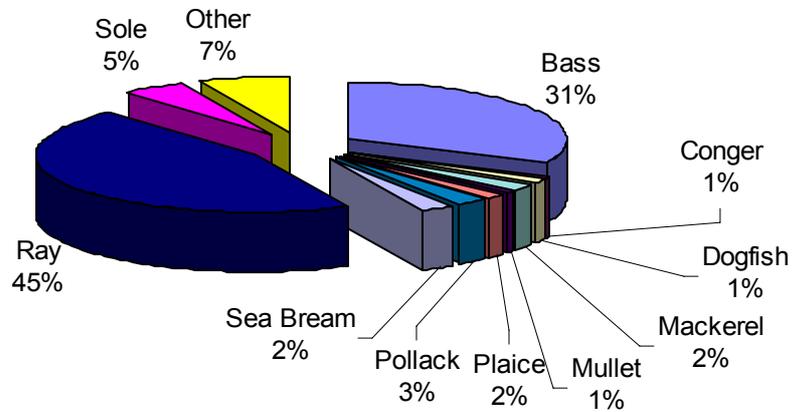


Figure 4. Wetfish landed by value

3.4. Catch per unit effort

Table 6. Catch per unit effort (CPUE) for selected shellfish species

Species	Quantity landed (kgs)	Nos. of pot lifts¹	CPUE (kgs per 100 pots)	% change from 2007
Brown crab	480 844	1 632 590	29.45	+5.6
Lobster	162 560	1 632 590	9.96	-4.8
Spider crab	178 692	1 632 590	10.94	+53.0

Notes

1. Pot lifts include parlour pots, inkwell, creels, D pots

4. Industry – Aquaculture

During the year there were several changes with respect to concessions on the foreshore. The Seymour Oyster Company increased the size of their concession in the Royal Bay of Grouville to allow for the development of the business.

The Jersey Oyster Company took over Jerseyaise Fluke Ltd and amalgamated that concession with another of the company's sites to the north. These changes resulted in an increase of just over 5 hectares of the intertidal zones granted as concessions for the purposes of aquaculture.

Overall production increased significantly with just under 1000 tonnes of shellfish farmed, an increase of 21% on the previous year. All three species farmed on Island increased production over the year, with production of king scallop and mussels doubling.

Turbot remains the only finfish farmed in the Island by Jersey Turbot in the tunnels at St Catherine's. Production for 2008 was just less than 1 tonne.

Table 7. Farmed shellfish production (area in hectares; production in kgs)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Intertidal area¹	54.5	54.5	54.5	62.65	62.88	62.88	68
Subtidal area	100	100	100	166	166	166	166
Pacific oyster	475 643	560 200	720 768	579 915	651 148	737 395	829 952
King scallop	1 544	1 351	3 571	8 484	2 540	4 100	8841
Mussels	96 370	108 300	25 000	50 000	117 500	50 000	117 000
Total	573 557	669 851	749 339	638 399	771 188	791 495	955 793

Note

1. Area pre 2004 relates to actual area farmed. 2005 onwards relates to total concession area granted.

The other major issues for this sector of the industry remain the same as highlighted in previous reports, that being land based infrastructure and the freight links to France.

Land based infrastructure are required for the grading, sorting and depurating produce and the storage of vessels and equipment. They are vital for the survival of the business.

Freight links to the continent continue to be an issue for exports. There have also been some issues with French customs. Whilst deputations have had detailed discussions with service providers and authorities in Jersey and France a solution is yet to be found.

