

MARINE RESOURCES PANEL MEETING

116th Meeting

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

21st July 2025

Present:	William Peggie (WP) – Director Natural Environment (Chairman) Steve Luce (SL) – Minister for the Environment Steve Viney (SV) - representing Jersey Fishermen’s Association Chris Le Masurier (CLM) – representing the Aquaculture Industry Robbie Connolly (RC) - representing Jersey Fishermen’s Association Natalie Porritt (NT) – representing Jersey Merchants Peter Tarrant (PT) – representing Jersey Inshore Fishermen’s Association Gabby Mason (GM) – representing Jersey Fishermen’s Association Chris Casey (CC) – representing North coast Fishermen Mike Sheldon (MS) – representing Société Jersiaise Pierre Chays (PC) – representing Ports of Jersey Simon King (SK) – representing Recreational Fishermen’s Association Chris Isaacs (CI) – representing Recreational Fishermen’s Association
In Attendance:	Alex Plaster (AP) – Marine Science and Research Manager Katie Bacquet (KB) – Marine Operations and Compliance Manager Francis Binney (FB) – Head of Marine Resources Kerrie-Anne Egge (KAE) – Marine Resources, Fisheries Officer John Vautier (JV) – Marine and Rural Economy
Apologies:	

		Action
1.	Approval of Minutes from the previous meeting and Matters Arising	
	The minutes from the previous meeting on 3 rd February were approved. Actions from last meeting: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Pot limits. Work continues. AP to reconvene Lobster Working Group in 4-5 weeks 2) Mollusc working group. Chris has joined the working group through SAGB – vague information so far but will continue 3) Overtured rocks. AP reviewed aerial imagery but resolution not clear enough to determine. Potential to use drones but extremely costly so not viable at present. Suggestion that Societe conduct further transect surveys (good project also for citizen science). SK mentions it is also an educational issue and so increased signage would help. 	
CAPTURE FISHERIES		
2.	Bag limits review	

	<p>AP presentation of results from initial consultation with recreational fishing community – outcome is 6 species with recommendation for updates to the bag limits. Wider public consultation to be held in Sept 2025. AP to work with SK for contacts to ensure as wider reach as possible in terms of the consultation. Discussion continued for the changes to Pacific Oyster.</p> <p>CLM – happy to see bag limit for Pacific Oyster kept in place to ensure this limits the amount taken from his concession (from loose bags etc)</p> <p>SV – starting to see more Native Oysters in dredges, will they be added to bag limits</p> <p>FB – Clarified that both Native and Pacific oysters have a bag limit of 50</p> <p>CI – Pacific Oysters reaching invasive proportions</p> <p>CLM – our water classification should mean that consideration should be made for a health warning for wild collection</p>	<p>Marine Resources to organise public consultation</p>
3.	<p>Soft shell spider closure</p> <p>FB - updated that in Autumn we plan to review the strategy for 2026 but will continue as usual for 2025</p> <p>GM – commented that everything is happening earlier now so will this be factored in to plans for 2026.</p> <p>FB - agreed that there would be flexibility for this.</p>	
4 & 5	<p>Increase in minimum size of Scallop and pollack</p> <p>The annual incremental increase for Lobster (from 88 to 89mm) will take place in licence condition for 1st August but will be put into Law on approx.. 17th September. The aim will be to put through the Scallop increase at the same time in September (from 102mm to 105mm)</p> <p>NP – how long will the grace period be for Lobsters in the tanks at the fish merchants from the 1st August.</p> <p>FB - confirmed that they will have until 17th September</p> <p>PT – are there any plans for further increases to Scallop sizes.</p> <p>AP – no not at the moment, but always keep under review and in consultation with colleagues in the region</p> <p>GM – the minimum size of Black Bream should increase.</p> <p>AP – recognises the size is too small but all focus has been on closing the Bream nesting areas to date</p> <p>SK – recreational sector would be happy for Black Bream to increase</p> <p>AP – we would need to notify the EU and work would be necessary to create a notification pack</p> <p>SV – Size 105mm is probably not big enough for Scallop, it has taken us 8 years to increase the size</p>	<p>Marine Resources to continue with legislative actions for Lobster and Scallop</p>
6	<p>MSP/MPA Timeline</p> <p>FB presentation on updated timeline.</p> <p>SV – are both fleets being looked at on the Economic Impact Assessment (EclA)</p> <p>FB – yes both fleets in as much detail with as much data that is available</p>	

