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New method of measuring nets

From 6 October the electronic Omega net gauge will be used to measure both trawl and static nets, replacing the old wedge and caliper gauges.

The Omega gauge applies a preset force to open out the mesh, this force depends on the mesh size but will be constant during each measurement process. Once twenty meshes have been measured the gauge displays an average mesh size.

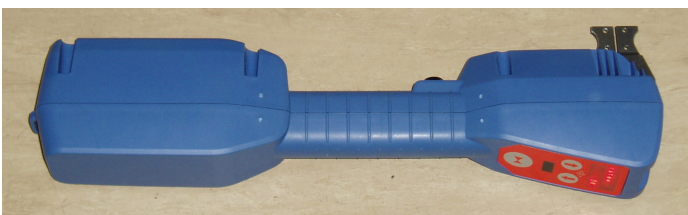
In some circumstances meshes measured, will achieve a smaller size than if measured with the more traditional gauge. This discrepancy increases the longer a cod end is used; possibly because of sand and other matter becoming lodged within the twine of the mesh. The Omega gauge measures with the same force on every occasion, whereas with a wedge gauge it is possible to push harder than originally intended.

Time scale to allow for net replacement:

Fishery Officers are aware that strict application of the omega gauge immediately after the legislation becomes effective, could lead to some nets, which might have achieved a legal size with the wedge gauge, becoming illegal. With that in mind the following policy will be adopted:

First Three Months

For the period from the date the legislation becomes effec-



tive until three months after that date, where a net fails a measurement test using the Omega gauge, then it will be measured using the old gauge. If it also fails to meet the required mesh size when measured with the old gauge, then it will be deemed to be illegal and appropriate enforcement action may be taken. If it passes measurement with the old gauge, the owner will be allowed to continue using it until the end of the three month period or it fails to pass a subsequent old gauge measurement.

After Three Months

If after the three month period a net fails to achieve the correct measurement when checked with an Omega gauge, appropriate enforcement action may be taken.

Voluntary Measurement Scheme for Mobile Nets

Because it is recognised that mesh size shrinks in use, fishermen have the option of regular, voluntary net measurement checks. Under that scheme a fisherman will request that a net is measured, and provided the mesh size is correct, then the net will be marked. The fisherman must arrange for the net to be rechecked every three months after the initial meas-

urement and if at any such subsequent check the mesh size of that net is found to be too small, then enforcement action will not be taken, provided the net is immediately taken out of service. Measured and tagged nets may be measured by Officers at any point, but again if the net is being checked under the voluntary scheme and passed on mesh size within the previous three months, enforcement action will not be taken if the mesh size is found to be too small.

Where owners have elected *not* to take part in the voluntary scheme, then after the first three months if mesh size is found to be too small, enforcement action *may* be taken.

If you wish to enter this scheme, please contact a Fishery Officer to enroll and arrange a time for your nets to be measured.

Notes:

These procedures will only apply to boats in the Jersey territorial sea. The Omega gauge has been in use elsewhere for some time, so if fishermen operate or carry nets outside of our area, then they need to ensure that they all measure correctly with an Omega gauge at all times.

New EU Regulations covering electronic logbooks, satellite monitoring etc.

The European Union introduced a new set of "Control Regulations" on the 1st January 2010. These set the rules for logbooks, satellite monitoring (VMS) and other related administrative measures designed to help enforce quotas etc. Jersey will need to adopt some aspects of the new Control Regulations and may choose to adopt other aspects if appropriate and after consultation. If however you venture outside the Island's territorial waters, you will need to ensure that you comply with the EU regulations, regardless of whether or not Jersey adopts them.

The new regulations have little immediate impact on the average Jersey fishing vessel but in the long term there may be some cost implications related to the purchase/annual running of new monitoring equipment. The JFA has already identified that they would consider it desirable for some of this cost to be met by the Island, but no decision has yet been made. Listed below are some of the more important points:

Measures Jersey may be obliged to introduce

Fishing Authorisation

This relates to the need for vessels to have special authorisation to fish in recovery zones and to comply with various restrictions on gear and days at sea.

Jersey is situated in the Sole recovery zone.

Vessel Monitoring System

From 1 January 2012 all vessels of 12 metres overall length or greater will need to be fitted with satellite monitoring equipment,

unless they either never leave the Jersey territorial sea or never spend more than 24 hours at sea.

Automatic Identification System (AIS)

AIS will be required on Vessels between 18 and 24 metres overall length from 31 May 2013 and vessels 15 - 24 metres overall length from 31 May 2014

Vessel Monitoring System

Data from this system can be shared with other States and used for any law enforcement purpose or safety.

Electronic logbook

Vessels of 15 metres overall length, or greater, will require electronic logbooks from 1 July 2011.

Vessels of 12 metres overall length, or greater, will require electronic logbooks from 1 January 2012.

(Vessels under 15 metres in overall length will be exempt if they either never leave the Jersey territorial sea or never spend more than 24 hours at sea.)

