Fisheries and Marine Resources Annual Report 2007

Fisheries & Marine Resources Planning and Environment Department Environment Division Howard Davis Farm Trinity Jersey

April 2008









Executive Summary

The Industry

In the shellfish sector the tonnage landed increased by some 6% to 1592 tonnes valued at just over £4m at first hand landed prices.

Wet fish landings dropped markedly to just 117 tons some 60 tons below the recorded catch for 2006. Much of this drop occurred in the under 10m fleet and while a real drop in catches no doubt occurred some of the recorded drop may be due to new data gathering systems.

The Aquaculture production improved by a small amount to its highest recorded weight of just over 790 tons although there was no increase in areas farmed. 2008 may see consolidation of some of the beds and some subtidal ranched areas may begin production.

Total value from the fisheries sector was £5.9 million, a 1% drop on the2006 value. It is hoped that the stocks hold up in 2008 and an improvement in prices and a reduction in the very high fuel price would reverse the trend of decreasing profitability for the industry.

Granville Bay Treaty meetings have continued and further agreements include joint limitation on beam trawling effort and an extension of the Minquiers parlour pot ban to include other gear types.

The industry welcomed a Privy Council decision allowing them to return to fish in the Guernsey 3-12 mile waters and have indicated their willingness to begin talks to assist in an appropriate conservation scheme.

The Section

Good liaison was maintained with the UK, France and the rest of Europe and some 7 pieces of legislation were either amended or created to assist in conserving the marine environment.

Stock assessment work on whelks, lobster and rays was continued as well as routine marine environmental monitoring.

With the very helpful assistance of an undergraduate student three new information leaflets were produced to help inform the public about marine conservation.

Fisheries regulation benefited from the appointment of a voluntary honorary Fisheries Officer and through the year few minimum sizes offences were detected and the number of overall serious offences maintained a low level.

Pot limitation began in February and all pots have been tagged throughout the year in a way similar to the French system. Beach netting for some unknown reason has increased and seven abandoned or illegally set nets were seized and the section will consider, with the Fisheries Advisory Panel, ways to tackle this issue in 2008.

The Section enjoyed working over a wide range of marine resource issues with the industry and public in 2007. However, the section's very finite resources are often thinly spread over the wide range of topics that need administration and management. The Coastal Zone Management Plan due to be published in 2008 may help focus attention on the issues the public feel are most worthy of attention.

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1. International Work.

1.1. Europe

Participation in the EU Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Working Group 3 meetings for the English Channel occurred through the year. The discussions have tended to concentrate on pressure stock fin fish quotas and their management. To cover shellfish the creation of a focus group for shellfish stocks in the Channel has been proposed for 2008. If agreed by the Executive in 2008 Jersey participation is expected.

The forthcoming review of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) conservation regulations by the EU has yet to materialise; however, if it does appear in 2008 it will demand a comprehensive review of the Jersey conservation regulations.

The Senior Fisheries Inspector attended an EU Joint Enforcement Operations Conference held in the UK in April. Discussions focused on cross border cooperation and risk based enforcement activities.

1.2. France

As agreed, two Joint Management Committee meetings of the Bay of Granville Treaty Agreement occurred in 2007. Following agreement at this level the parlour pot ban at les Minquiers was extended to cover all pots designed to prevent the escape of shellfish and the conservation regulations that cover beam trawlers (see Legislation section) in Jersey Territorial waters were extended to apply to French vessels. Less business came up from the Advisory Committee in 2007 although it is expected more issues will come through in 2008.

An exchange of officers occurred in October. The new Senior Affaires Maritimes Officer in Granville, Jean-Simon Laval, came over to Jersey for 2 days while Greg Morel visited the Granville area for a day and a half after the Granville Bay meeting in October.

1.3. United Kingdom

The exchange of vessel licences both to and from the UK continued to be made successfully throughout 2007.

Discussions with the UK as part of the Jersey-UK Management Agreement centered on the Marine Bill which may become an Act in 2008. As Jersey is a Crown Dependency the Act as it will become does not, in the main, apply locally; however, certain peripheral issues were discussed, in particular the control of Jersey registered vessels outside of Jersey Territorial Waters.

The need for Secretary of State approval has also been discussed in the hope of streamlining the legislative process. Jersey has kept the UK briefed on its moves to harmonise and progress the conservation regulations in Granville Bay Treaty Waters.

Members of the Fisheries section participated in meetings concerning UK Shellfish Management, Chief Fisheries Officers and Shellfish Association Crustacean Management.

1.4. Guernsey

It came as a relief to the industry that in May the Privy Council found in favour of the Jersey Fishermen's Association in the long running case concerning legislative authority in sea areas around Guernsey where Territoriality was not extended. The Jersey fishermen that habitually fished there but had not been awarded licences were able to return to fish in those waters in May.

Since May, Senator Philip Ozouf, who at the beginning of 2007 took on the mantle of Fisheries Regulation, has tried to meet with his Guernsey counterparts to broker an access and management agreement between the two Islands. Unfortunately no meetings have, as yet, been held. Guernsey has stated that they wish to finalise the extension of Territorial Waters to 12 miles before entering into any negotiations on fishing with Jersey. It is hoped that some progress will be made in 2008.

2. Legislation

The following legislation was agreed by the States in 2007:

Sea Fisheries (Licensing of Fishing Boats)(Amendment No 3)(Jersey) Regulations 2007

7 pages

This regulation simplified the requirements relating to service addresses for boat owners not registered in Jersey applying for the issue of a fishing licence. This will particularly assist applications from Guernsey vessel owners.

Sea Fisheries (Les Minquiers) (Jersey) Regulations 2007

7 pages

This extended Jersey special conservation regulations previously applying only to parlour pots to all pots designed to prevent the escape of shellfish, fishing in a defined area of les Minquiers.