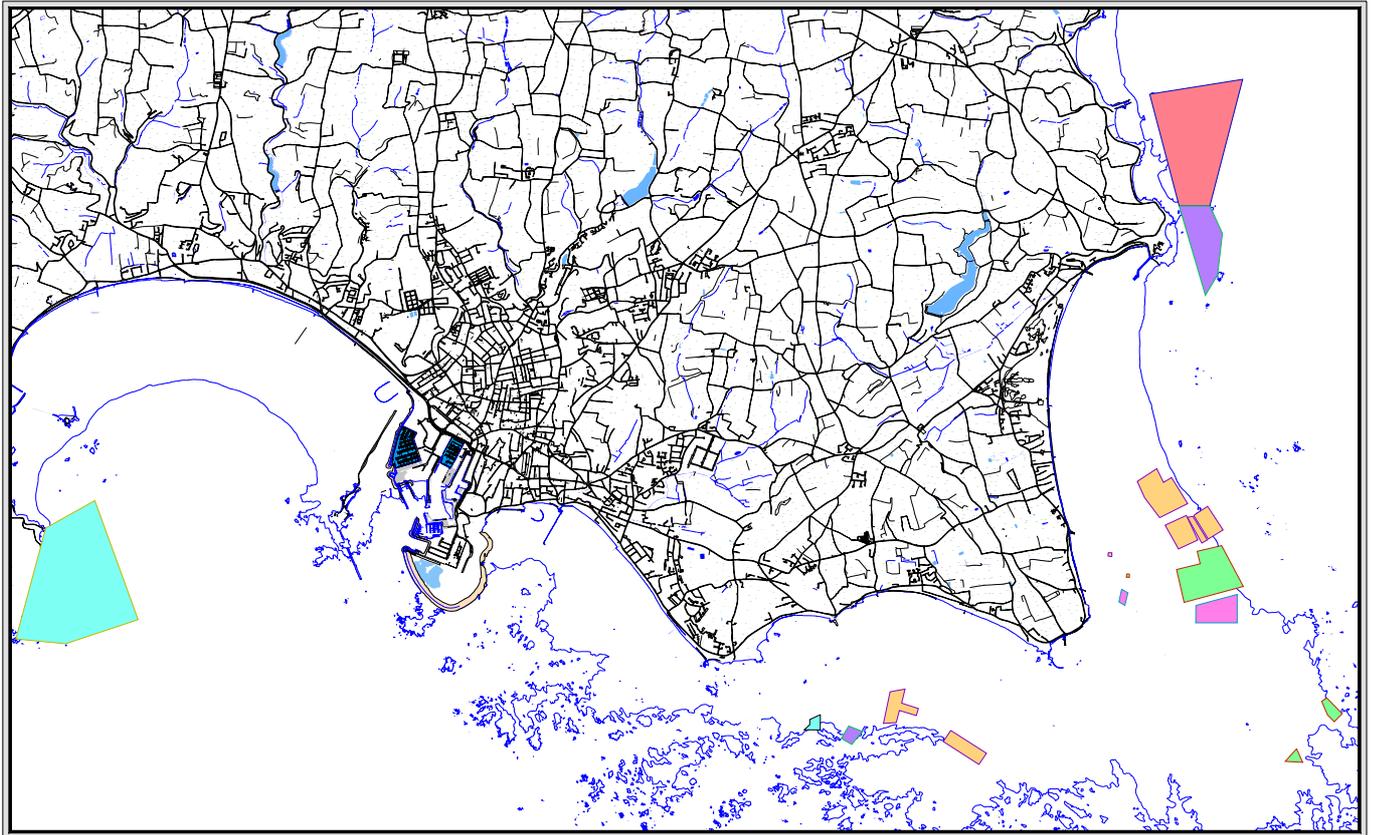


Figure 5. Aquaculture concessions as of December 2008.

5. Industry – Economics

Table 8. Value of shellfish landed by the Jersey fleet

Species	Quantity landed (kgs)	Average Price (£) per kg	Value (£)
Brown crab	480 844	1.55	744 373
Crawfish	142	26.00	3 692
Lobster	162 560	12.17	1 978 355
Scallop	330 997	2.00	661 994
Spider crab	178 692	1.55	276 973
Whelk	297 742	1.00	297 742
Others	2 400	2.00	4 800
Total	1 453 377		3 967 929

Table 9. Value of wetfish landed by the Jersey fleet

Species	Quantity landed (kgs)	Average Price (£) per kg	Value (£)
Angler fish	240	8.00	1 920
Brill	2 997	6.50	19 480
Bass	18 564	7.00	129 948
Cod	198	2.50	495
Conger	7 179	0.50	3 589
Dogfish	10 133	0.50	5 066
Gurnard/Latchet	2 085	0.50	1 042
Horse mackerel	3	0.50	1
John Dory	9	7.00	63
Ling	159	1.00	159
Mackerel	7 004	1.25	8 755
Mullet – grey	1 470	1.00	1 470
Mullet – red	372	6.00	2 232
Plaice	2 722	2.50	6 805
Pollack	7 334	1.50	11 001
Sea Bream	4 215	2.50	10 537
Skate/Ray	79 961	2.50	199 902
Sole	2 194	9.00	19 746
Tope	747	1.00	747
Turbot	400	8.00	3 200
Other species	2 586	1.00	2 586
Total	151 923		428 744

Table10. Total value of the fishing industry at first sale

Sector	2008 Value (£)	% Change (compared to 2007)
Shellfish	3 967 929	-1%
Wetfish	428 744	+31%
Aquaculture	1 312 414	+21%
UK Landings	1 035 588	+111%
Total	6 744 675	+14%

The value of the total landing catch (including aquaculture) has increased by 14% from 2007. The total value of the industry is now £6.75m. Of note is the continual steady increase in value of the aquaculture sector, representing 20% of the total value of the industry.

6. Research and Development

Whelk

The annual whelk stock assessment was done in February in relatively good weather. Methodology and equipment were standardised in keeping with previous studies. Unfortunately one experimental string of pots was lost due to trawling activity and, although some pots were subsequently recovered, the valuable data was lost. The results of the survey were not encouraging. The catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 1.55 kg per pot, the lowest recorded in all surveys and well below the threshold level of 1.8 kg per pot required to sustain a viable commercial fishery. A significant drop of 50% in the CPUE of the undersize fraction of the catch was also recorded compared with 2007. The 2008 study gave a possible indication of recruitment overfishing. Officers presented these data to the Panel, the JAC and the Basse-Normandie whelk commission with strong recommendations that management measures needed to be implemented as soon as possible.

Recommendations have been made for several years that implementation of additional management measures for the whelk fishery are required given the high exploitation rates and certain biological characteristics of this species.