Electronic landing declarations

Landing declarations must be in electronic form from: 1 January 2011– Over 15 m

1 July 2012 – Over 12 m

Same exemptions apply as above

Retrieval of lost gear

Vessels must have the means to recover lost gear and must notify the authorities of any such gear within 24 hours of loss. This does not apply to vessels under 12 metres working exclusively in the territorial sea or going to sea for less than 24 hours.

Measures Jersey may consider introducing:

Point System for serious infringements

This introduces a penalty points system not dissimilar to that applicable to driving licences.

Control of Marketing, Traceability, Buyers and Sellers Registration etc

This continues the requirement for buyers of first sale fish to be registered and to provide details of all such purchases, and for many other associated measures, all designed to control black fish. It may be worthwhile for Jersey to adopt this as it discourages trading in fish caught from vessels without licences.



New Restrictions on Scallop Dredging



Two new restrictions relating to scallop dredging designed to safeguard the fishery for smaller boats have been introduced:

a) Regulations that apply to all fishing boats in the Territorial Sea now restrict the maximum number of dredges that can be used to 16. The same regulation

also restricts the maximum aggregate mouth size of dredges being used to 12.8 metres.

This regulation allows all current French and British vessels to continue fishing, but is intended to prevent the return to the area of larger vessels.

b) A licence condition now limits the number of beams to which scallop dredges are attached to a maximum of two per vessel. Each beam may only have up to six dredges attached to it and the maximum aggregate mouth size of all scallop dredges being used is 9.6 metres. In effect, no local vessel may tow more than 12 dredges anywhere in the Territorial Sea. Whilst this licence condition only applies to British vessels, the JFA requested it in order to further protect the local fishery from the potential of UK registered, Jersey licensed, vessels from exploiting the scallop stocks within the three mile limit.

Ormering Tides 2010 - 2011

2010	ORMERS MAY BE FISHED FOR OR POSSESSED				ORMERS MAY BE POSSESSED	
Oct	7	8	9	10	11	12
Oct	23	24	25	26	27	28
Nov	6	7	8	9	10	11
Nov	21	22	23	24	25	26
Dec	5	6	7	8	9	10
Dec	21	22	23	24	25	26
2011						
Jan	4	5	6	7	8	9
Jan	19	20	21	22	23	24
Feb	3	4	5	6	7	8
Feb	18	19	20	21	22	23
Mar	4	5	6	7	8	9
Mar	19	20	21	22	23	24
Apr	3	4	5	6	7	8
Apr	18	19	20	21	22	23

The minimum legal size for the ormer is 9cm measured across the broadest part of the shell

When Low-water Fishing, Please Remember: 'Turn it, but Return it!'

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The Environment Department is also responsible for:-

Environmental Management and Rural Economy

Environmental Protection and Water Resources

Environmental Policy

Meteorological Services

Veterinary Services

New closed areas for sea bed protection

On the 6th of October, the Fisheries and Marine Resources Panel agreed the creation of two new closed areas around the coast of Jersey. Within these areas, the use of dredges are prohibited, primarily to protect the sea bed from damage. Restriction of the use of dredges in these closed areas takes effect immediately. The closed areas are displayed for illustration on the chartlet below. The precise co-ordinates (WGS84) are as follows:

Restricted Zone - North

An area of sea off the north coast of Jersey bounded on the seaward side by straight lines joining the following points in order (all positions referenced to WGS84) and by the shoreline on the landward side :

Latitude (N) Degrees Minutes	Longitude (W) Degrees Minutes
Grosnez Point Light	
49 15.493	02 14.883
49 15.815	02 14.170
49 15.815	02 12.250
49 15.370	02 11.170
49 15.840	02 09.400
49 16.000	02 07.830
49 15.820	02 06.150
49 15.200	02 03.100
49 14.595	02 01.730
49 14.150	02 01.180
La Coupe Point	

Restricted Zone - South and East

An area of sea to the south and east of Jersey bounded on the seaward side by straight lines joining the following points in order (all positions referenced to WGS84) and by the shoreline on the landward side:

Latitude (N) Degrees Minutes	Longitude (W) Degrees Minutes
Southern most point of La Collette reclamation wall	
Dogs Nest beacon	
Demie de Pas beacon	
49 08.610	02 05.140
49 08.100	02 01.700
49 07.820	01 59.040
49 08.370	01 57.500
49 08.620	01 57.500
Charted position of Le Giffard buoy	
Horn Rock beacon	
Les Arch beacon	
Le Fara beacon	
Outward end of St Catherine's breakwater	



Existing No Mobile Gear Areas:
(Sea Fisheries (Inshore Trawling, Netting and Dredging) (Jersey) Regulations 2001)



New No Dredging Areas



The above chartlet is for illustration only. Do not use for navigation and please plot your own co-ordinates from the above tables. In the event of any difference between the area identified on the map and the limits defined by the co-ordinates given above, the later shall prevail.

The Fisheries and Marine Resources Section has the following objectives:-

- To ensure sustainable use of the marine resources of the Bailiwick
- To maximize overall benefits to the people of Jersey
- To protect the marine environment

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