Sea Fisheries (Trawling, Netting & Dredging) (Amendment No 2)(Jersey) Regulations 2007

5 pages

This put in place trawling regulations for beam trawlers to cover all fishing vessels instead of the previous licence conditions which only covered Jersey vessels.

Sea Fisheries (Minimum Size Limits) (Amendment No 3) (Jersey) Regulations 2007

2 pages

This put in place a minimum size for the common prawn, Palaemon serratus.

Sea Fisheries (Minimum Size Limits) (Amendment No 4) (Jersey) Regulations 2007

2 pages

This modified the conservation regulations to take into account the change of the Latin names for Spider crab and Swimming crab and also harmonised the use of the term "fishing boat".

Sea Fisheries (Fees)(Jersey) Order 2007

2 pages

This increases the fees for licences in line with States policy.

Sea Fisheries (Log Books and Landing Declarations) (Jersey) 2007

18 pages

This repealed the previous regulations and applied detailed instructions for the completion of log books and landing declarations to all fishing vessels. The detailed instructions had previously only applied to Jersey licensed vessels as conditions of their licences.

Food and Environmental Protection Act 1985 (Deposits In Sea Exemptions) (Jersey) Order 2007

6 pages

The Order specifies certain operations that do not require a licence under the Food and Environmental Protection Act 1985 (Jersey) Order 1987

3. Capture Fisheries

3.1. Fishing Vessel Licensing

As of the 31st December 2007 the fleet comprised 171 licensed fishing vessels, 101 of which were shellfish qualified. This included 21 Class A (over 10 metre) licences and 150 Class B (10 metre and under) licences. This created 804 gross tonnes, 13908 kW and 9854 Vessel Capacity Units (VCU's). Although there has been a continued decrease in the size of the fleet in terms of vessel numbers, mainly due to a reduction in under 6m vessels, there has been a slight increase in capacity of the fleet in terms of vessel capacity units, due to the addition of one new over 10m vessel.

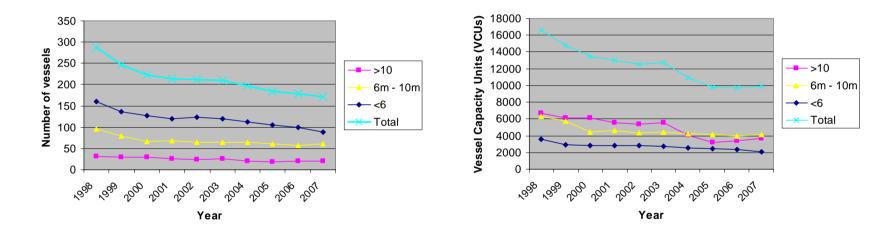


Figure 1. Number of licensed vessels

Figure 2. Vessel capacity units (VCUs) of the fleet

3.1.1. Licence Transactions

During the year 17 new licences, including 4 additional licences, and 30 new entitlements were issued. 24 entitlements have also been used, 16 entitlements were placed onto Jersey vessels, 7 entitlements were transferred to the UK and used to licence UK registered fishing vessels, 1 entitlement was transferred to Guernsey and no entitlements lapsed. No licence entitlements were transferred from Guernsey to Jersey and no licence entitlements were transferred from the UK to Jersey, due to the ability to issue additional (piggy back) licences. As of the 31st December 2007 there were 26 valid Jersey licence entitlements, 12 of which were shellfish qualified.

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
New Licences Issued	32	21	19	24	17
New Entitlements Issued	33	35	30	30	24
Entitlements Used – Total	46	38	22	29	24
Entitlements Used - Jersey	35	22	15	20	16
Entitlements Exported - Guernsey	7	7	4	3	1
Entitlements Exported - UK	4	8	2	6	7
Entitlements Lost	1	3	1	0	0
Entitlements Imported - Guernsey	1	1	1	1	0
Entitlements Imported - UK	5	3	1	1	0
Valid Jersey Entitlements 31 December	18	14	25	28	26
Additional Licences Issued	0	1	2	7	4

 Table 1. Fate of fishing vessel licences

3.2. Gear Type

In 2007 logbooks became mandatory for the under 10m fleet. In this year's figures set out below the under 10m vessel data comes from this logbook system and in our view is likely to reflect more accurately the gear set at sea and catches from that gear. Readers should be aware of this new form of gathering data when making comparisons between 2007 figures and the figures from previous years.

While the number of ordinary pots remained fairly static at 6 535 the number of parlour pots dropped by more than 2 500 giving an overall reduction of almost 9%.

Declared tangle net quantities also reduced by more than 50% and trammel and mesh nets also dropped to much lower quantities than has been seen in the recent past. This may be due to the change in data gathering mentioned above.

Gear Type	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Parlour pot	15 128	18 675	21 244	22 688	19 419	23 709	21 066
Other pot	7 433	7 886	7 468	6 475	6 738	6 568	6 535
Whelk pot	3 042	1 997	843	781	3 274	3 004	2 907
Prawn pot	478	359	107	141	172	85	55
Tangle net (m)	37 170	41 065	43 490	78 890	71 340	69 800	33 710
Trammel net (m)	4 390	10 560	16 690	20 221	18 850	17 830	10 430
Mesh net (m)	26 360	34 375	33 870	41 065	22 970	26 180	14 310
Dredges	69	89	57	32	35	35	35
Beam trawl (m)	64	38	31	20	20	9.5	4
Otter trawl (m)	220	143	116	115	94	69	69
Longline (nos of hooks)	5 280			5 195	10 217	10 797	3 751

Table 2. Quantity of gear fished by the Jersey fleet

3.3. Catches

The total shellfish catches rose by 6% to almost 1 600 tons, the highest tonnage landed in the last 5 years. Within this figure crab, lobster and scallop landings were up by 18%, 18% and 22% respectively while spider crab landings dropped by 18% and whelk landings by 12%. There is some concern that the tangle netting activity to the west of the Island is catching many of the spider crabs during the easterly spring migration before they get close to Jersey.