Lobster

The juvenile lobster stock assessment was done in May and June employing the same methodology and equipment as in previous surveys. The CPUE of pre-recruit lobsters was less than had been recorded in earlier studies by 15% and catches at the various sample stations differed significantly. The lobster fishery continues to show heavy dependence on new recruits to the fishery and this remains the fundamental weak link in the success or failure of the lobster fishery.

Further work is needed to assess the relationship between CPUE of pre-recruits and the CPUE of sized lobster. The study will be repeated in 2009, although the scheduled refit of the Norman Le Brocq may impact of this work.

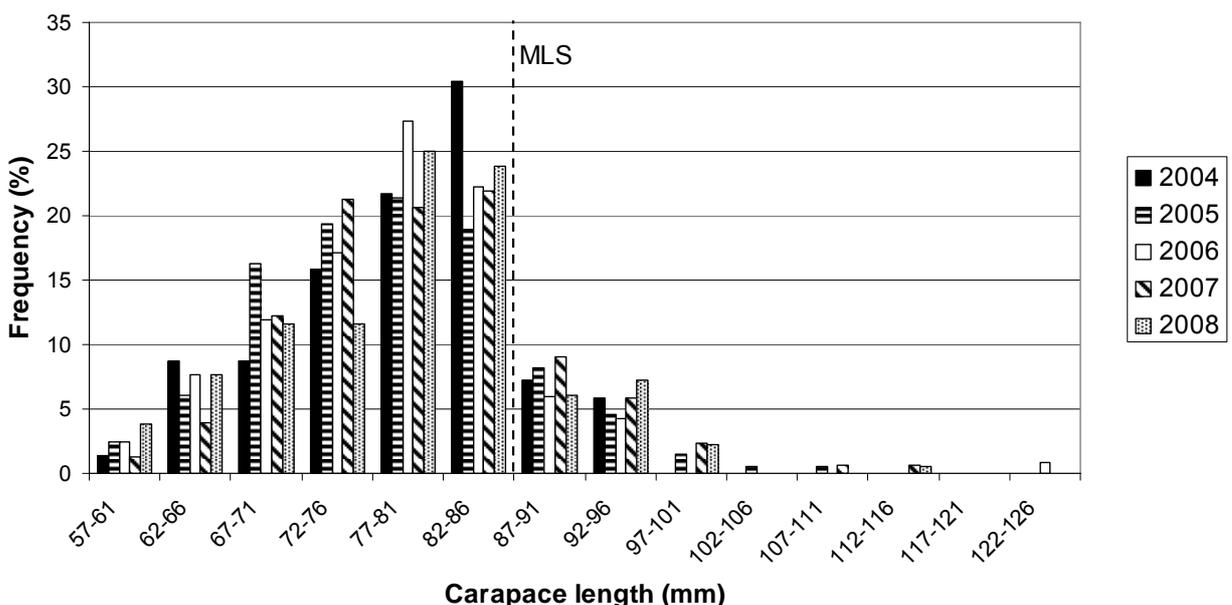
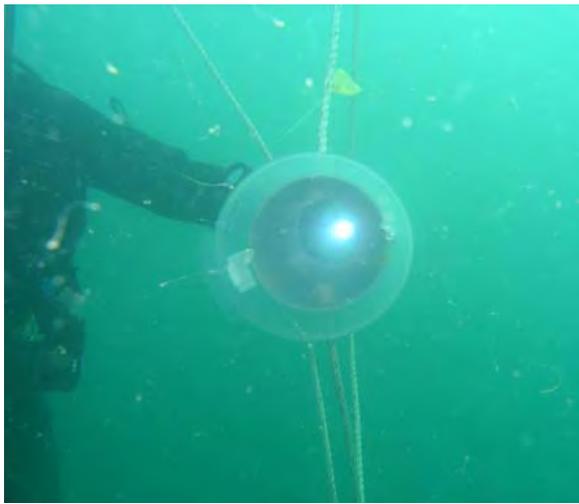


Figure 6. Length frequency distribution of lobster

A new assessment tool for the lobster fishery was trialled this year. To try to devise a different index to assess the state of the lobster stock plankton light traps were designed and built. The trap consisted of a plastic tube sealed at one end with a funnel at the other end. A light source was suspended in the trap and directed out of the funnel end of the trap. Lobster larvae have the ability to move towards a light source. The traps were set for approximately 18 hours. A number of different species were recorded in the traps but unfortunately no lobster larvae were caught. Although disappointing, the trap design worked well and the light source proved adequate for the duration the trap was set, which was the primary goal for the programme for 2008. It is likely that the traps were set too late in the year to catch lobster larvae. The 2009 study will look to set the equipment over a longer temporal period.



The plankton light trap in situ and example of crustacean larvae caught

Ormer

The annual ormer survey was undertaken in June. The dive team assessed the ormer population at the three selected sites, namely St Catherine's Breakwater, St Brelade's Bay and the Pipette's at Les Minquiers. Numbers of ormers found at St Catherine's breakwater were comparable with previous studies, no evidence of mortality was recorded and good numbers of small ormers found. Divers found fewer ormers at the site in St Brelade's Bay than the three previous surveys. There was some anecdotal evidence of mortality but the significant problem experienced by the divers was the high level of silt covering the seabed. The disturbance to the benthos during the search released silt into the water column that made it impossible to look for the ormers. Considerable time was spent waiting for the visibility to improve. This silt was probably deposited after the major storm in March when large amounts of fine particulates were re-suspended in the water column or washed down into the coastal zone.

