

MARINE RESOURCES PANEL MEETING

99th Meeting

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

19th October 2020

Present:	William Peggie (WP) – Director Natural Environment (Chairman) Mike Taylor (MT) – representing Jersey Aquaculture Association Stanley Richard-Dit-Leschery (SR) – representing Ports of Jersey Don Thompson (DT) - representing Jersey Fishermen’s Association Paul Bizac (PB) – representing Jersey Fishermen’s Association Chris Isaacs (CI) - representing Jersey Recreational Fishermen Steve Mullens – representing Jersey Recreational Fishermen Ian Syvret (IS) – representing Jersey Inshore Fishermen Nathalie Porritt (NP) – representing Jersey Merchants
In Attendance:	Gregory Guida (GG) – Assistant Minister for Environment Greg Morel (GM) – Assistant Director - Marine Resources Paul Chambers (PC) – Marine & Coastal Manager, Marine Resources Alex Plaster (AP) – Marine & Fisheries Assistant Officer
Apologies:	

		Action
1.	Approval of Minutes from the previous meeting and Matters Arising	
	WP apologised for the lack of formal minutes. This was due to the person who took the minutes being reassigned to Covid-19 work. They will made available as soon as possible.	
1.	Safety at Sea	
	SRDL said that PoJ had decided to delay the implementation of the Jersey Fishing Vessel Code until after the pandemic. This included existing amendments which are on hold until after the full code is available. This is avoid making too many changes within a short period of time. He noted that a couple of certificate issues had been sorted and that MIKAL had been appointed by the JFA as a recognised agency. DT was pleased at the surveyor’s appointment but raised concerns about how a local vessel could get onto the register. He noted that the UK offers financial support to help vessels meet the standard. He was worried that the Jersey industry would not be able to afford the cost of meeting the new code’s requirements. WP suggested that the Rural Economic Strategy might be a possibility and suggested that the Panel recognises that costs could be an issue.	

	<p>SRDL explained that if the new code were not brought in then the island would be exposed should a fatality occur.</p> <p>SRDL noted that the report into the recent accident of the fishing vessel L'Ecume II was expected to be released soon and that it would probably contain recommendations.</p>	
	<u>Capture Fisheries</u>	
2.	MR Presentation on 2020 research projects	
	<p>A presentation was given by PC and AP on MR 2020 research projects. This included surveys for scallop stock assessment and bream nesting areas, a study of the management and effects of bass netting, a trial of iVMS monitoring technology and the used of hydrophones (CPODs) to monitor dolphins and porpoises.</p> <p>The project lost received general support from the Panel. In response to enquiries about future funding, GM explained that many of the projects are not funded directly from the core MR budget but instead receive support from other sources such as targeted funds.</p>	
	<u>Aquaculture</u>	
3.	<p>The panel was made aware of a request from an aquaculture new entrant, Bay Shellfish, for a 0.2 ha holding area in Grouville Bay. The Panel was asked to provide comments on the positioning of this area.</p> <p>MT commented that the holding area might be being requested before any stock had been placed on the main concession. PC/GM explained that, under the terms of the new entrant's scheme, holders were entitled to a 0.2 ha holding area and that it was only the positioning of this that was subject to confirmation.</p>	
	<u>Other Matters</u>	
4.	MR 2019 Annual Report	
	<p>The MR Annual Report had been circulated ahead of the meeting and the Panels comments and approval were sought. NP commented that the landing figures in the appendices seemed on the high side. PC said that the team had become aware of a database error since the report was finalised which means that some years would have slightly elevated figures. This error can be fixed but probably not until the new year. It was agreed that a note to this effect would be included in the report. CI requested more information on the science projects in future reports.</p>	
5.	Marine Resources strategy review (JFA)	
	<p>DT highlighted the need for a coherent government fisheries strategy that is relevant to the local situation and which can adapt to changing circumstances. Any such strategy</p>	

	<p>should be holistic and look at the economic, cultural, political and environmental circumstances of Jersey's fishery. To integrate all this will require a single Jersey Fisheries Strategy so that the industry can be assured it has a viable future locally.</p> <p>GG cautioned that there were many changes occurring because of Brexit and that it might be wise to wait a few months. He noted that because the island had limited resources, branding and adding value was an important.</p> <p>WP said that he had had conversations with Economic Development about the importance of fisheries. He noted that the fishing economy is part of reinvigorated Rural Strategy and that it should aim to address long-term aims and known problems and issues.</p> <p>IS said that any Strategy needed to look ahead several years to see where the industry could be. This would help people make decisions now. NP said that she agreed with DT but was more concerned about the next six months than five years from now.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DT emphasised the need to start working on this now. WP said that he would speak with members of the Rural Economy team to see about including fisheries in the RE Strategy. 	
6.	Brexit Update	
	<p>GM summarised the Brexit position in relation to Jersey and developments since the last meeting. Various questions were asked especially with regard to any potential impact on fisheries and the import/export of fish, shellfish and fish products. GM noted that the situation was fluid and an attempt would be made to keep people up-to-date.</p>	
7.	AOB	
	<p>PB raised a concern about the dumping of nets, rope, oil, etc., in inappropriate places because there is no accepted method or location for their disposal. He was concerned that overbearing rules at the La Collette waster plant would lead to old gear being dumped at sea.</p>	
8.	Next Meeting	
	04 Jan 2021	