Catch per unit effort (CPUE) work has been continuing on the whelk stocks and the current data suggests that the CPUE in Jersey waters has dropped substantially and that production of juvenile whelks may be in danger of falling.

Species	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Brown crab	446 850	523 850	540 214	540 652	437 650	348 990	412 239
Crawfish	983	920	629	550	267	500	170
Lobster	129 863	156 548	166 612	167 004	138 843	131 296	154 704
Scallop	367 047	377 393	309 043	187 675	227 565	303 723	371 837
Spider crab	236 127	269 623	233 427	223 497	163 413	129 291	105 734
Whelk	518 837	204 314	133 601	146 678	442 355	621 011	545 395
Others	44 056	23 583	9 447	6 623	4 710	5 132	2 047
Total	1 680 605	1 475 231	1 342 146	1 232 153	1 368 626	1 502 528	1 592 126

Table 3. Quantity of shellfish landed by the Jersey fleet

Notes. 2007 Scallops includes dredged and commercial dived. Others include prawn, velvet crab, cuttlefish, squid, praire, amande.

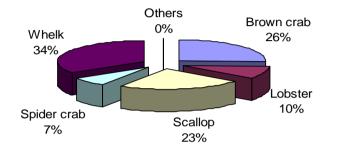
Species	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Angler	2 639	1 142	1 354	663	492	757	262
Brill	7 469	4 482	3 817	2 697	4 009	1 877	2 435
Bass	15 141	21 362	24 883	19 120	22 193	30 952	18 085
Cod	2 212	5 949	507	852	56	235	46
Conger	20 370	12 999	24 765	11 519	14 384	21 024	17 314
Dogfish	21 607	18 881	15 697	23 592	16 181	20 544	8 211
Gurnard/Latchet	11 566	6 529	3 858	2 776	1 570	1 911	1 570
Horse mackerel	7 849	8 699	2 929	1 530	1 136	1 100	63
John Dorey	443	965	338	195	153	182	14
Ling	2 308	1 646	717	328	134	214	176
Mackerel	10 194	10 046	9 985	6 354	9 189	8 270	5 516
Mullet -grey	5 142	5 182	6 370	4 856	7 030	6 205	561
Mullet -red	5 876	3 724	5 231	2 149	1 691	1 268	900
Plaice	10 289	9 341	4 597	2 159	1 763	2 284	930
Pollack	16 746	12 085	13 189	9 969	8 454	6 374	2 690
Sea Bream ¹	93 569	106 588	134 661	47 945	36 043	7 378	3 066
Skate/Ray	91 289	59 215	87 911	52 413	53 461	59 643	49 801
Sole	19 891	15 147	14 767	6 689	17 048	3 814	1 807
Торе	2 162	882	1 635	2 735	2 280	2 295	1 593
Turbot	3 513	1 821	2 067	1 208	3 245	896	436
Other Species	-	-	-	-	1 038	1 865	2 124
Total	356 226	311 145	362 955	201 529	203 093	180 493	117 600

Table 4. Quantity of wetfish landed by the Jersey fleet

Note Others include flounder, pouts, rockfish, sandeel, sand sole, shark, smooth hound, trigger fish, whiting, wrasse.

¹Figures for some years include catches from outside Jersey Waters.

It is worthy of note that, although the tonnages of shellfish caught generally increased, the average prices for the more important species fell. The average price of lobster and brown crab, which make up 64% of the shellfish landings by value, dropped by 11% and 16% respectively. This together with the steeply rising cost of fuel in 2007 will have had a negative effect on profitability of individual boats



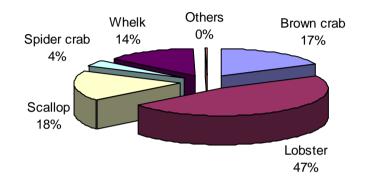
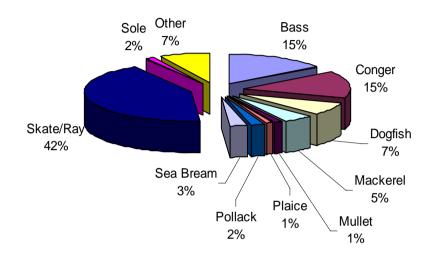


Figure 3. Shellfish landed by weight

Figure 4. Shellfish landed by value



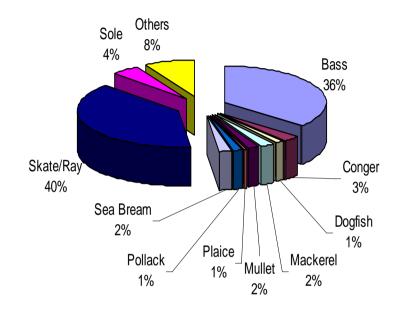


Figure 5. Wetfish landed by weight

Figure 6. Wetfish landed by value

3.4. Catch per Unit Effort

Species	Quantity landed (kgs)	Nos of Pot Lifts	CPUE (kg per 100 pots)
Brown crab	412 239	1 477 975	27.89
Lobster	154 704	1 477 975	10.46
Spider Crab	105 734	1 477 975	7.15

Table 5. Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) for brown crab, lobster and spider crab.Note Pot lifts includes parlour pots, inkwells, creels, D Pots.



RNLI MOB Guardian fitted to a Jersey vessel This equipment was funded by the RNLI, Economic Development, Sunderland Marine and CIEG

4. Aquaculture

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Intertidal area	53.6	54.5	54.5	54.5	62.65	62.88	62.88
Subtidal area	166	100	100	100	166	166	166
Pacific oyster	389 775	475 643	560 200	720 768	579 915	651 148	737 395
King scallop	1 914	1 544	1 351	3 571	8 484	2 540	4 100
Mussels	78 000	96 370	108 300	25 000	50 000	117 500	50 000
Total	469 689	573 557	669 851	749 339	638 399	771 188	791 495

Table 6. Farmed shellfish production (area in hectares; production in kgs)

Note. Area pre 2004 relates to actual area farmed. 2005 onwards relates to total concession area granted.

