

MARINE RESOURCES PANEL MEETING

110th Meeting

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

24th July 2023

Present:	William Peggie – Director Natural Environment (Chairman) Jonathan Renouf – Minister for the Environment Don Thompson (DT) - representing Jersey Fishermen’s Association Steve Viney (SV) - representing Jersey Fishermen’s Association Chris Casey (CS) – representing Jersey Inshore Fisheries Association Steve Mullins (SM) – representing Recreational Fishermen’s Association Chris Le Masurier (CLM) – representing the Aquaculture Industry Ian Syvret (IS) – representing Jersey Inshore Fishermen Gareth Jeffreys (GJ) – representing Société Jersiaise Natalie Porritt (NT) – representing Jersey Merchants John Le Seuller (JLS) – representing Recreational Fishermen’s Association Stanley Richard-dit-Leschery (SR) – representing Ports of Jersey
In Attendance:	Paul Chambers (PC) – Head of Marine Resources Francis Binney (FB) – Marine Manager, Marine Resources Alex Plaster (AP) – Marine Science and Research Officer, Marine Resources Dot Miller (DM) – Executive Officer Natural Environment (minutes) John Vautier (JV) – Sector Lead – Rural and Marine Economy
Apologies:	C Isaacs - Recreational Fishermen’s Association

		Action
1.	Approval of Minutes from the previous meeting and Matters Arising	
	The minutes from the previous meeting on 24 th April were approved.	
	Direct landings to France – regular and ad hoc testing as Jersey is now classed as a third world country. Jersey waters still need to be certified under its own regime. NP – Italy wanting a quarterly test, NP has spoken to France who have shared info. DT – JFA meeting with French counterparts asked if French testing could be extended into our waters (not official request), so to go back to Steve’s question from previous meeting. PC – it’s EU laws we have to abide by, because we are exporting Jersey has to do the testing and sign the certificates (not France), however worth a conversation with Environmental Health – PC will get an update from Env Health on this. DT questioned again that if testing is being done by French that might take us beyond the B classification that we are in, to potentially to beyond this in the future. DT asked about border controls in France – JV confirmed that it has been accepted by French government, now with the EU.	PC
	<u>Capture Fisheries</u>	
2.	Whelk fishery update including MR whelk trials	

	<p>FB – presented results from the trials. The weight is significantly reduced from previous years. Worrying indicators for 2023, not encouraging. Looking to reinforce this data with local catch data and put out a report early autumn.</p> <p>Site size measurement data – 3 sites from north, east and south – C3 little or nothing, D5 – no juveniles but greater number or sized, E5 beginning to show decline.</p> <p>Data from 10 sites is available if anyone wishes to see the data FB will send to them.</p> <p>FB –not necessarily fishing that is causing the decline could be climate factors and breeding. Report coming out from MR 4th quarter of this year.</p>	FB
3.	Lobster meeting outcomes	
	<p>AP – Lobster working group annual trials – now re-established after covid and Brexit. Slightly less fishermen attending compared to 2019 (20 attended). Lobster management measure questionnaire 2023 – AP reviewed the fleet meeting results</p> <p>DT – biodegradable twine – more work, little benefit. JFA feel part time fishermen cause the problem however SM disagreed, big pots get lost and much more by full time fishermen than part time.</p> <p>AP – general comments – extra government funding needed to help with management measures; needing to harmonise with Guernsey and France; decommissioning schemes for parlour post; JY boats need to be limited further. Also there is still some feeling amongst the fishers that they don't want any change.</p> <p>Pots full of spider crabs, not lobsters.</p> <p>No take zone Portelet update – results not being published at present – but promising results, wanting more data, perhaps additional trials, to check this isn't a one off. DT been positive meetings with the group, this is about stock recovery and what we can do without losing the fleet. It's clear something needs to be done, but we have to be careful that we don't tear the sector apart. Don't want to see measures taking place that fishermen don't want to follow, pragmatic ideas etc.</p>	
	<u>Other matters</u>	
4.	Marine spatial plan update	
	<p>PC – progressing, on schedule, on budget. First draft being put together at the moment, hoping to finish by end August. Work streams – natural capital report is still on draft form, but outcome should be fairly soon. After August it will go to consultation over several weeks to give lots of opportunity for people to comment (Guernsey, Sark and France as well as on island) with the final version being available by the end of the year. It's a large body of work which Sam has been working diligently on – FB.</p> <p>DT the notion of a consultation is great, but it needs to be done in a way that people will engage. The first consultation was like kindergarten. PC explained the initial consultation was only for high level thoughts, the next stage will have a lot of detail for people.</p>	
5.	Fisher support scheme update	
	<p>JV – launched first part of scheme in June, credit based system, trying to replicate what's been done on land. 16 applications so far. For this year, the scheme is evolving and developing – a work in progress. Get list from JV/Kathryn Fleming what payments</p>	

	<p>are available. Targeting commercial fleet this year. How to adapt scheme beyond 2024. JV concentrating on budgetary challenges.</p> <p>Fishing vessel safety scheme – 2 staged payments as with the rural scheme.</p> <p>SR – would be in a position to go live on the new codes from the end of the year.</p> <p>AP – To be kept up to date for additional funding for 2024 management measures. DT good to see it up and running.</p> <p>DT - concern we're not measuring French fishing fleet as we should be, reiterating that we need to make sure what the French are catching.</p> <p>PC – looking at the figures and bearing in mind permits only came into play this year, the French fleet scallops has taken 250 tonnes. Not aware of anything major happening and not of great concern. Monitoring will change in the coming years, detail is extraordinary. However if DT is aware of any incorrect fishing by the French please let MR know.</p> <p>PC will respond to Don's email in writing.</p> <p>DT - concern that French are under recording what is being caught and that's just for one species, potentially possible for the same as other species. We all want accurate data.</p> <p>PC we have a good idea to the nearest minute what these boats are fishing. JR worth noting that when they weren't aware they maybe weren't declaring but now they have to. PC things are much improved to what they were. 1.3 tonnes per day per boat.</p>	<p>DT</p> <p>PC</p>
	<p>Upcoming Panel dates: Monday 23rd October 2023</p>	
	<p>There being no other business the meeting closed at 3.25 pm.</p>	