The survey found no significant change in the number of ormers found at Les Minquiers since 2006. The difficulties cited in previous reports still exist at this location and the hope that alternative locations at the offshore reef would be found have yet to be achieved.

Ray

The tagging of ray continued throughout 2008 by project partners. No tagging was done by the section. By the end of 2008 809 fish had been tagged (184 blonde, 516 small eyed, 7 thornback and 101 undulate). 138 recaptures were reported (41 blonde, 85 small eyed, 1 thornback, 11 undulate). A paper entitled "Preliminary observations on the movements of skates (Rajidae) around the Island of Jersey, western English Channel." has been drafted and will be published in 2009. Fishermen continue to be encouraged to record catch of ray by species and not the generic term "skate/ray". Identification guides were sent out in the Newsletter although correct recording is poor. Efforts to improve this will continue in 2009.

Routine

Routine sampling and monitoring continues to be a significant time and manpower commitment. The following table shows the programmes undertaken by the section.

Table 11. Routine sampling programmes.

Species sampled	Frequency	Analysis undertaken
1. Oyster (<i>Crassostrea gigas</i>)	Monthly	<i>E.coli</i>
2. Mussel (<i>Mytilus edulis</i>)	Monthly	<i>E.coli</i>
3. Mussel (<i>Mytilus edulis</i>)	Monthly (every 2 weeks during summer)	Shellfish poisoning (ASP, DSP, PSP)
4. Seawater	Monthly (every 2 weeks during summer)	Shellfish poisoning (ASP, DSP, PSP)
5. Slipper limpet (<i>Crepidula fornicata</i>)	Bi-annually	Heavy Metals (As, Cd, Cr, Cu, Pb, Zn)
6. Common limpet (<i>Patella vulgata</i>)	Bi-annually	Heavy Metals
7. Seaweed (<i>Fucus serratus</i>)	Bi-annually	Heavy Metals
8. Slipper limpet (<i>Crepidula fornicata</i>)	Bi-annually	AFFF (Airport fire fighting foam)
9. Harbour Monitoring Programme	Annually	Physical, biological and chemical parameters
10. Submarine Cable Patrol	Monthly	Assessment of activity

Eco-logs

2008 saw the introduction of a recording system that was termed the "Eco-logs". These were two pro-forma logs that aided officers in recording observations at sea of various events. The first was the marine species log. This enabled the recording of pertinent information of all sightings of any species including marine mammals, rare fish species and birds. The second was the offshore reef log. Inspection of the offshore reefs has been undertaken for many years but has tended to focus on commercial and recreational fishing activity. The log allowed for the recording of other information including number of vessels at anchor and people ashore as well as

species and number of birds sighted. It is hoped that these logs will become a valuable resource over time in helping to assess activity, both human and wildlife.

Cetaceans

Dolphins were sighted on 32 separate occasions in 2008. This was the highest number of sightings ever recorded. All sightings were identified as bottlenose dolphins. Most sightings occurred to the east of the Isl and ranging from Les Ecrehou in the north to Les Minquiers in the south. Dolphins were also sighted to the south of the Island east of the Demi de Pas lighthouse. Dolphins were also recorded once at Corbiere and once at Greve de Lecq. Pattern and frequency of patrols remained relatively unchanged in 2008 compared with other years. Grey seals were sighted on 7 separate occasions with all sightings apart from one at Les Ecrehou. The other location was the Pipettes, Les Minquiers.

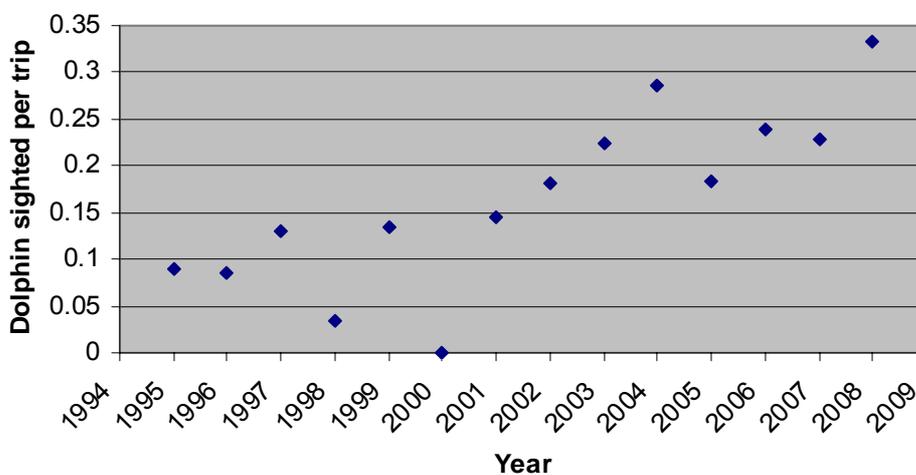


Figure 7. Dolphin sightings from Fisheries Protection Vessels

Note Vessel and patrol pattern changed 1997/1998.