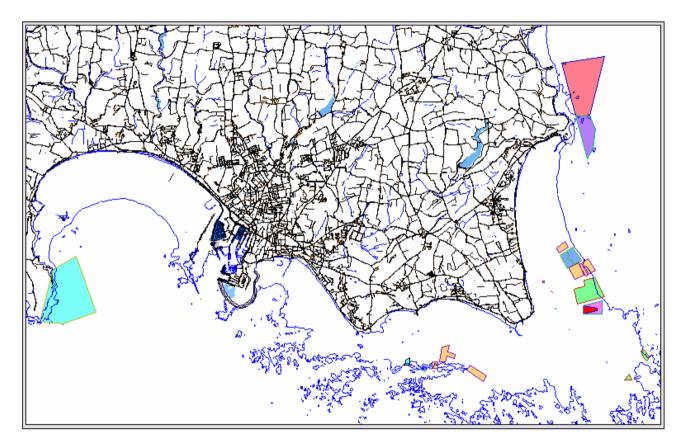
There was no change in the area of intertidal and subtidal concession area granted in 2007. No new concession areas were applied for during the year. One of the larger companies in the industry was sold to French interests with considerable experience of oyster farming and marketing products into France. It is hoped that this development may assist the wider industry in marketing products into the French marketplace and product placement in French supermarkets.

Overall shellfish production was up slightly on the previous year to 791 tonnes representing an increase of 3%. Oyster production was up 12% to 737 tonnes and scallop production also increased. Mussel production was down on the previous year.

The development of the scallop farming industry continues to be hampered by the lack of availability of seed scallops. A promising source from Scotland provided seed for farmers in 2006 but unfortunately was not available in 2007. Local farmers continue to search for a reliable, consistent and disease free source of seed.

Turbot remains the only finfish farmed in the Island by Jersey Turbot in the tunnels at St Catherine's. Production in 2007 was 2.4 tonnes

The other major factor affecting the development of most sectors of the fish farm industry was the acquisition and development of onshore facilities. These facilities are required for the grading, sorting and depuration of produce and the storage of equipment and vessels. They are vital for the survival of the business and may become more so given ever changing regulations of health and safety and marketing of produce.



Aquaculture Concessions as of December 2007 (Granted and pending)

5. Industry Value

Sector	2007 Value	% Change (compared to 2006)
Shellfish	4 023 297	+7%
Wetfish	328 064	-34%
Aquaculture	1 083 226	+3%
UK Landings	490 532	-30%
Total	5 925 119	-1%

 Table 7. Total value of the fishing industry at first sale

Species	Quantity landed (kgs)	Average Price (£) per kg	Value (£)
Brown crab	412 239	1.60	700 806
Crawfish	170	24.00	4 080
Lobster	154 704	12.20	1 887 389
Scallop	371 837	1.93	717 645
Spider crab	105 734	1.55	163 888
Whelk	545 395	1.00	545 395
Others	2 047	2.00	4 094
Total	1 592 126		4 023 297

 Table 8. Value of shellfish landed by the Jersey fleet

Species	Quantity landed (kgs)	Average Price (£) per kg	Value (£)
Angler fish	262	8.00	2 096
Brill	2 435	6.50	15 827.5
Bass	18 085	6.60	11 9361
Cod	46	2.20	101
Conger	17 314	0.50	8 657
Dogfish	8 211	0.50	4 105.5
Gurnard/Latchet	1 570	0.50	785
Horse mackerel	63	0.50	31.5
John Dory	14	7.00	98
Ling	176	1.00	176
Mackerel	5 516	1.25	6 895
Mullet – grey	561	1.00	561
Mullet – red	900	6.00	5 400
Plaice	930	2.20	2 046
Pollack	2 690	1.50	4 035
Sea Bream	3 066	2.20	6 745
Skate/Ray	49 801	2.60	129 483
Sole	1 807	8.00	14 456
Торе	1 593	1.00	1 593
Turbot	436	8.00	3 488
Other species	2 124	1.00	2 124
Total	117 600		328 064.5

 Table 9. Value of wetfish landed by the Jersey fleet

6. Research and Development

6.1. Whelk

The whelk stock assessment was undertaken in February and March, due to some adverse weather conditions. The same methodology and equipment was employed as in previous surveys. The catch per unit effort was 1.73kgs per pot. This was the lowest CPUE since the surveys began in 1996, although the reduction since 2005 was small. It was, however, the first time the catches have been less than the threshold levels of 1.8kgs per pot set as the quantity estimated to sustain a commercial fishery. The CPUE for the large whelks decreased by 30% and the CPUE for the small whelks remained approximately constant. The data would indicate that the fishery is exerting significant pressure on the marketable fraction of the population, but recruitment has not yet been effected. The whelk stocks are under significant pressure from high levels of exploitation and increased management measures should be discussed and implemented in 2008. The potential of recruitment failure is a real threat to the stock.



Whelk pots being set from the Norman Le Brocq

6.2. Lobster

The juvenile lobster stock assessment was done in May and June. As with the whelk study the same methodology and equipment was used as in previous assessments. In total 155 lobsters were caught from 135 pots hauls. This equates to 1.1 lobsters per pot which is a slight decrease from 2006 (1.3 lobster per pot), but identical to the 2005 survey. The catches of pre-recruit lobsters were good and consistent with results from previous surveys although less than 2006. High numbers were seen in the Banc Desormes station. The study suggests that there may be fewer pre-recruit lobsters on the ground than were seen in 2006, yet reports from fishermen indicate high numbers seen during the year. The lobster fishery shows heavy dependence on new recruits to the fishery and this remains the fundamental weak link in the success or failure of the lobster fishery. Whilst more data are required the survey has shown that assessment of pre-recruit lobster may provide a barometer for the future fishery and will be repeated in 2008.

