

MARINE RESOURCES PANEL MEETING

103rd Meeting

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

15th November 2021

Present:	Mike Taylor (MT) – representing Jersey Aquaculture Association Chris Isaacs – representing Jersey Recreational Fishermen Gareth Jeffreys (GJ) – representing Société Jersiaise Steve Mullins - representing Jersey Recreational Fishermen Stanley Richard-Dit-Leschery (SRDL) – representing Ports of Jersey Don Thompson – representing Jersey Fishermen’s Association Steve Viney - representing Jersey Fishermen’s Association Chris Le Masurier – representing Jersey Aquaculture Association
In Attendance:	Gregory Guida (GG) – Assistant Minister for Environment Greg Morel (GM) – Assistant Director - Marine Resources (Chairman) Alex Plaster – Fisheries Officer – Marine Resources Francis Binney (FB) – Marine Scientist, Marine Resources Kerrie-Anne Egge – Fisheries Officer – Minutes
Apologies:	William Peggie - Director Natural Environment Natalie Porrit – representing Jersey Merchants

1.	Approval of Minutes from the previous meeting and Matters Arising	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DT – Expressed concern that designating all Jersey waters as a marine park would not move Jersey closer to managing the fisheries. Would like to see a clarified view from ministers on this issue. • DT – view of JFA that gear left in the water (unused/abandoned) is not a good thing. JFA would support any action to try and do something about this. • DT – berried females (crab) – Does not believe legislation is required as fish merchants can stop buying them which prevents the problem. FIP’s might cover this issue. • DT – Would like an update on the Bream nest study and what the potential is for closing these areas to mobile gear for 2022. • DT – Regarding iVMS does not agree with taxpayers money being used to pay for this service on French boats. JFA are opposed. • MR (FB) explained seaweed aquaculture update • Chris LM – thinks there has been seaweed aquaculture before (sub tidal aquaculture concession). GM to clarify if there has been before 	<p>MR – FB</p> <p>MR - GM</p>
2.	Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Study 2021 Presentation given by AP with summary below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 satellite tags deployed in 2021 including 2 acoustic tags, • Looking to continue tagging efforts in 2022 if funding is available, <p>Fish sizes ranged from 153-212 fork length.</p>	
3.	Bass fishery update Presentation By FB detailing plans for introduction of 8 new rod and line only 400kg annual bass permits. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DT – Highlighted that the limited number of 8 permits available will stop everyone applying and will go towards fishers who will make the highest use of the permit. • SM – A way for young, up and coming fishers to be able to catch bass and sees this as a stepping stone. • CI – Highlighted that the process of choosing the fishers for the scheme will be difficult. Would like to see the methodology for the vetting process. • Report to be published on methodology for the criteria process and to bring this to the environment minister. 	
4.	Aquaculture Request of Temporary holding beds to become permanent by MT due to discovering these areas are more suited to oyster aquaculture.	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary from MT on why these concessions are needed including the drop in mortality of oysters. • CLM – Also in support of having this area become permanent for aquaculture use. • CI – Wondering how long the EIA on the area lasts & questioned need for renewal every 5 or so years. • FB – EIA part of planning application, highlighted there is currently no time frame for this area. EIA could be redone. CI – Amazed that there is no time frame set on this. • GJ – Would like to know if this covered new entrant areas. Chair confirmed that it did. • DT – Highlighted the initial application was supported by JFA due to lockdown and COVID scenario, JFA are surprised of this due to high levels of aquaculture exports. Would like to know under what grounds this is being extended under when the initial support was for specific conditions due to pandemic. View of the JFA is the beach should be returned to the public and fishers. • DT – Would have liked a paper from JAA regarding this issue so the JFA could have all the information before being brought to panel. • CLM – Showed this area is in the middle of the beach and they have realised their holding areas are too high up the beach, 10% of area is seen as standard for holding areas. Jersey oyster is currently below this 10% margin and below industry standard. Jersey oyster have not been using the higher holding areas and would be happy to relinquish part of this area for more efficient ground. ASC accredited on a yearly basis so there is a yearly check on the concessions, settlement, other species etc. Brexit has kept exports for oysters on a knife edge with a lot of uncertainty. See’s this new area as a vital part of their current contingency plan. • Chair – emphasised that reports and papers to offer more information is needed and agreed on the uncertainty around exporting of products from Jersey. Asked CLM if these ASC reports are public and it was confirmed they are so other stakeholders can see this information. • CI – Wants to see the same importance and process of EIA’s and terrestrial planning applications that those applications on the intertidal and sub tidal zone. • Come to an agreement that the current difficulty in exporting is still on going and therefore the reasons for allowing these new areas is still valid. This time should be used to provide more information regarding the new sites and information regarding lower mortalities should be brought to panel. This can be applied for by formal applications from all three aquaculture concession owners. 	
5.	<p>Annual Report 2020 FB presented</p> <p>MR presented the current state of the annual report and apologises for the delay in its publication.</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair – Asked the group whether there is anything new that needs to be in the annual report and apologised for the delay in making this public. • DT – Would like to see the combined catch between Jersey and French vessels in Jersey waters. Believed there is a risk that only a snapshot of the total catch and effort is being captured in these figures. Believed this is vital for quota species for acquiring quota in the future. • SV – Said the numbers for species such as spider crab will need to be distinguished between French and Jersey catch and also that there are high levels of spider crab bycatch which is not being landed and therefore not recorded on logbooks. • CLM – Asked for agreement of the panel to distinguish the catch levels of the Jersey and French fleet. Widely agreed by group. 	
6.	<p>2022 Research Plan</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FB presented research plan which includes: 2. Spawning and maturity seasonality assessment 3. Bream nest survey 4. Blue Carbon Survey 5. Bio acoustics / Fish Intel Project 6. Undulate and Small eyed ray fishery assessment 7. Scallop habitat study 8. ABT Research Phase 2 9. Cetacean Monitoring 10. Bass Netting study – Phase 2 11. Seagrass habitat and extent research 12. Crab & Lobster migration and catchability study 13. FIP Crab and whelk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SV – Would like to understand when the dept. will be in a position to properly manage fisheries which are prosecuted by both Jersey and French fishers. Would like to know if money is available from France to help Jersey manage its waters which French fishers are using. • Chair – Management of Jersey’s fisheries in the future will be backed up by evidence but may be met with hostility. Jersey will move forward with implementing sustainable management. Management of Jersey waters now sits with Jersey solely but data can be contributed from areas such as IFREMER. • GJ – Highlighted that an ecosystem approach on research plans is always needed as a lot of these outcomes help all sectors. • DT – Would like to know if there is sufficient data to back the closure of bream nesting sites for 2022. FB replied the data indicated bream nests in the survey sites. This needs further data for 2022 using video analysis. Chair – To move forward with law drafting for areas which are justified. 	