Statistics

As stated in previous reports the collection and analysis remain vital for the management of exploited stocks and the overall wellbeing of the marine ecosystem. Since 2007 it has been a requirement for all commercial vessels to supply daily logsheets. These data are collated on a quarterly basis and provide up to date information for the Department, Fisheries and Marine Resources Panel and Minister to ensure appropriate management is in place. Fishermen were encouraged to record as much information as possible in the logbook particularly species of fish and not just generic groups.

Customer Focus

Customer focus is a core value of the States of Jersey and the section continues to strive for excellence in this. As well as the Fisheries Office at La Collette providing an accessible location for the industry to drop in and a meeting room should they require the section also produces a number of publications for the industry and general public alike. Three Fisheries and Marine Resources Newsletters were published by

the Department in 2008. The newsletter format has been used for many years as a way to inform the industry of important information including legislation and licensing issues. The Newsletter is also distributed to other interested parties including Fisheries and Marine Resources Panel members, boat associations and tackle shops. It is also published on the website

Information leaflets are also published giving information on general recreational fishing, angling and low water fishing. A minimum size card is available with the size in English, French, Portuguese and Polish.

A section of the States website is dedicated to fisheries and marine resources. Here can be found on all aspects of the section's responsibilities as well as links to all the relevant legislation.

During the years the issue of plastic waste generated by the fishing industry during normal operations was addressed. The method of disposal of plastic waste by fishermen varied between individuals. Some brought back plastic to dump ashore whilst others disposed of plastic at sea. This activity is illegal and clearly has a detrimental impact of the marine environment both to wildlife and aesthetically. The section provided two Eurobins situated at strategic locations around the harbour for the sole purpose of disposal of plastic waste by fishermen. The Parish of St Helier agreed to empty the bins at regular intervals.



Waste disposal facilities for fishermen at St Helier harbour

7. Food and Environmental Protection Act

No formal applications under the Food and Environmental Protection Act (FEPA) were received during the year.

Officers in an observation capacity did spend time onboard a survey vessel conducting a biological survey to the east of the Island. The survey was done as part of the environmental assessment for the proposed electric cable, running from France to Jersey.

8. Enforcement

Summary

During the year very few serious offences were detected against the regulations relating to either the conservation of stocks or the right of foreign vessels to access specific parts of the territorial sea. Of the total of 43 offences detected, 23 related to breaches of regulations concerning the submission of statistics, marking of gear and other similar requirements.

Whilst such offences may appear less important, they invariably need investigating as they may result from an intention to hide a more serious issue. The need to obtain catch statistics is increasingly important, in addition to assisting in the management of the fishery, such data also provides an invaluable track record for individual fishermen. Against a backdrop of continuing management measures at United Kingdom and European Commission level, such track records are often used to assess the stocks which individual fishermen may target. It is therefore disappointing that considerable officer time was required to remind fishermen to submit these statistics. In one case where the reminder letters were persistently ignored, an individual was prosecuted at Parish Hall level.

Possibly as a result of high fuel costs and commercial factors, the number of professional French registered vessels seen fishing in the territorial sea was significantly lower than normal. For that reason fewer offshore patrols were conducted.

A combination of unsuitable weather and tides during the year also meant that low water fishing activity was considerably reduced on normal, and this is reflected in the small number of checks of individuals conducting such activities.



Plastic waste dumped at sea from a commercial fishing vessel

With the fisheries team taking on wider responsibilities for management of the coastal zone, resources were used to monitor activity at the offshore islands and enforce other environmental regulations. Two fishermen were sent advisory letters in relation to dumping plastic at sea in contravention of environmental legislation. Officers also attended training in wildlife watching and used this knowledge to advise recreational boaters on how to behave in the vicinity of marine mammals.

Enforcement of Minimum Size Regulations

A total of only 9 offences against the Minimum Size regulations was detected during the year, despite an above average number of inspections being conducted. This is the lowest number of offences in a year since 1996, and in that year considerably fewer inspections were conducted. Whilst the overall number of such offences fell, the number attributable to Jersey based fishermen remained stable.

One professional Jersey fisherman was successfully prosecuted at the Magistrate's Court for two offences occurring in 2007. This fisherman had elected not to appear at earlier Court hearings and his arrest had been ordered, he subsequently came to the Court's attention as a result of an unrelated matter.

Enforcement of Exclusive Limits

During routine patrols, fishermen onboard three French recreational fishing vessels were found to be angling inside the Jersey three mile exclusive limit. On each occasion the vessels were boarded and then left the area, the owners being sent advisory letters.

No incidents of commercial vessels fishing inside the limit came to light.

Enforcement of Granville Bay Agreement

During the early part of the year, a French scallop dredger was found on two occasions to be fishing a short distance inside an area to the south west of the Island where such activity is not permitted. After receiving an advisory letter for the first offence, the skipper was prosecuted at Town Hall level in relation to the second offence.

During October a third vessel was found to be fishing in another restricted zone without the required permits and without being on the official list, as supplied by the French government. The skipper of the vessel was subsequently fined at the Magistrate's Court and the owner is scheduled to attend the same Court in 2009.