Several new lobster projects looking to assess levels of juveniles were started at the end of 2007. One project involved the dive team searching for newly settled lobsters in various cryptic habitats. Virtually nothing is known about the early benthic stages of the European lobster including the settlement habitat on choice and the ecology. The other project involves the sampling of plankton using light traps to assess pre-settlement lobster larvae. Prototype traps were constructed for use in 2008. These projects aim to increase the understanding of this very important local stock.

6.3. Ormer

Unfortunately no ormer survey was undertaken during the year. Manpower and time were not available. It is hoped that the Island sites will be surveyed in 2008. The dive team also hope to assess new sites at Les Miniquiers to alleviate the sampling difficulties experienced by the divers at the current offshore reef sites. This will simply depend on time and resources.

6.4. Ray

The ray tagging project continued throughout the year. Whilst no tagging was undertaken from Department vessels, project partners tagged and released a significant number of fish all year. At the end of 2007 678 fish had been tagged (151 blonde, 421 small eyed, 6 thornbacks and 100 undulates). 68 recaptures were reported during the year (22 blonde, 38 small eyed, 1 thornback and 7 undulates). A paper discussing the full results of the study looking at the population of each species and the tagging details will be published in 2008. Fishermen were also encouraged to record catches of ray by species and not just by the term "ray" or "skate" in logbooks. This will provide much better information for the management of the stock. Whilst some fishermen have no difficulty with this, there are some identification issues that need to be resolved. This will be addressed by supplying detailed pictures and descriptions to fishermen via the Newsletter.

6.5. Routine

As in the previous year, routine sampling represents a significant time and manpower commitment. Oysters are sampled monthly for E.coli. Seawater and mussel samples are also collected monthly (and twice monthly during the summer) to be tested for ASP, DSP and PSP. Slipper limpets and seaweed are sampled for heavy metal analysis and to test for airport fire fighting foam (AFFF). During the year the section also took on responsibility for additional heavy metal sampling previously undertaken by another States Department. Samples of common limpet, *Patela vulgata* and the seaweed, *Fucus serratus* were collected from five locations around the Island's coast. These were Corbiere, St Aubin's Fort, West of Albert, Havre des Pas and Gorey. The harbour monitoring programme is carried out annually in June and assesses various physical, chemical and biological parameters. A monthly survey of fishing vessel activity in the vicinity of the submarine cable between Jersey, France and Guernsey has also been undertaken.

6.6. Cetaceans

Dolphins were sighted on 24 separate occasions in 2007. Dolphins sighted on exactly the same number of occasions in 2006. All sightings were of bottlenose dolphins.

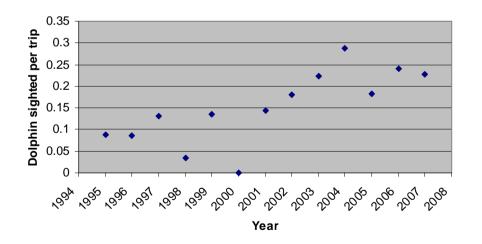


Figure 7. Dolphin sightings from Fisheries Protection Vessels Note. Vessel and patrol pattern changed 1997/1998.

Sightings of cetaceans have been recorded since 1994 from the Fisheries Protection Vessels Norman Le Brocq and the Howard Davis. Significant changes have occurred during this time with respect to vessel, territoriality and patrol activity and therefore direct comparison with previous years is not possible. It does however indicate a degree of consistency in sightings per trip which shows, at the very least, stability in the population of dolphins in local waters.

It is hoped the cetacean monitoring programme will be developed in 2008.

6.7. Statistics

The collection and analysis of statistical information continues to be vital for the management of exploited stocks and the overall wellbeing of the marine ecosystem. All vessels are required to supply daily logsheets. Daily logsheets for under 10 metre vessels were introduced in January 2007 with logsheets submitted quarterly. Significant time and resources have been invested in developing the fishing vessel licensing database to accommodate this information. This system will provide the Department with much more up to date and accurate data to enhance the management of the local stocks.

The shellfish and fish merchants, voluntarily, continue to supply information concerning first hand sale prices which vastly improves the estimated value of the industry. Economic viability of fishing is of paramount importance and it is likely that provision of such economic data can only help in providing a more complete picture.

6.8. Newsletters

Newsletters have been produced by the section for many years as a way to inform the industry of important legislative and licensing issues. As the amount of information for dissemination has increased, so has the need for regular newsletters. Three newsletters were produced during the year. A wide range of issues were covered including pot tagging, under 10 metre logbooks, JAC updates, business development and RNLI MOB systems.

6.9. Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy

The section has been involved in preparation of the integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy (ICZM) which is due for publishing in early 2008. The strategy sets out a framework for an integrated approach to managing all activities that impact on the coastal zone. The implementation of the strategy may have an impact on fisheries and marine resources management in future years.

6.10. Information Leaflets

The section produced new information leaflets to ensure recreational fishermen are aware of all applicable legislation. The leaflets, which were designed by the Fisheries undergraduate student Aimee Reading this summer, try to encourage good fishing practice as well as the legal responsibilities. Three leaflets have been published on general recreational fishing, recreational angling and recreational low water fishing. Another laminated card with fish minimum size in English, French, Portuguese and Polish was also produced. They are available from the Fisheries Offices at Howard Davis Farm and La Collette, tackle shops and chandleries. They are also available at certain Parish Halls.



Fisheries Information Leaflets

7. Food and Environment Protection Act

No formal Food and Environmental Protection Act (FEPA) applications were received during the year.

