

MARINE RESOURCES PANEL MEETING

117th Meeting

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

20th October 2025

Present:	William Peggie (WP) – Director Natural Environment (Chairman) Steve Luce (SL) – Minister for the Environment Steve Viney (SV) - representing Jersey Fishermen’s Association Jason Bonhomme (JB) - representing Jersey Fishermen’s Association Gabby Mason (GM) – representing Jersey Fishermen’s Association Chris Le Masurier (CLM) – representing the Aquaculture Industry Natalie Porritt (NT) – representing Jersey Merchants Peter Tarrant (PT) – representing Jersey Inshore Fishermen’s Association Ian Syvret (IS) - representing Jersey Inshore Fishermen’s Association Chris Casey (CC) – representing North coast Fishermen Mike Sheldon (MS) – representing Société Jersiaise Pierre Chays (PC) – representing Ports of Jersey Chris Isaacs (CI) – representing Recreational Fishermen’s Association
In Attendance:	Alex Plaster (AP) – Marine Science and Research Manager Francis Binney (FB) – Head of Marine Resources Kerrie-Anne Egge (KAE) – Marine Resources, Fisheries Officer John Vautier (JV) – Marine and Rural Economy
Guests	Jersey Electricity Company x4
Apologies:	Simon King

		Action
	Approval of Minutes from the previous meeting and Matters Arising	
	The minutes from the previous meeting on 21 st July were approved. Actions from last meeting: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Bag limits review. Marine Resources to organise public consultation 2) Increase in minimum size of scallop and pollack. Marine Resources to continue with legislative actions 3) Aquaculture (ongoing export issue). Marine and Rural Economy to organise resourcing and set up working groups with industry 4) Annual report. All to review Annual report and provide comments in 14 days once sent 5) Fishing industry lease and rental concerns – Raised by JFA MENV to speak with Minister for Economic development on matter 	Minutes accepted

CAPTURE FISHERIES		
1.	<p>JEC – N2 Cable replacement and survey work</p> <p>Presentation from Jersey Electricity Company SV – With the laying of the 2nd cable to Guernsey no consultation with Fishers – we see St Ouens being looked at. Consider grounds across banks, could have laid previous cables between banks. JEC happy to collaborate with industry. GM agrees PT – seabed temp can you correlate with other seabed temps? MENV – when will the Gsy cable laying project begin JEC – currently 2028 (all dependant on permits from Jersey and France) IS – funding expected for industry, previously safety equipment was provided? JEC will look into</p>	
2.	<p>SE whelk permit zone – Licence condition update</p> <p>Presentation from MR (AP) – whelk fishing authorisation for SE area of Jersey waters expired Initially brought in for winter marketing and not through technical management. MR - No improvements seen in the whelk fishery through annual whelk trials SV – This should remain in place but change some parts – speak to industry involved in the fishery Agreement to limit fishing in the area and not remove authorisations entirely.</p>	
3	<p>Legislative updates – TnD, escape gaps all pots, NPPZ Ecrehou, V Notching, minimum size updates</p> <p>Presentation from MR - inshore regulations will be absorbed into TND regulations JB – question on sand eel seine for bait – MR answered this would be catered for in the new round of legislative updated. Currently a breach of regulation. Agreement on 60 pots – commercial limit (non-shellfish licence) and 15 pot – rec limit. Moving forward with V notching 2026 (make mandatory to release V notch lobsters back into system). Small scale project within 3 nautical miles. Pilot study NP – not realistic target with current fishery as not the numbers to V notch. At what point do you close the fishery? NP suggest we are well past the fishery being closed MR – hydrological studies show most lobsters settle in Jersey’s territorial sea (6 weeks) following larval stage) JB – how long to leave before closing fishery? Conversation to include getting pots out of the water MENV keen to progress this issue with urgency AP – Lobster and Scallop updates to minimum size in play. 105mm for scallop in December 2025. 90mm for Lobster in August 2026.</p>	<p>MR – Look for potential area to store static gear on shore for industry.</p>
4	<p>Bag limits order update (recreational)</p> <p>AP presented recommendations/final proposal from Recreational Fishers (+ further public consultation, good attendance) CI – amend to 25 per vessel for smoothhound and Bull Huss CLM – issue with people collecting oysters at low water due to health considerations CI – invasive species (oysters) – should be able to take as many as you would like GM – should be putting in stronger restrictions rather than less, as perhaps displaced fisheries will create pressure on the stock (e.g. increase in spider etc)</p>	

