

MARINE RESOURCES PANEL MEETING

116th Meeting

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

28th April 2025

Present:	William Peggie (WP) – Director Natural Environment (Chairman) Chris Le Masurier (CLM) – representing the Aquaculture Industry Simon King (SK) - representing recreational association John Vautier (JV) – Marine and Rural Economy Natalie Porritt (NP) – representing Jersey Merchants Chris Isaacs (CI) – representing Recreational Fishermen’s Association Chris Casey (CC) – representing North coast fishers Mike Sheldon (MS) – representing Société Jersiaise Steve Viney (SV) – representing Jersey Fishermen’s Association (Late) Peter Tarrant (PT) – representing Jersey Inshore Fishermen Association
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:	Gabby Mason (GM) – representing Jersey Fishermen’s Association Steve Luce (SL) – Minister for the Environment

		Action
1.	Approval of Minutes from the previous meeting and Matters Arising	
	<p>Minutes approved.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lobster working group – Meetings held, on agenda for today. 2. Pollack – Clarification sought and received – update to follow 3. Scallop testing – French meeting yet to take place, Clarity of FR suitability being sought before a decision is made. MR to reach out to IFREMER on current testing sites to see if suitable for Jersey’s area 4. Octopus – Working with IFRAMER and attending ICES CEPH WG in June. Catch of Cuttle fish and Octopus increasing year on year. 1400kg in 2024. Exemption required to fish octopus pots in No Parlour Pot Zones, one licenced French vessel has applied. Local surveys still being scoped / value assessed. Fishery data being collected. 5. iVMS – to be covered in today’s Agenda 	
CAPTURE FISHERIES		
2.	<p>iVMS launched and functioning.</p> <p>Catch Jersey app has 100+ users now registered FR and JY vessels. Users report finding it easy to download and simpler than paper logbooks.</p>	

	<p>iVMS and Catch Jersey working well together. Will be used in tandem for enforcement to determine if catch reporting is accurate and timely.</p> <p>App Currently optional. Mandatory date needs to be on the Horizon and will be discussed at the next MRP,</p> <p>SK – asked for background on soft launch.</p> <p>KB – Explained need to allow adaptation time before being mandatory, with a ‘settle in’ period.</p> <p>SV – highlighted the need for clarification on boats fishing across 2-3 zones in a day. Fishermen must be helped to stay the right side of the law.</p> <p>KB – agrees and clarifies that we will look at possible adaptations and improvements to support this where multiple zones can be looked at.</p> <p>SV – It’s a good start and with updates and advice will be useful.</p> <p>SV –Regarding iVMS, who has access and under what Data Policy agreement?</p> <p>KB – Marine Resources have access and, when required for safety and emergencies, Coastguard have access. Data Policy agreement is published on gov.je.</p> <p>SV – noted this should be kept tight and limited to those that need it when they need it.</p>	
3.	<p>Static gear potting proposal</p> <p>AP – Briefed on current situation, Commercial and recreational briefings.</p> <p>15 pot limit for recreation vessels 2025</p> <p>60 pot limit for Shellfish restricted commercials in 2025 with exemption to those reliant on more pots allowed 90 until 2027</p> <p>Commercial (full shellfish) looking to have a 15% reduction in 2027 managed through a new pot tag issue.</p> <p>Escape gaps – Size will need to change in July 2026 when lobster size hits 90mm</p> <p>CLM – Will the 15% be reduction be for French and Jersey vessels?</p> <p>FB – Currently only for Jersey, French vessels are managed through TCA and based off track record period.</p> <p>CLM – Jersey needs to negotiate harder and have an equal playing field.</p> <p>SV – Surprised that 15% reduction has been determined without further consultation. Is it the case that any French vessels can fish above the numbers Jersey vessels can fish? This would not be acceptable to the fleet.</p> <p>FB – One of the feelings from the working group was that most vessels were dropping in pot numbers naturally and 15% would be achievable at the current rate.</p> <p>SV – Could a maximum be set for French vessels and 15% reduction on those vessels as well?</p> <p>FB – This would be stronger with a solid Jersey position set to reduce Jersey potting</p> <p>CLM – Is this effected by the current negotiations between the UK and EU?</p> <p>WP – The reset conversation is wider but will touch on issues such as sanitary and veterinary. May bring improvements in trade and access.</p> <p>CLM – Worried that Jersey will be left behind in the UK and EU conversations. Jersey needs to have a level playing field.</p> <p>Discussion ensued.</p> <p>NP – Concerned fishers will not survive with less gear in the waters.</p>	<p>MR Take proposal back to Lobster working group regarding permits and pot numbers. Investigate potential for French measures.</p>