Preliminary discussions were held with a local utility company concerning the laying of a submarine cable between the Island and France in 2012 and it is likely further work will be required in 2008. A formal application for the project should be submitted in the coming year.

Discussions were also held with the Law Officers concerning the ramifications of the UK Marine Bill on the local FEPA legislation. It is likely that the enabling legislation extending the FEPA Act to Jersey and other Crown Dependencies will be amalgamated into the Marine Bill and therefore new legislation may be needed to ensure Jersey's territorial waters are appropriately protected. Meetings with DEFRA are scheduled for early in 2008.



Les Ecrehou reef

8. Enforcement

8.1. Summary

During the year a number of significant changes in the level and pattern of fishing effort by foreign vessels operating in the territorial sea were observed, most notably in the scallop fisheries to the west and south east of the Island. Enforcement effort was deployed using risk based analysis to cover the activities where serious offences were most likely to occur, that coupled with the good communications established with French administrators and fishermen resulted in serious offences being kept to a minimum.

Normal levels of enforcement have been maintained across the wide range of fishing activities encountered in local waters. The appointment of a voluntary Fishery Officer has resulted in significantly more out of hours checks being conducted around the smaller harbours and angling spots.

Whilst a number of offences relating to the retention of undersize shellfish have been detected, these have generally been of a minor nature and it is apparent that professional fishermen from both Jersey and France now show a serious respect for the legally imposed minimum sizes of both fish and shellfish.

Effective enforcement and utilisation of the good communications links with the French industry have been successful in considerably reducing the number of incidents involving French fishing vessels operating just inside the exclusive limit to the east of the Island. It has taken a number of years to achieve this objective and it has brought significant benefits to local potters working in the area.

8.2. Enforcement of Minimum Size Regulations

In previous years a high proportion of offences relating to the retention of undersize shellfish have been detected on French vessels fishing for whelks. The offences have involved both the retention of undersize whelks and the use of undersize crabs as bait. Regular checks have been conducted of both whelk fishing vessels and their pots, particularly during the time when juvenile spider crabs are readily available in local waters, and very few noteworthy incidents have come to light. The only incident involving the use of undersize crabs as bait was relatively minor and related to crabs imported from Ireland.

The appointment of an Honorary Fishery Officer working outside normal working hours on a voluntary basis has meant that considerably more checks of shore based anglers have been possible. It is to the credit of these anglers that no significant breaches of the minimum size regulations have been detected during those inspections, but the Officer has greatly assisted in raising the profile of the conservation

regulations amongst recreational fishermen. He has been helped in this by four leaflets produced during the year, three of which take the form of guides to the legislation targeted at different types of recreational fishermen, the fourth being a table of minimum sizes for fish in the four main languages used locally.

A total of 24 noteworthy offences were detected resulting in one French recreational fisherman being prosecuted at the Magistrate's Court and two Jersey recreational fishermen being dealt with at Town Hall enquiries

8.3. Enforcement of Exclusive Limits

In previous years during the period immediately prior to Easter and Christmas, foreign vessels have made a practice of fishing just inside the exclusive three mile limit to the east of the Island for Praires (a form of cockle that attracts a high value during those seasons). This practice has been particularly damaging to Jersey fishermen with pots set in the area and very difficult to prevent by enforcement, as vessels are able to leave the area before the patrol vessel is close enough to gather evidence of actual fishing.

The prevention of this illegal activity was set as an objective for 2007 and existing legislation was scrutinised to see if more effective enforcement could be conducted. A number of representations were made to French fishermen known to operate in the area and their professional representatives who were warned that further incursions could lead to prosecution. The area was subjected to regular surveillance throughout the year and this resulted in one vessel being detained during the summer; whilst it could not be proved that the vessel was fishing illegally the owner was successfully prosecuted and fined for having his gear ready to fish inside the exclusive limit. Observations of the area continued and during the run up to Christmas there were no sightings or complaints relating to breaches of the exclusive limit.

8.4. Enforcement of Granville Bay Agreement

Much of Jersey's territorial sea is split into zones where French fishing vessels may fish, but only provided that they are on the appropriate annual and in some cases daily lists. The purpose of these lists is to ensure that French fishing effort does not exceed that authorised by the Granville Bay Agreement. As in previous years Zone C (3 to 6 miles around the north west of Jersey) was the area where most breaches of the Granville Bay arrangements occurred, particular problems occurring in the early spring.

Some years ago it was quite normal to see significant numbers of French scallop dredgers operating to the west of Jersey, but that activity had diminished considerably until 2007 when a large number of vessels from both Normandy and Brittany appeared. These vessels commenced fishing inside and outside of Zone C and to a lesser extent in Zone D even though many of them were not authorised to fish in

those zones; on one occasion as many as 4 vessels were encountered fishing without authorisation at the same time. Where possible, vessels were boarded and instructed to leave the area and the owners were sent follow up letters. Strong representations were made to the French authorities who rapidly wrote to the owners of all such vessels advising them of the restrictions in place and in a relatively short time the situation was resolved and maximum French fishing effort was restricted to the level authorised by the Agreement.

During the summer one French whelk fishing vessel was found to be fishing in Zone C at night without authorisation and the vessel was detained during a night time patrol, the owner and skipper both subsequently being successfully prosecuted at the Magistrate's Court.

8.5. Other Enforcement

In February a regulation requiring that commercially fished pots be fitted with tags became effective and pots were checked throughout the year, both during vessel inspections and by the routine lifting of pots by the patrol boat. In general it was found that fishermen were complying with the requirement but one French fisherman was required to attend a Town Hall enquiry as a result of such an inspection.

Pots and store pots set inshore were also checked using the fisheries "Orkney" fishing vessel and a number of minor offences were detected. One more serious offence related to the use of parlour pots without escape gaps and resulted in a local recreational fisherman being prosecuted at the Magistrate's Court.



