

MARINE RESOURCES PANEL MEETING

95th Meeting

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

2nd December 2019

Present:	William Peggie – Director Natural Environment (Chairman) Mike Taylor (MT) – representing Jersey Aquaculture Association Chris Le Masurier - representing Jersey Aquaculture Association Don Thompson (DT) - representing Jersey Fishermen’s Association Paul Bizac (PB) – representing Jersey Fishermen’s Association Chris Isaacs – representing Jersey Recreational Fishermen Ian Syvret (IS) – representing Jersey Inshore Fishermen Gareth Jeffreys (GJ) – representing Société Jersiaise Natalie Porrit (NT) – representing Jersey Merchants Royston Rimeur (RR) – representing Boat Owners Associations
In Attendance:	Gregory Guida (GG) – Assistant Minister for Environment Greg Morel (GM) – Assistant Director - Marine Resources Dave Yettram (DY) – Senior Fisheries Officer – Marine Resources Paul Chambers (PC) – Marine & Coastal Manager, Marine Resources Francis Binney (FB) – Marine Scientist, Marine Resources Alex Plaster (AP) – Marine & Fisheries Assistant Officer Dot Miller (DM) - Minutes
Apologies:	Gregory Guida (GG) – Assistant Minister for Environment

		Action
1.	Approval of Minutes from the previous meeting and Matters Arising	
	<p>Item 4: Fish Resale Register – the word ‘sellers’ was removed from the second paragraph referring to legislation, so the paragraph refers only to buyers.</p> <p>Subject to the above change, the minutes from the meeting held on 9th September 2019 were approved.</p> <p>Matters Arising</p> <p>It was noted that Martin Le Maistre has stepped down from Panel, Royston Rimeur will now represent Boat Owners Associations at Panel meetings. WP welcomed RR to the Panel.</p> <p>Fish Farm licencing</p> <p>Reference was made to previous discussions asking that the Minister considers removing financial data from fish farm licence applications in the future, officers confirmed that the matter is ongoing.</p> <p>Buyers and Sellers</p> <p>DY referred to the Isle of Man’s Register of Buyers and Sellers Scheme which he is looking into as a scheme of this sort is needed in Jersey and will be worthwhile.</p>	

	<p>GM stated that aspirations are that it will start during 2020, currently looking at legislation.</p> <p>DT asked that officers ensure that the scheme would be fit for purpose going forward.</p>	
	<u>Safety at Sea</u>	
2.	Update on Jersey Fishing Vessel code	
	<p>DT advised on behalf of the JFA, that they were in agreement with most of the paper. However with regard to securing charitable support for new equipment, there is no option to do this. The suggested new measures with cost implications have not come at a good time therefore the JFA cannot agree to the whole paper. DT requested that the response to Ports of Jersey came from the Panel. It would also be incredibly difficult to force a crew member to wear a lifejacket and this shouldn't be down to the skipper as crew members are usually self employed therefore it is their decision.</p> <p>Marine officers will respond to Ports of Jersey on behalf of the Panel.</p>	MR Officers
	<u>Capture Fisheries</u>	
3.	Fisheries Management Permits	
	<p>DT referred to the JFA Permits Paper circulated prior to the meeting and gave the meeting an overview. DT clarified that the desire for a permit system was due to the lack of a component to control levels of effort within the Jersey fleet and French efforts in Jersey waters. A permit system would fill the gap without needing to replace the existing framework. The Panel discussed the JFA paper and the following was noted:</p> <p>GM reminded the Panel that Jersey signed up to the Granville Bay Agreement but agrees it needs looking at, and that this is acknowledged and accepted with the Minister being supportive. However, we need to get through Brexit.</p> <p>CLM added that aquaculture should also be included in a permit scheme. External Relations are issuing letters of entitlement.</p> <p>WP commented that today's meeting was an opportunity to help re-affirm the industry's desires and hopes for a permit scheme and that officers could use the JFA paper as a reminder to Ministers that this needs to stay on the political agenda.</p> <p>GM agreed to discuss at the Minister's meeting scheduled for 5th December in order to maintain a focus on permits.</p>	GM
4.	Atlantic Bluefin Tuna position paper	