Routine inspections in January also revealed five incidents of French skippers failing to carry their Granville Bay permit onboard. As these vessels were on the appropriate lists the owners were sent advisory letters.

Logbooks

The skippers of vessels more than 10 metres in length have long been required to submit log sheets relating to fishing activity on a regular basis, but regularly need reminding to do so. The skippers/owners of vessels smaller than that need to put in sheets four times a year and again need regular reminders to do so. Whilst only one

such incident has so far resulted in a Parish Hall Enquiry, these reminders take a considerable amount of resources, both in terms of officer time and postage charges.

Other Offences

The skipper of a French registered scallop dredger was fined at the Magistrate's Court for exceeding the 5% bycatch rules that apply when dredges for scallops are being used. He was also fined for failing to complete the required official log book in which catches must be recorded. A second incident of a more minor nature resulted in the skipper of the vessel concerned being sent an advisory letter.



Spider crabs exceeding 5% bycatch

The skipper and crew of a Jersey based scallop dredger were prosecuted and fined for carrying onboard meat taken out of scallop shells. This regulation exists to ensure that fishermen do not circumvent the minimum size regulations (which relate

to the size of the shell), although there was no evidence to suggest that this was the reason on this particular occasion.

A commercial Jersey fisherman was also fined for not fitting escape gaps to Parlour pots. Parlour pots are a type of lobster pot with an inner chamber from which lobsters cannot escape; gaps are therefore required to allow undersize lobsters to escape to avoid predatory damage from larger lobsters entering the pot. Two recreational fishermen were also sent letters relating to more minor breaches of this regulation. Six commercial Jersey fishermen also received advisory letters in relation to pots which were not fitted with the mandatory annual tag.

The skippers of two Jersey registered commercial fishing boats received advisory letters relating to the dumping at sea of plastic waste originating from boxes containing bait. The Environment Division has provided two plastic waste containers at the Harbour specifically for this type of waste; it is hoped that this should help reduce the number of such incidents.

Complaints

A total of 27 complaints were received during the year and whilst 13 of these were found to relate to legal activities, 1 complaint resulted in an individual being prosecuted at Parish Hall level and several others resulted in fishermen receiving advisory letters.

The complaints covered a number of fishing activities, but as can be seen from the pie chart, the majority related to fishing activities on the Island's beaches. Whilst officers invariably followed up the complaints relating to nets and hooks set on the beaches and a number of nets were seized, in the majority of cases nets were either abandoned or incorrectly marked.

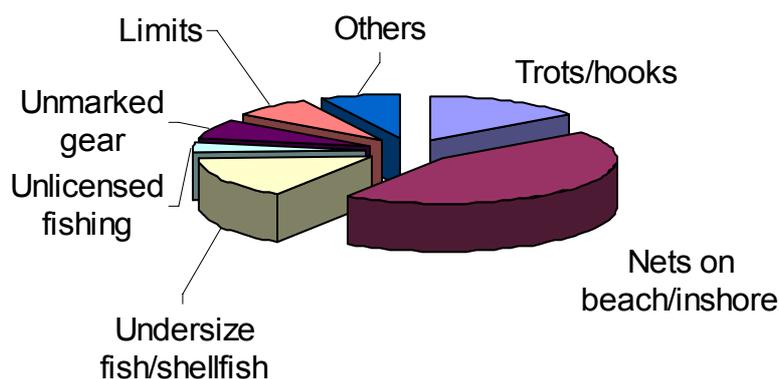


Figure 8. Complaints received by the section in 2008.

Departmental and Other Resources

The Norman Le Brocq patrol/research vessel has again achieved a high degree of availability throughout the year. In addition to fisheries patrols and research work, the vessel was also used in connection with wider Planning and Environment work on a number of occasions. Monitoring and recording of activity at the offshore islands was conducted on a regular basis and other work included advising members of the public on how to conduct themselves when watching wildlife, especially marine mammals. The vessel assisted Jersey Coastguard on three occasions relating to search and rescue missions.

The Voluntary Fishery Officer has continued his work throughout the year, helping to increase an enforcement presence out of hours and to educate recreational fishermen in the conservation regulations.

Officers have liaised closely with Honorary and States Police on a number of issues. The work of the St Helier Centeniers and their support staff in particular has assisted greatly in maintaining a credible and effective enforcement regime.

Development

Work has continued on developing new advisory material for recreational fishermen; new slip and pier advisory signs will be put in place during spring 2009 and a new minimum size sticker is in final draft form.

Preparatory work has commenced on revising the local fisheries regulations to take into account the complete revision of the two major sets of European Commission fishing regulations; due to be enacted in 2009/2010.

Other legislation being prepared during the year includes the following drafts, all of which have yet to be approved:-

- 1) Bag Limits for lobsters, bass and ormers.
- 2) Limits on the number and size of dredges.
- 3) New method of measuring the mesh size of trawl and static nets.
- 4) A vessel monitoring system for vessels exceeding 15 metres in length.
- 5) A tightening up of the licensing regulations.
- 6) Tighter controls including a specific licence for pelagic trawlers operating to the south east of Jersey.