Blocked escape gap

The requirement for fishermen working under 10 metre vessels to submit logsheets on a quarterly basis was introduced this year and whilst a number of reminder letters have been required, in almost all cases returns have been completed within an acceptable timescale.

As in previous years there have been a number of offences relating to nets set too close inshore, ormering out of season and unmarked fishing equipment but these have all been of a minor nature. There have however been an unusually large number of nets set on beaches without the appropriate identification marks, many of these being abandoned. Seven such sets of nets have been seized but the owners have not been identified.

8.6. Complaints

Complaints during working hours are immediately passed on to Fishery Officers and outside of normal working hours are forwarded very efficiently by the staff on duty at the Meteorological Department to an appropriate officer. That officer makes a judgement as to whether immediate action is required and if so, will normally attend at the incident himself.

During the year a total of 31 complaints were received and whilst more than half of these did not relate to breaches of the Fisheries regulations, 5 resulted in minor offences being detected and advisory letters being sent to fishermen. 12 complaints related to nets set on beaches and as reported above, this resulted in the seizure by Fishery officers of 7 nets.

8.7. Departmental Resources

The Norman Le Brocq has achieved a relatively high availability throughout the year and reached its planned life expectancy of 10 years in November. A review of the options for the future of the vessel was conducted in December and concluded that refurbishment in 2009 should ensure that properly maintained the vessel can function efficiently until at least 2019.

During the year officers have trained in the technique of tape recording formal interviews and have put this to practice during the investigation of several offences. A code of practice has also been drawn up and officers have been trained in the application to fisheries investigations of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Jersey) Law 2005. Internal training has also taken place relating to safety, licence conditions and general enforcement. Two officers also spent two days at sea with the Royal Navy Fishery Protection Squadron onboard HMS Tyne where they gained experience in inspecting large trawlers.



Fisheries Officers operating from HMS Tyne

Fishery Officers and the patrol vessel have assisted in several roles relating to the wider work of the Planning and Environment Department.

8.8. Other Resources

Work has continued on the drafting and approving of several sets of regulations, most notably those relating to satellite monitoring of large vessels, bag limits for Bass, Ormers and Lobsters and measures aimed at the prevention of the taking and selling of fish by fishermen operating from unlicensed boats. It is unfortunate that these drafts, most of which are in final draft stage, have not progressed through the UK approval stage as required by the Jersey/UK Fisheries Management Agreement but that is in part due to the heavy workload currently placed on the Island's Law Officers.

A unique operation was conducted during the early autumn when Fishery Officers conducted airborne surveillance of the territorial sea from a Gazelle helicopter of the Army Air Corps piloted by a reserve Air Corps officer.



Fisheries Officers undertaking aerial surveillance

A good working relationship on fisheries issues has been maintained with the States of Jersey Police Force and members of the Honorary Police and training facilities have been shared with other enforcement officers working within Planning and Environment. Fishery Officers are particularly appreciative of the work conducted by those Honorary officers and administrative staff of St Helier involved in the process of Town Hall enquiries and the preparation and presentation of Court cases; their efficient handling of the processes has played a large part again in 2007 in maintaining the effectiveness of local fisheries enforcement.

8.9. Conclusions

Appropriate levels of enforcement and surveillance have been maintained throughout the year and the number of serious offences detected or reported has been relatively low. The presence of an Honorary officer working out of hours and new fisheries advisory literature widely circulated amongst recreational fishermen have both contributed to a greater awareness of the conservation regulations and the reasons behind them.

9. Annexes.

Annex I - Officers of the Department 2008.

Richard Jouault	Chief Executive Officer Environment and Planning
Chris Newton	Director of Environment
Dr Simon Bossy	Head of Fisheries and Marine Resources
Mike Smith	Senior Fisheries Inspector
Dave Yettram	Fisheries Officer (Administration and Enforcement)
Greg Morel	Fisheries Officer (Research and Development)
Craig Killip	Fisheries Officer (Operations)
Felicity Smith	Administrative Assistant - Fisheries
Mike Harrison	Relief Helmsman

Annex II - Fisheries and Marine Resources Advisory Panel 2007.

Mike Taylor	Chairman
Don Thompson	Jersey Fishermen's Association
Trevor Le Cornu	Jersey Aquaculture Association
Robert Viney	Merchants' representative
lan Syvret	Jersey Inshore Fishermen's Association
Keith White	Jersey Recreational Fishermen's Association
Chris Le Boutillier	Boat Owners' Association (north coast)
Capt Peter Lawrence	Jersey Harbours
Chris Newton	Director of Environment
Dr Simon Bossy	Head of Fisheries and Marine Resources
Mike Smith	Senior Fisheries Inspector
Greg Morel	Fisheries Officer (Research and Development)
Felicity Smith	Administrative Assistant - Fisheries

Gear Type	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Parlour pot	3 775	4 440	4 510	4 659	4 472	4 662	6 055
Other pot	2 290	2 320	1 820	1 243	1 221	1 010	971
Whelk pot	1 140	579	130	20	1 472	1 372	2 068
Prawn pot	120	0	0	0	42	15	5
Tangle net (m)	9 000	5 750	4 000	35 000	31 000	27 200	29 250
Trammel net (m)	0	0	0	3 000	5 000	4 200	3 850
Mesh net (m)	2 300	0	4 000	8 000	2 000	4 200	3 200
Dredges	46	64	34	14	18	18	18
Beam trawl (m)	46	30	28	16	20	4.5	0
Otter trawl (m)	139	74	76	49	58	31	57
Longline (nos of hooks)					1 400	1 100	1 051

