

MARINE RESOURCES PANEL MEETING

114th Meeting

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

4th December 2024

Present:	William Peggie (WP) – Director Natural Environment (Chairman) Steve Luce (SL) – Minister for the Environment Chris Le Masurier (CLM) – representing the Aquaculture Industry Ian Syvret (IS) – representing Jersey Inshore Fishermen Association Natalie Porritt (NT) – representing Jersey Merchants Chris Isaacs (CI) – representing Recreational Fishermen’s Association Ian Clarkson (IC) representing Ports of Jersey Gabby Mason (GM) – representing Jersey Fishermen’s Association Mike Sheldon (MS) – representing Société Jersiaise Chris Casey (CC) – representing North coast fishers Sophie Platten (SP) Ports of Jersey Pierre Chays (PC) - Ports of Jersey Steve Viney (SV) - representing Jersey Fishermen’s Association Holly Maynard – Natural Environment Dr Tim Wright – Natural Environment
In Attendance:	Alex Plaster (AP) – Marine Science and Research Manager, Marine Resources Katie Bacquet (KB) – Marine Operations and Compliance Manager Francis Binney (FB) – Head of Marine Resources
Apologies:	Steve Mullins (SM) - representing Jersey Inshore Fishermen Association

		Action
1.	Approval of Minutes from the previous meeting and Matters Arising	
	The minutes from the previous meeting on 22 nd July were approved. Actions from last meeting: ToR - MR to approve Terms of Reference for the Marine Panel for next meeting This has been actioned	
CAPTURE FISHERIES		
2.	Update to Mobile Gear Authorisations 11 authorisations in place following decision in autumn last year. A policy for movement of authorisations has been developed by Marine Resources, agreed with industry and signed off by the Minister.	

3.	<p>Marine Resources Catch App - update</p> <p>KB presented on the new catch recording app 'Catch Jersey'. App built over 2024, now ready for Google Play and Apple App store. App is adaptive to fisher and will filter for their regular gear and catch. Real time reporting. Written in English and French. Works in modified reporting Zones. Soft launch from January working towards full adoption in early 2025. Fishers can download a copy of their own records.</p> <p>PC – will a paper alternative be available still?</p> <p>KB – a single non digital option will exist but that will be decided later</p> <p>GM – Can it be used on PC?</p> <p>KB – No</p> <p>SV – Will French use this despite being in development for their own app?</p> <p>KB – Yes, they will need to use the Jersey app for the next few years. In future there may have the ability to dovetail with the FR app circa 2030.</p> <p>SV – will a recreational version be available to collect fuller stats?</p> <p>KB – This will be reviewed in due course.</p> <p>WP – recognises the significance of this sector of the fishery.</p> <p>AP – May form part of a future recreational permit scheme 2026 onwards.</p> <p>MS – noted the value of gathering recreational fishing data.</p>	
4.	<p>Minimum Landing Size Lobster date change - JIFA</p> <p>IS - Original proposal to increase minimum sizes in July as lobsters plentiful and price low resulting in a lower impact to fishers. However, IS recognised the French have moved to align with Jersey in January 25 to 88mm, and then 1st August to 89mm. Recognises value of remaining in alignment.</p> <p>FB – noted slip from planned June / July date to August, confirmed value of French alignment for regional fishing.</p> <p>NP – asked if Guernsey would move the MLS?</p> <p>FB – UK considering size move (Lobster Fisheries Management Plan) over the next 2 years. Guernsey generally remains in line with UK size limits so may well move with them on this.</p>	
5.	<p>Petit Port proposed exclusion zone – N.E. Dr Tim Wright</p> <p>Presentation on issue of disturbance of birds at Petit Port. Rocks at top end of bay for breeding birds like shelduck, and roosting and resting birds throughout the year. International obligations to make sure birds are not declining.</p> <p>One of the only parts of the island where birds can come in and seek shelter.</p> <p>4 breeding pairs of shelduck in Petit Port.</p> <p>Proposal to create a no-go zone around the rocks (see proposed map)</p> <p>The issue is the inconvenience to 2 or 3 recreational bass fishermen.</p> <p>WP – Have we spoken to these fishermen?</p> <p>AP – Yes, we have contacted them, they were not aware of the issue. We have not been able to contact everyone.</p> <p>TW – Proposing to put up signage in the bay.</p> <p>NP – Is it a seasonal closure?</p>	<p>Action – MR to consult Steve Mullins on petit port</p>