	<p>AP – 2019 the main feeling from meetings was that there was too much gear on the ground. The stock has since dropped but a balance must be found where fishing can still be viable but where if the stock recovers the management must be proportionate and allow a sustainability, currently pot numbers and effort is too high and is seen as the main reason for a reduction in lobster stock, not environmental factors.</p> <p>SV – For this to work we would also need to cap the number of boats. Need for a global ceiling.</p> <p>AP – A global ceiling has always been on the agenda and Permit systems have worked well for other stocks in Jersey such as Bass.</p> <p>FB – FR Lobster landings are only 25-30% of Jersey landings over 2023 / 2024</p> <p>PT – Could compensation be used as a management tool?</p> <p>JV – There is a potential for a small compensation per pot taken out of the system.</p> <p>SK – What are we aiming for? How do we get buy in to an overall goal?</p> <p>CI – If the proposals work then catches should improve.</p> <p>PT – need to consider market forces – higher landings will result in lower prices.</p> <p>AP – great to provide a clear vision, very hard to predict what will happen even with good modelling. The vision may be met as other factors in play may have an influence.</p> <p>SV – Must focus on understanding JY effort in the waters before commercial restrictions can be put on the industry.</p> <p>WP – Useful information discussed, more for us to come back to panel on.</p> <p>V-Notching</p> <p>PT – Keen to see V notching introduced. Up to 40% of lobsters are berried in winter, V notching allows up to three further breeding cycles. Paper will be circulated.</p> <p>AP - £30k was made available for this in 2024, but update wasn't there from merchants due to demand outstripping supply.</p> <p>NP – This would work for fishers but would kill merchants due to loss of profits. Discussion ensued.</p> <p>JV – Keen to run V notching scheme from 2026 to allow some V notched lobsters to get back into the system. System needs to work for Merchants and Fishers. It did not work in 2024 as the money was allocated late in the year. For 2026, money can be allocated at the beginning to ensure a successful programme.</p> <p>CLM – Very supportive of V Notching. Successful in many parts of the world. Suggests phased in process over 5 years.</p>	
5.	<p>Recreational sector engagement plans</p> <p>AP – Recreational working group will be set up to take place between MRP meetings, similarly to the working groups made for commercial sector. Key topics include MLS increases for Scallop and Pollack, Potting restrictions, renting limitations, Dredging and trawling bans.</p> <p>MS – Should recreational gill netting be banned? Lots of old nets in the system.</p> <p>CC – Larger mesh size would deal with the issue.</p> <p>AP – open consultation session will also be held later in the year to engage wider Recreational sector.</p>	

6	<p>Shellfish export issues to EU</p> <p>FB – Summary of current issues including challenges of landing for aquaculture products and shellfish (scallops). Granville SIVEP update.</p> <p>LBM landings: Update given on not being able to have a Jersey specific option for LBM exports, must be same as UK rules for export to EU market.</p> <p>WP – Ministers meeting French counterparts in Paris to reiterate the current issues Jersey has, problems with friction and exports health certificates. Many levers are being pushed to represent Jersey in a positive way with hope ministers can move issues which are progressing slowly.</p> <p>CC – Discussion around how the EU/Paris/Regional dialogue happens.</p> <p>NP – DFDS timetable for ramp arrivals is 50% less than the previous condor arrangements. New difficulties over using ice from Jersey and not being allowed into St Malo. Scallops now cannot be placed in trays, must be in bags. Rules and restrictions are being changed week on week with little or no warning.</p> <p>CLM – 22nd May Normandy officials arriving to Jersey to discuss current export problems. Operators in St Malo making it difficult for additional landings into St Malo, sees this as discrimination against individual companies. Sees it being vital that Granville is opened up for trade.</p> <p>NP + CLM – Jersey gov needs to start applying more political pressure to get these issues sorted.</p> <p>CLM – Would appreciate help from government on LBM export issue, CLM working with SAGB on these issues and looking to join mollusc committee.</p> <p>CLM – Shared compliments from French fishing industry of Jersey Marine Resources for their professional, efficient and clear working practices.</p>	<p>Action CLM to join mollusc committee through SAGB.</p>
7	<p>Low water fishing License Proposal</p> <p>MS – Proposal from Chair of SJ Marine Biology Section.</p> <p>CI – Stones being flipped over and left, taking of undersize and out of season ormers and fishing in the NTZ are key drivers. Marine Bio Section are proposing a Permit system to manage the fishery. More survey work is needed to properly understand the issue. Concerned that this will not fully address the issue. Those willing to fish out of season and take undersize will not be well controlled by a permit.</p> <p>AP – Challenge across the island but difficult to monitor and measure beyond logging complaints.</p> <p>NP – This is around education and should be brought into schools.</p> <p>Consideration given to the item from panel, an enforcement plan is needed including evidence of where it is happening.</p> <p>CLM – Would not hurt if there was an online form for low water fishers to fill out and apply for a licence, would be a deterrent.</p> <p>SV – Could the licence be attached for free?</p> <p>AP – A possibility to see extent of problem from aerial photos, AP to research further.</p> <p>Further discussion needed once extra evidence is given from SJ and whether a view can be given on how enforcement could be achievable.</p>	<p>Further surveys needed to determine extent of stone turning</p> <p>MR Look at whether this is identifiable on aerial imagery</p>

8	Fishing License Fees Update FB – Update given on current fee’s proposal, this is an administrative cost which has been with EU and UK since October 2024. Licence proposal reviewed and moved to metier based permits. Deadline given by Jersey Ministers for 15 th May to DEFRA for response. SV – Highlighted that Jersey licence holders have an economic link with the island and should not be paying. CLM – Added fee’s since Brexit agreement have been high and are a barrier to trade. SV – Regarding two recent court cases which were published by the media, if any court cases come out they should specify which nationality the fisher was from.	
	Meeting ended: 16:55	
	Next Meeting date <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monday 21st July, 2025 - Monday 20th October, 2025 - Monday 26th January 2026 	