9. Integrated Coastal Zone Management

In October the States of Jersey agreed to implement the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy (ICZM). Whilst this sounds rather technical the concept is simple. It is about securing better management and informed decision making on coastal issues so that there is confidence that the vital coastal and marine resources are being managed in a sustainable way. The strategy sets out a number of policies under four distinct aims:-

A. Protect and conserve coasts and seas.

This section refers to the protection of wildlife, habitats, geological diversity and cultural heritage. It includes policies to give better protection through both designation and introduction of management techniques and technical measures to control activities that are already taking place, such as fishing.

B. Increased understanding of the marine and coastal zone.

Far more is known about the land parts of Jersey than the sea and so the system for protecting the land is far more advanced. However, the coasts and seas are coming under increased pressure from issues such as reclamation, offshore wind farms, the impact of climate change and an unprecedented growth in marine and coastal leisure activities. If these are to be managed appropriately it is necessary to improve our knowledge of the marine environment.

C. Promote and encourage sensitive use of natural resources.

A large part of this section concerns the need to recognise the role of spatial planning in managing our coasts and seas, and in particular, to ensure that policies within the Island Plan review reflect the principles of the strategy. It is important to develop management plans for the RAMSAR sites.

D. Working with stakeholders.

Community involvement is vital to deliver the objectives and support actions in the strategy. Eco-active provides one of the mechanisms for achieving this. A dedicated programme (Eco-active marine) will be developed to increase community understanding of the issues raised in the strategy so that all Islanders will have an opportunity to be involved. This section also deals with the development of educational programmes with schools.

The Marine and Coastal Officer was appointed in December and work on this strategy will begin in 2009.

10. Annexes

Annex I. Officers at the Department 2009

Andy Scate	Chief	Executive Officer Environment and Planning
Chris Newton	Director	of Environment
Dr Simon Bossy		Head of Fisheries and Marine Resources
Mike Smith	Senior	Fisheries Inspector
Greg Morel		Marine and Coastal Officer
Dave Yettram		Fisheries Officer (Administration and Enforcement)
Jon Shrives		Fisheries Officer (Research and Development)
Matt Lewis		Fisheries Officer (Operations)
Felicity Smith		Administrative Assistant - Fisheries
Mike Harrison	Relief	Helmsman
Bryan Nicolle		Voluntary Fisheries Officer

Annex II. Fisheries and Marine Resources Advisory Panel 2008.

Mike Taylor	Chairman	
Constable Mike Jackson		States of Jersey
Don Thompson		Jersey Fishermen's Association
Trevor Le Cornu		Jersey Aquaculture Association
Natalie Porritt	Merchants'	Representative
Ian Syvret	Jersey	Inshore Fishermen's Association
Peter Gosselin	Angling	Representative
Chris Le Boutillier		Boat Owners' Association (north coast)
Paul Le Neveu		Jersey Harbours
Chris Newton	Director	of Environment
Dr Simon Bossy		Head of Fisheries and Marine Resources
Mike Smith	Senior	Fisheries Inspector
Greg Morel		Fisheries Officer (Research and Development)
Felicity Smith		Fisheries Administrator

Annex III. Shellfish landed by over 10 metre fleet.

Species	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Brown crab	206 515	180 691	179 459	142 237	78 890	110 050	148 230
Crawfish	703	398	120	55	87	0	51
Lobster	41 526	40 586	38 551	23 777	14 716	20 798	27 243
Scallop	229 791	217 815	98 539	129 546	168 282	231 586	212 182
Spider crab	147 622	87 020	80 016	34 333	11 935	24 871	87 369
Whelk	109 758	3 452	45	215 349	341 293	417 163	246 007
Others	21 233	6 195	3 233	1 796	1 726	1 487	483
Total	757 148	536 157	399 963	547 093	616 929	805 955	721 565

Annex IV. Shellfish landed by 6 – 10 metre fleet.

Species	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Brown crab	305 183	344 838	349 330	282 189	259 472	297 345	327 878
Crawfish	214	216	421	198	409	167	88
Lobster	95 801	104 562	110 716	97 511	103 254	122 274	123 004
Scallop	66 602	40 185	48 370	51 842	97 956	134 732	111 171
Spider crab	114 440	137 720	136 513	123 519	112 916	78 140	87 281
Whelk	93 747	128 810	145 415	226 153	279 243	127 187	51 268
Others	1 521	2 126	2 710	2 232	2 748	159	1 917
Total	677 508	758 457	793 475	783 644	855 998	760 004	702 607

Annex V. Shellfish landed by under 6 metre fleet.