	<p>TW – No it's a year-round problem for the resting and roosting, and breeding birds. Ideally this needs to be year-round.</p> <p>CC – Will surfers be able to access the Petit Port reef?</p> <p>TW – Access to the slips is maintained and we could modify suggested zone to allow access.</p> <p>WP – is it only used by fishermen, if there are a small number we can talk to rather than a no access area.</p> <p>CI – Not an area you go low water fishing, it's high up on the rocks to get to bass fish.</p> <p>TW – This area is designated to become an ASP, but I feel this is a more appropriate lighter touch tack to take.</p> <p>SV – If you are too heavy handed you will get push back.</p> <p>WP – We could get people to come with us.</p> <p>CC – let the surf club know</p> <p>TW – let kayaking groups know also</p> <p>WP – well thought through middle grounds, advise the public and engage with those we know already access this area.</p> <p>AP – Steve Mullins not here today to circulate this information to competitive anglers and competitions, but we will request this.</p> <p>FB – Noted this is a requirement for the MSP and Tim has done this before being asked.</p>	
6.	<p>Wildlife Law Update – European Eel – N.E. Holly Maynard</p> <p>EE is now a protected species under schedule 1 of the Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2021. This means it is now an offence to deliberately or recklessly kill, injure or capture the species, to sell, to possess, to export or to release into the wild without a licence to do so.</p> <p>We are an OSPAR convention signatory, so we are obliged to protect this 'Critically Endangered' species.</p> <p>Any eels caught as by-catch must be released</p> <p>If deliberately targeting this species this would be considered an offence.</p> <p>IS – is this the same as a 'freshwater eel' – Yes Latin name <i>Anguilla anguilla</i></p> <p>AP – No commercial fishery for this species in Jersey waters.</p> <p>CI – Has any information been circulated to the public about this?</p> <p>HM – social media post yes</p> <p>Research due to be done next year and will engage the public for this too. Any information on eels welcome.</p> <p>TW – We know surprisingly little on the freshwater fish in Jersey.</p>	
7.	<p>TCA regional meeting update – MR</p> <p>FB - Jersey hosted the second annual TCA meeting held on 2nd October 2024. The meeting was jointly chaired by DEFRA and EU Commission. Attended by the Jersey Fishermen's Association, Normandy and Brittany fishermen's committees and French Government. 36 people in attendance. Overall, it was a productive meeting. FB gave an overview of the agenda.</p> <p>FB highlighted the meeting recognised the need for a regional annual meeting in January to coordinate management for the year ahead eg: lobster minimum landing</p>	

	<p>sizes. MR hope JFA will join this meeting. FB gave a brief overview on key agenda items: Catch app, Days at sea, MSP, Joint MSC on lobster, Horizon scan on what's coming up.</p> <p>A summary will be published over the next few months.</p> <p>SP – Meeting is a representation of real problems to senior players. The platform exists and this is good news and looks stable.</p> <p>CLM – Its well known the Aquaculture industry is going through a very difficult time and feels this was an opportunity to address some of these concerns. If this was to be re-done could the Aquaculture industry be invited in the future?</p> <p>FB – in the gift of DEFRA & the EU to set the agenda and invitees, would like to investigate with DEFRA.</p> <p>CLM – a tour of the shellfish concession was done and the people who run it were not there.</p> <p>WP – DEFRA to address how do we best represent aquaculture issues in the future</p> <p>ACTION – MR to take this as an action to follow up on.</p>	<p>ACTION</p> <p>MR to raise with DEFRA</p>
AQUACULTURE		
8.	<p>Update to Bay Shellfish Concession area and discussion AP</p> <p>Further clarification was requested of Bay Shellfish. He has a temporary renewal of 1 month to provide for consideration of current expansion proposal. Bay Shellfish charts and coordinates were provided and circulated, for clarity MR presented a GIS layer overlayed on the aerial photograph of charts and requested extension zone. Bay Shellfish are asking to include manilla clams and mussels alongside Pacific Oyster.</p> <p>Site visit with PoJ and Fishers has confirmed expanded holding beds are not an issue for the leading marks, also fine from commercial fishing perspective.</p> <p>ALL - Seymour tour access questioned.</p> <p>SL – Has the Fire service been consulted about leading lights to Seymour?</p> <p>CLM – Yes, it is on the drive down to the rescue tower.</p> <p>CI – Requested to have breaks in the lines of the beds for people to walk through. This doesn't appear to have been done.</p> <p>CLM – Jersey Aquaculture Association put together a list of recommendations for new entrants in 2020 and these still stand. This covers expansion to concessions. One is that sites are 'fully utilised' before expansion, and this is not the case currently for Bay Shellfish. JAA Shared photos: demonstrating low usage of current concession over past 3 years. The site would most likely be used for vivier / holding of stock not for aquaculture. The term 'land grabbing' comes to mind: the areas the applicant currently has are perfectly workable. The association's opinion remains not to support this application. Current concession are 3 years, then extended to 9 years, our recommendation is that it could stay as present but only for a 3-year term.</p> <p>SL – confirmed with officers that the current area is not fully utilised & those oysters on site have been purchased for another oyster farmer.</p> <p>IS – You can only extend only once you have filled an area, and this isn't the case.</p> <p>SV – what are the requirements for inspections, has MR not been inspecting this?</p> <p>FB – MR officers visit once a month along with a veterinary officer. If there are problems or dangers for the public yes, we will intervene. Otherwise, a concession is only reviewed at the end of its cycle.</p>	<p>ACTION; Holding bed impact on tower access to be assessed</p>