	<p>AP - limited data on recreational fisheries in Jersey and looking to have a review done by a student in 2026.</p> <p>JB – commercial vessels are in the minority, recreational is larger now</p> <p>PC – would not eat 10 spider crabs a day</p> <p>PT – we need data, recreational licences would be a good way to make this happen</p> <p>SV – French have this right, good LW fishing regulations</p> <p>WP – conversation with MR to follow up on this</p> <p>GM – suggests we have smaller meetings before panel to convene on limits</p> <p>AP Discussion on scallops (low water)</p> <p>CI – thinks it should be unlimited. NP – thinks should be nil.</p> <p>Final recommendation of 15 scallops for discussion internally (shore gathered)</p>	
5	<p>Commercial ormer bag limit discussion</p> <p>SV – looking at ways to diversify, opportunity for commercials. Suggests 20 +</p> <p>JB – suggests annual permit scheme (as restricted by Ormering tides)</p> <p>WP – suggest industry led conversation</p> <p>IS – what is the French data showing us. No data on dive fishery from France</p> <p>SV – price has now gone down to £4 but market in London, not France</p> <p>NP – exporting on mass causes exploitation. SV – this is a boutique fishery</p> <p>JB – not commercially viable to run vessel for 100 ormers. Thinks should be 2000 per season. Work certain areas certain days, not around Jersey’s shoreline</p> <p>PT agrees with NP, locally difficult to sell them</p> <p>CI see regularly discarded shells and overturned stones</p> <p>FB – suggests agreeing temporary vessel limit as recommendation for MENV</p> <p>GM – survivability an issue for export (only really last one day)</p> <p>MENV – work is required to understand export process, important to get data</p> <p>Trial agreed</p>	<p>JFA – Proposal for ormer fishery needed</p>
6	<p>Soft shell spider netting closure (info below)</p> <p>SV – work to redesign/define limit, perhaps closer access for Jersey netters</p> <p>Formal 45-day notification, has not changed in 5 years</p> <p>NP/PT/GM Quality of meat is poor when recently moulted (new shell spider)</p> <p>Potentially 3 week push back on end date (Sept 21st to Oct 21st?)</p> <p>FB suggests another Fisher led meeting for further discussion</p> <p>MENV suggests opening up zone D for longer with suggested dates</p> <p>PC what are the Normandy dates (no dates for Brittany). FB same as Jersey’s.</p>	<p>JFA – Proposal for 2026 Spider netting closure dates</p>
7	<p>Escape gap – Practicalities of fitting new gaps with 90mm MLS</p> <p>SV – not necessary to check gaps. Just letting bigger Octopus in.</p> <p>Decided at this stage not to progress with new escape gaps.</p>	
8	<p>Future marine economy, diversification of fisheries and port infrastructure – JFA and Economy team</p> <p>JV - Meeting with Kirsten and industry reps to see how we can provide solutions to current challenges. Recommended financial resources through 2026 to tackle problem. New person has been appointed to John’s role. Plus extra budget to boost Marine Support scheme into 2026. Potential funding for industry wide initiatives, and value added ideas for export. JV recognises this has taken a long time</p>	

	<p>PT – are you looking at support through seafood supply chain</p> <p>WP – recognition of John’s contribution to Marine Resources Panel and bringing first support scheme to Fisherman</p>	
9	<p>Fishermen meeting updates – JFA</p> <p>GM - Meeting with representatives from industry on Teams with Brittany/Normandy. Further meeting in person recently - 11 Fisherman from Jersey, 9 from France. Opened new lines of communications, less strain now. Spoke about the SIVEP, French fishers understood and support this across the board and see how it would benefit wider relationship. Recognise waters are mis-classified. They did not appreciate that was a problem or that they had power to influence it. Worried that it might impact them as they are taking Scallops from the same area.</p> <p>French raised concerns over MPAs and felt not enough consultation and not enough consultation on EclA. Concerns around how MPAs will impact fishers and all the way through to supply chain. Very positive meeting and relations will continue</p>	
10	<p>Bass permit allocation and quota – JIFA</p> <p>PT – how can more people access the bass fishery, suggestion quota?</p> <p>AP – update on permit allocation – full netting authorisation (10) and rod and line (8). Maybe reallocation of a handful of rod and line permits in closed season 2026. The rod and line permit is a stepping stone into the netting permit. Focus is to keep sales to the local market.</p> <p>PT – indication of what is caught i.e. how close is it to 400kg.</p> <p>AP – a conversation could be had about sub-dividing the amounts between more permit holders (keeping overall quota). Would need recommendation.</p> <p>IS – if permits have potential to be reallocated then this may solve the issue</p> <p>AP – there is a formal application process to run through in february 2026 for re allocation. All fishing licence holders will be invited to apply via email.</p>	
11	<p>Register of sellers and buyers of first-sale fish & shellfish – JIFA</p> <p>PT – registration of buyers and sellers would help with compliance</p> <p>GM – worried about more paperwork</p> <p>IS – not about more paperwork, it is a transaction focus – only extra for people who don’t comply.</p> <p>FB – may need to sit with another department as not sure about the legal infrastructure. Difficulties with GDPR and housing the data in database</p> <p>JV – would expect this to be picked up in food systems and local sales as we develop workstreams</p> <p>SV – enough red tape, fishers happen to police themselves.</p> <p>AP – difficulty in enforcement</p> <p>WP – are there enough unlawful transactions to implement the system.</p> <p>CI – recreational sector likely to be supportive of this</p> <p>MS – catch app could act as verification – perhaps restaurant could scan QR code – no admin involved.</p> <p>JV to take this away as area of concern</p>	
12	<p>Hand dived scallop minimum size – JIFA</p> <p>PT – increase MLS for Scallop to 115mm (visually different). Majority of divers would like this.</p> <p>FB another argument to get another reproductive cycle, suggests JV could consider a circumstance where you sign up to a proactive scheme for niche market etc (larger scallops) then this could be more voluntary than regulatory.</p>	

	GM – unfair marketing point as sometimes dredged scallops are bigger	
	Other matters Wish John Vautier well and every success in his new role The Minister wishes everyone a Happy Christmas	
	Next Meeting date - Monday 26th January, 2026	