	<p>Following on from the previous Panel Meeting, AP presented the draft position paper on Bluefin Tuna which was circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that the draft report was not for onward circulation outside this meeting at this point.</p> <p>The Panel discussed the position paper and the possibilities of a scientific study and the following was noted:</p> <p>WP stated that the mechanism is there for the Minister to argue for funding should we consider this from a scientific interest.</p> <p>DT felt that a study would be really worthwhile, the fleet is suffering in diversity and these tuna are there and the ban is unfair. However GJ cautioned that this is a highly migratory species, and whilst they may be here now they could move on very quickly.</p> <p>CI stated there was also a need to consider bait fish movements.</p> <p>MR Officers will continue to investigate the possibility of a study.</p>	MR Officers
5.	Update on Bass and Whelks from previous Panel meeting	
	<p>Bass</p> <p>FB updated the Panel that it is expected that bag limits will remain the same for next year.</p> <p>There was discussion around 1 fish per crew member up to a maximum of 5. CI stated that it should be the same allowance for recreational and commercial fishermen.</p> <p>RR raised that there were complaints about not being allowed to take bass, however this was not for discussion at this Panel meeting.</p> <p>DT stated that there was not a high demand for Bass.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to allowing 3 per day, following ICES guidelines.</p> <p>GM confirmed that officers will look at parity between recreational and commercial fishermen and are also looking at gill tags with Genuine Jersey.</p> <p>Whelks</p> <p>The proposal is to retain the 9000 pool of whelk pots to be available to the local fleet. Proposals will be circulated to the fleet.</p> <p>CI enquired what the whelk research comprised of and FB explained that there was an annual scientific survey of key sites which looked at statistics related to stock health and that more targeted research on whelk biology was taking place through the Mollusc Working Group.</p> <p>DT commented that the proposals are a perfect example of what a permit could look like.</p>	

6.	Update on measures including the Lobster Work Group	
	<p>PC advised that the Lobster Working Group were next due to meet in January. Raising the minimum landing size was raised at the Granville Bay meeting and this is being considered. It was noted that Normandy are supportive of a no take zone.</p> <p>RR and MT expressed an interest in joining the working group. PC agreed to email round regarding attending the next meeting. DT was concerned that the working group could get too big and that all sectors are well represented and the group is working well, however it was agreed that this was a decision for the working group and not the Panel.</p>	PC
	<u>Aquaculture</u>	
7.	Information request on the Cavern	
	<p>PC advised that the officer responsible for answering questions on the Cavern had been on leave until the day before this meeting. However WP was able to advise that the question raised about an independent regulator is being debated and the outcome is to ensure a better regulatory system. PC stated he would check if information can be shared with Ramsar and will advise GJ.</p> <p>CLM stated that he was very disappointed that shellfish is Grade B with a 12' rise and fall on tide, and that Government could be doing a better job to protect our marine environment. He also clarified that the sewage isn't the problem, it's the other pollutants e.g. bleach. CLM to let WP have any information he has so it can be forwarded to Regulation. WP undertook to liaise with Natural Environment and Operations and Transport departments with regard to CLM's letter of 18th October 2019.</p>	
	<u>Brexit & Granville Bay Updates</u>	
8.	Update on recent developments	
	<p><i>Brexit</i> Little to report because of UK general election. French declining to engage. External Relations and Normandy relations are positive. Working groups to start again after the election.</p> <p><i>Granville Bay Meetings</i> Next meeting scheduled for February 2020. JFA intend to boycott future meetings due to the French being unwilling to consider permit management (point 3 on Panel agenda).</p>	
9.	New Panel Members	

	The Panel discussed requests from individuals wishing to join. However it was noted that members are spokespersons for the different groups they represent and Panel felt that all bodies were well represented at the meetings.	
	<u>Next Meetings</u>	
	Monday 17 th February 2020 Monday 15 th June 2020 Monday 14 th September 2020 Monday 7 th December 2020 All meeting to commence at 2.15 p.m.	
	There being no other business the meeting closed at 5.30 p.m.	