	<p>GM – on EclA will they review the wider impact of less fishing on merchants and hospitality</p> <p>RC – wouldn't it be better to complete the EclA before the dates for putting in place are set. Could the date move, or are they set? There is currently great fishing, the stocks are healthy, and we need to understand how this will affect people's livelihoods. Suddenly we have 12 months to adapt, and potting is not a viable industry now.</p> <p>SV – are there any ideas on how to keep the fishery going? Very expensive and difficult to switch metier. Hoping there will be more conversation around compensation/decommissioning. States members need to understand the impact this will have on the fleet.</p> <p>SL – you need to understand that there are a lot of people out there who will take a different opinion from you. Other Ministers, for example, would be happy to discontinue dredging all together.</p> <p>FB – the EclA will inform us of the impacts</p> <p>SV – will we have a chance to review the EclA</p> <p>FB – yes this will be possible in November</p> <p>PT – is there potential to seed scallop in areas outside the MPAs</p> <p>SV – this is not really a viable option</p> <p>SL – important that whilst scallop stocks are healthy that management is put in place to secure the stock for future generations</p> <p>CI – need to ensure an Environmental Impact Assessment is complete</p> <p>AP – we are mindful of the cumulative impacts and will be informed by the Bangor Study (Scallop Stock Assessment)</p> <p>RC – feels like French were given Grandfather rights at the Écréhous but we are not being given an equal opportunity</p> <p>SL – if it I demonstrated that certain areas are used consistently and depended upon then we will review on a case-by-case basis. The timeline is however set, and we will continue to work together on this matter</p>	
7	<p>Aquaculture (ongoing export issues)</p> <p>CLM issues are ongoing at the border post in St Malo.</p> <p>Increasing amounts of paperwork and difficulties exporting Oysters. Different processes depending on the team or person available at the Port. No clear format and working with different individuals' interpretation of the regulations. France has its own agenda for fish health irrespective of EU regulations and it is very difficult and expensive to navigate. French products being brought over here for French markets with no checks on their products. We are not being treated fairly.</p> <p>WP – We were hoping that the Granville SIVEP would be opened. The TCA reset unfortunately is not just about fishing or SPS protocols, it is much wider, and the agreement takes longer than expected because of all the component parts. On the Veterinary side, we can assure you that inspections of produce at the French markets do take place.</p> <p>SV – The French authorities do not have an incentive to create the SIVEP, as they have been given their 12 years fishing so leaves it now very difficult to negotiate</p> <p>SL – there are incentives and there is action that can and will be taken</p>	

	<p>SV – we have French Fishers fishing alongside us and able to land their scallops directly into France. If you were to say that they could not fish here for scallops due to this, then the matter would be sorted overnight.</p> <p>SV – the meetings keep getting cancelled and has heard along the way that there will never be a SIVEP. Exporters continue to take on extra costs in the hope something will happen but there is no hope on the horizon for this</p> <p>WP – the discussions continue this matter, and we will keep talking and keep pushing</p> <p>SV – need to start Marine Economy working group again</p> <p>JV – we are seeing Minister to get resource in place to make this happen</p> <p>PT – Minister was successful in gaining support for land based rural economy</p>	<p>Marine and Rural Economy to organise resourcing and set up working groups with industry</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Update on enforcement cases</p> <p>KB presentation on recent enforcement cases.</p> <p>PC – important to understand these fines in context with their income</p> <p>SV – the procedure for enforcement in France is much stricter, all catch and gear confiscated and time spent on processing the case much longer and time consuming for the person caught</p> <p>SV – do we confiscate the catch?</p> <p>WP – yes if deemed necessary but we need to consider adequate transfer and storage facilities</p> <p>KB – intention is to send more information to Parish Hall etc to demonstrate the impact of these offences in different contexts such as environmental and economic impacts. We will also look to claim expenses for future offences.</p> <p>SL – the most important matter is the fine and my intention is to speak with the Bailiff on this front</p> <p>SV - Bream is the main problem and this has been going on for 30 years</p> <p>KB – assurance that we have and continue to board trawlers, even those on passage transmitting our waters</p> <p>CI – people who are caught need to be tied up further in bureaucracy, as they are in France</p> <p>CC – a Jersey fishing vessel was fined £10K for fishing in Guernsey waters</p> <p>WP – the key is to educate the Judiciary about the seriousness of the offences</p> <p>CV – removing the fishing licence would act as a deterrent</p> <p>Discussion continued about MR Officers having delegated powers under the Wildlife Law</p> <p>CI – Wildlife Law. Tuna needs to be removed, it was always an anomaly and should be taken off</p> <p>AP – agreed it was the only mechanism we had at the time to prevent them being targeted</p> <p>CC – what happens if you find a Tuna on a vessel</p> <p>AP – this will be a catch and release fishery only so there shouldn't be any fish on the boat</p>	

9	<p>Annual Report</p> <p>AP presented a slide on the trends for the main commercial stocks Annual report will be circulated ahead of next meeting FB – we will circulate and give 2 weeks for comments to be returned, we can then publish ahead of the next meeting Discussion on the trends continued PT – If Scallop are being reviewed by Bangor, then which stocks are being reviewed next AP – likely Scallop and then we will decide closer to the time on the third year SV – we should look at closing the Whelk fishery looking at the stats. We have seen an unseasonal number of French whelk boats turning up. As areas are being closed in France, they are being displaced here.</p>	<p>All – review Annual report and provide comments in 14 days once sent</p>
10	<p>Fishing industry lease and rental concerns – Raised by JFA</p> <p>GM raised issue with Minister around PoJ changing tenancy contracts, some increasing by as much as 22%, plus various other issues. The industry is struggling already with small margins, increasing costs etc. GM has asked PoJ for a group meeting, but they will only meet on an individual basis. Seeking support from GoJ on this issue. SL – will speak to the Minister for Economic development. Also recommends you speak with Matt Thomas at Ports of Jersey NP – has had a different experience and dialogue has been quite open to date PC – you should contact first William Sadler and then Matt Thomas on this issue. It is not my department, but should you need, I will be able to assist connect you to the right people PT – a key concern is security of tenure, should be long leases and this will mean less rent rises. Should also be a 3-year breaking clause SV – some have made huge improvements and spent a lot of money on dilapidated properties PC – it is important that if you have solutions to these issues, then you present them to the right people in PoJ then I am sure they will be open to these discussions.</p>	<p>Minister for Environment to speak with Minister for Economic development on matter</p>
	<p>WP - Thanks to all for their attendance today and keeping the discussion honest and respectful</p> <p>Next Meeting date</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monday 20th October 2025 - Monday 26th January, 2026 	