7.	<p>Law Drafting Size Limits</p> <p>MR covered new law drafting which included Minimum size limits, Bag limits and Portelet NTZ.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SV – Would like clarification on whether trawlers who have not sorted their catch are bound by minimum size limits. Clarified by the Chair that in Jersey waters, Jersey minimum size limits apply but more thinking is needed on this subject. • SM – Would like to know if the bass season change will be in place by end of November. MR to see if law drafting time is available. • Portlet NTZ – Update from GJ regarding the NTZ and a timeframe for the implementation of this. 	MR- GM
8.	<p>Fishing vessel safety code Present by SDLS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ready to be approved in a meeting this Wednesday (17th November). Costs are involved to the industry. • The changes are all safety related and validated. Vessels can be inspected against the new code with a five-year implementation period. Mandatory updates must be done by 2026. • DT – Strong view from JFA that Government has a responsibility for to help fund this as seen in other countries. The industry is keen to move forward but the financial burden cannot currently be met. This cannot be moved forward until the government meets their responsibility for this subject. • MT – Normandy trader due to Brexit is now going via St Malo, no funding seen for this additional cost from Government although this was previously agreed. • CLM – Disappointed with the lack of action regarding funding when this has been previously promised. Brought up that applying for this waives rights and allows Government to make companies account details public. This system needs to be changed and enable decisions to be made rapidly. Would like to see a review of the process. • SV – Feels an injustice when it is made public that sectors are being offered financial aid when this is not the case. Would like to see schemes which are available in UK to Jersey instead of reinventing systems. • Chair – Discussed the option of bringing a letter from the panel in general regarding this financial aid issue. GM to draft a letter from panel to Economic Development. 	MR - GM
9.	<p>TCA update</p> <p>Outline given by GM on French and Jersey licencing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DT – Would like to understand how many Jersey licenses are being granted and how much time has been put forward for Jersey vessels to fish in French waters. • CLM – Believes Jersey has been generous in the way of licensing and would like to know what Jersey will be getting out of this. Emailed ministers 	

	regarding difficulties exporting but did not receive a response. Would like to know where they stand and does not feel supported by Ministers.	
	Next meeting: Monday 24th January 2022	