	<p>WP – Current recommendation to the Minister to renew the 3-year concession and recommend he develops the site fully then reapply for expansion in line with JAA principles.</p> <p>CLM – JAA has asked that they are advised of beach visits to assist and advise.</p> <p>CLM – the application was for three further species to be added.</p> <p>Discussion followed on further species under consideration.</p> <p>CLM – Needs to be tested monthly for classification for a year before selling them locally and have a historic 1 year of testing. Currently it's only valid as done on a different species: oysters.</p> <p>AP – Government would have to pay more to engage in testing. To be checked.</p>	<p>ACTION : JAA to be included in beach site visits</p> <p>ACTION : MR to speak to Vets to confirm testing added cost</p>
9.	<p>Live oyster export to EU issues</p> <p>WP – shared we want to engage with CLM to find solution</p> <p>CLM – This has been escalating over the last year. I bring it back here again; the French authorities are cherry picking various legislation to impede imports of oysters into France in two ways: 1) water sanity/shellfish grading 2) Labelling. This is relevant to oysters from Jersey, bivalve molluscs coming from Jersey territorial waters and now consideration to French vessels fishing in Jersey vessels.</p> <p>French authorities are aware products have been caught in Jersey waters and that is wrong according to their legislation, but they have then issued an exemption to French fishers to cover the Christmas market.</p> <p>Slander within media – despite paperwork and traceability being very open I have examples of articles stating the poor quality of our waters.</p> <p>Labelling issues for aquaculture products coming from a third country</p> <p>France is picking and choosing and is the EU aware of this?</p> <p>WP – We are trying to get an understanding of who is involved in the information provision to French authorities and what regulatory decisions have been made and why? We can ask questions of regulatory decisions. We need to keep working with you and work out who from External Relations can help.</p> <p>CLM – Since Brexit this Panel has talked about water quality testing and this has been pushed back a number of times. I don't think it's good enough to say we are a third country and have untested waters. It's not good enough that 4 years after Brexit we are still in this situation.</p> <p>SL – Testing for Scallops would require this to be done in St Aubin's Bay and this would question the viability of this stock.</p> <p>SL – Discussion about the current political context in France and in the EU.</p> <p>CLM – We asked for 3 things:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Access to our markets, give them Fishing license so that we can carry on traditionally 2) Water quality A or B 3) SIVEP in Granville <p>Jersey has already given, and Jersey has lost our side of the deal.</p> <p>WP – This is at a political level; we will support this with the technical information we have.</p> <p>IS – Is this specific to your Jersey Oyster?</p>	

	<p>CLM – Example from the last year with Jersey and Irish Oysters linking inconsistent testing to a bay closed due to norovirus: 3 times in a week delivery to the same person wanting the certificated done in different ways.</p> <p>PC – Remembers this discussion that could Jersey waters be tested by the French where are we with this?</p> <p>FB – This was raised at the Regional EU meeting.</p> <p>SV – This is a political thing as Jersey and French are not being considered in the same way. The French use this argument with us as we ‘share waters’ now it’s not the same its class A or Class B. This needs to be a priority to Ian Gorst. We want political powers to up the game.</p>	
OTHER MATTERS		
10.	<p>Marine Spatial Plan – Update</p> <p>FB – MSP went through October 23rd 2024. Amendments to immediately expand research zones were defeated. The minister took on board a framework and delivery of this plan along with further research zones.</p> <p>91 actions to do, 90 as Tim has done his here today.</p> <p>A third of actions sit with Marine Resources</p> <p>We commit to keeping this Panel informed of development</p> <p>4 pillars – economic, environmental, social and cultural and these have to be balanced</p> <p>The MSP is the priority project for Marine Resources</p>	
11.	<p>Terms of Reference for Marine Panel – MR</p> <p>AP – This was shared in June panel. Introductory paragraph has been amended as per comments. No comments have been received so it is recommended to ask the Minister to sign these off.</p>	
12.	<p>New vessel update – MR Share Stern 3 and Bow images</p> <p>FB – summarised history of NLB and need for renewal for next quarter century</p> <p>KB – Overview of new Fisheries Patrol Vessel.</p> <p>All – General discussion on vessel specifications.</p> <p>NP – future of the NLB</p> <p>KB – NLB will be sold in due course.</p>	
	Note that proposed meeting on 20th April is rescheduled for 28th April	
	Meeting ended 1625	
	Next Meeting date 3rd February 2025	