Species	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Brown crab	12 152	14 685	11 863	13 224	10 628	4 844	4 736
Crawfish	3	14	9	14	4	3	3
Lobster	19 221	21 464	17 737	17 555	13 326	11 632	12 313
Scallop	0	216	240	0	70	5 519	7 644
Spider crab	7 561	8 687	6 968	5 561	4 440	2 723	4 042
Whelk	809	1 339	1 218	853	475	1 045	467
Others	829	1 126	680	682	658	401	0
Total	40 575	47 531	38 715	37 889	29 601	26 167	29 205

Annex VI. CPUE for the over 10 metre fleet

Species	Quantity landed (kgs)	Nos of Pot Lifts	CPUE (kg per 100 pots)
Brown crab	148 230	360 873	41.1
Lobster	27 243	360 873	7.5
Spider Crab	87 369	360 873	24.2

Annex VII. CPUE for the 6 – 10 metre fleet

Species	Quantity landed (kgs)	Nos of Pot Lifts	CPUE (kg per 100 pots)
Brown crab	327 878	1 162 655	28.2
Lobster	123 004	1 162 655	10.6
Spider Crab	87 281	1 162 655	7.5

Annex VIII. CPUE for the under 6 metre fleet

Species	Quantity landed (kgs)	Nos of Pot Lifts	CPUE (kg per 100 pots)
Brown crab	4 736	109 062	4.3
Lobster	12 313	109 062	11.3
Spider Crab	4 042	109 062	3.7

Annex IX. Wetfish landed by the over 10 metre fleet.

Species	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Angler	937	446	79	128	499	216	140
Brill	2 257	1 900	838	2 754	786	908	955
Bass	8 340	9 326	5 774	3 281	8 159	7 536	4 228
Cod	5 442	267	40	0	39	2	8
Conger	2 395	6 376	1 188	5 527	2 360	1 645	1 087
Dogfish	12290	9191	11 789	8 106	11 692	5 446	7 410
Gurnard/ Latchet	5 942	3 104	1 948	1 040	1 351	1 561	2 085
Horse mackerel	7 272	753	0	0	0	60	0
John Dory	765	128	13	15	22	5	3
Ling	656	180	45	3	22	0	0
Mackerel	4 981	3 114	923	1 595	676	226	220
Mullet -grey	0	37	0	3	7	0	0
Mullet -red	3 525	4 718	1 241	313	251	455	112
Plaice	7 006	2 642	424	567	1 301	656	254
Pollack	3 197	4 743	2 610	3 069	1 122	245	873
Sea Bream	103123	130445	44 867	31 285	2 998	387	1 210
Skate/Ray	44 328	61 961	30 709	33 384	39 229	37 123	48 639
Sole	10 089	7 422	508	12 831	1 203	972	324
Tope	200	646	308	40	75	50	20
Turbot	1 477	1 337	647	2 321	157	104	42
Other Species				1 038	1 815	1 308	977
Total	226525	252098	104055	107304	73 809	58 905	68 587

Annex X. Wetfish landed by the 6 - 10 metre.

Species	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Angler	195	908	584	364	258	46	100
Brill	2 102	1 753	1 743	988	841	1 332	1 846
Bass	4 617	4 316	3 825	6 887	8 686	4 960	7 108
Cod	456	227	736	38	69	17	136
Conger	8 759	15 171	8 745	7 555	9 519	15 574	5 904
Dogfish	4823	4351	8 208	6 542	6 138	2 420	2 648
Gurnard/Latchet	537	719	810	530	480	9	0
Horse mackerel	651	557	608	524	448	0	0
John Dory	144	168	128	89	122	0	6
Ling	879	394	283	121	172	176	96
Mackerel	1 531	2 291	1 718	2 612	2 813	1 119	1 976
Mullet -grey	1 469	1 838	1 905	2 533	2 213	268	895
Mullet -red	30	313	574	788	725	251	180
Plaice	1 511	1 365	1 095	518	730	100	2 338
Pollack	6 181	4 680	4 523	3 075	3 386	1 826	5 112
Sea Bream	1 855	2 870	1 935	2 687	2 500	1 561	2 209
Skate/Ray	13 652	23 579	19 248	17 040	16 792	11 708	29 247
Sole	2 955	4 920	3 414	2 383	1 729	515	1 082
Tope	467	860	2 226	2 058	1 980	1 341	497
Turbot	217	536	415	582	474	133	202
Other Species				0	50	589	1 602
Total	53 766	72 777	63 537	58 577	60 557	43 945	63 184

Annex XI. Wetfish landed by the under 6 metre.

Species	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Angler	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brill	123	164	116	267	250	195	196
Bass	8 405	11 241	9 521	12 025	14 107	5 589	7 228
Cod	51	13	76	18	127	27	54
Conger	1 845	2 918	1 586	1 302	9 145	95	188
Dogfish	1548	2155	3 595	1 533	2 714	345	75
Gurnard/Latchet	50	35	18	0	80	0	0
Horse mackerel	776	1 619	922	612	652	3	3
John Dory	56	42	54	49	38	9	0
Ling	111	143	0	10	20	0	63
Mackerel	3 534	4 580	3 713	4 982	4 781	4 171	4 808
Mullet -grey	3 713	4 495	2 951	4 494	3 985	293	575
Mullet -red	169	200	334	590	292	194	80
Plaice	824	590	640	678	253	174	130
Pollack	2 707	3 766	2 836	2 310	1 866	609	1 349
Sea Bream	1 610	1 346	1 143	2 071	1 880	1 118	796
Skate/Ray	1 235	2 371	2 456	3 037	3 622	970	2 075
Sole	2 103	2 425	2 767	1 834	882	320	788
Tope	215	129	201	182	240	202	230
Turbot	127	193	146	342	265	199	156
Other species				0	0	237	7
Total	30 469	39 279	33 937	37 212	46 127	14 750	18 801

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