Annex IV – Fishing gear used by the 6 to	10 metre fleet
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Gear Type	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Parlour pot	9 720	11 730	13 527	14 716	11 709	16 189	12 296
Other pot	3 561	3 799	3 603	3 563	3 732	4 432	4 364
Whelk pot	1 852	1 334	613	681	1 752	1 565	820
Prawn pot	259	131	0	62	51	30	10
Tangle net (m)	26 250	32 735	37 400	41 760	37 680	40 200	3 740
Trammel net (m)	2 130	6 330	11 350	11 316	8 350	9 750	4 860
Mesh net (m)	14 120	18 890	11 850	17 175	7 700	10 500	6 390
Dredges	22	25	22	16	17	17	17
Beam trawl (m)	18	8	3	4	0	5	4
Otter trawl (m)	81	69	40	66	36	38	10
Longline (nos of hooks)					6 162	4 287	0

Annex V – Fishing gear used by the under 6 metre fleet
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Gear Type	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Parlour pot	1 633	2 505	3 207	3 313	3 238	2 858	2 715
Other pot	1 582	1 767	2 045	1 669	1 785	1 126	1 200
Whelk pot	50	84	100	80	50	67	19
Prawn pot	99	228	107	79	79	40	40
Tangle net (m)	1 920	2 580	2 090	2 130	2 660	2 400	720
Trammel net (m)	2 260	4 230	5 340	5 905	5 500	3 880	1 720
Mesh net (m)	9 940	15 485	18 020	15 890	13 270	11 480	4 720
Dredges	1	0	1	2	0	0	0
Beam trawl (m)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Otter trawl (m)	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Longline (nos of hooks)					2 655	5 410	2 700

Species	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Brown crab	168 713	206 515	180 691	179 459	142 237	78 890	110 050
Crawfish	704	703	398	120	55	87	0
Lobster	38 374	41 526	40 586	38 551	23 777	14 716	20 798
Scallop	245 253	229 791	217 815	98 539	129 546	168 282	231 586
Spider crab	93 900	147 622	87 020	80 016	34 333	11 935	24 871
Whelk	285 440	109 758	3 452	45	215 349	341 293	417 163
Others	41 630	21 233	6 195	3 233	1 796	1 726	1 487
Total	874 014	757 148	536 157	399 963	547 093	616 929	805 955

Annex VI - Shellfish landed by over 10 metre fleet.

Annex VII - Shellfish landed by 6 – 10 metre fleet.

Species	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Brown crab	271 682	305 183	344 838	349 330	282 189	259 472	297 345
Crawfish	279	214	216	421	198	409	167
Lobster	76 501	95 801	104 562	110 716	97 511	103 254	122 274
Scallop	58 311	66 602	40 185	48 370	51 842	97 956	134 732
Spider crab	136 685	114 440	137 720	136 513	123 519	112 916	78 140
Whelk	232 196	93 747	128 810	145 415	226 153	279 243	127 187
Others	2 040	1 521	2 126	2 710	2 232	2 748	159
Total	777 694	677 508	758 457	793 475	783 644	855 998	760 004

Species	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Brown crab	6 455	12 152	14 685	11 863	13 224	10 628	4 844
Crawfish	0	3	14	9	14	4	3
Lobster	14 988	19 221	21 464	17 737	17 555	13 326	11 632
Scallop	325	0	216	240	0	70	5 519
Spider crab	5 542	7 561	8 687	6 968	5 561	4 440	2 723
Whelk	1 201	809	1 339	1 218	853	475	1 045
Others	386	829	1 126	680	682	658	401
Total	28 897	40 575	47 531	38 715	37 889	29 601	26 167

Annex VIII - Shellfish landed by under 6 metre fleet.

Annex IX CPUE for the over 10 metre fleet

Species	Quantity landed (kgs)	Nos of Pot Lifts	CPUE (kg per 100 pots)
Brown crab	110 050	259 895	42.3
Lobster	20 798	259 895	8.0
Spider Crab	24 871	259 895	9.6

Annex X CPUE for the 6 – 10 metre fleet

Species	Quantity landed (kgs)	Nos of Pot Lifts	CPUE (kg per 100 pots)
Brown crab	297 345	1 109 768	29.8
Lobster	122 274	1 109 768	11.0
Spider Crab	78 140	1 109 768	7.0

Annex XI CPUE for the under 6 metre fleet

Species	Quantity landed (kgs)	Nos of Pot Lifts	CPUE (kg per 100 pots)
Brown crab	4 844	108 312	4.5
Lobster	11 632	108 312	10.7
Spider Crab	2 723	108 312	2.5

Species	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Angler	2 403	937	446	79	128	499	216
Brill	5 414	2 257	1 900	838	2 754	786	908
Bass	4 946	8 340	9 326	5 774	3 281	8 159	7 536
Cod	1 603	5 442	267	40	0	39	2
Conger	6 575	2 395	6 376	1 188	5 527	2 360	1 645
Dogfish	12324	12290	9191	11 789	8 106	11 692	5 446
Gurnard/Latchet	10 553	5 942	3 104	1 948	1 040	1 351	1 561
Horse mackerel	6 820	7 272	753	0	0	0	60
John Dory	327	765	128	13	15	22	5
Ling	839	656	180	45	3	22	0
Mackerel	6 234	4 981	3 114	923	1 595	676	226
Mullet -grey	690	0	37	0	3	7	0
Mullet -red	5 305	3 525	4 718	1 241	313	251	455
Plaice	8 488	7 006	2 642	424	567	1 301	656
Pollack	7 251	3 197	4 743	2 610	3 069	1 122	245
Sea Bream	88 935	103123	130445	44 867	31 285	2 998	387
Skate/Ray	74 645	44 328	61 961	30 709	33 384	39 229	37 123
Sole	16 539	10 089	7 422	508	12 831	1 203	972
Торе	500	200	646	308	40	75	50
Turbot	3 129	1 477	1 337	647	2 321	157	104
Other Species					1 038	1 815	1 308
Total	268 053	226 525	252 098	104 055	107 304	73 809	58 905

Annex XII - Wetfish landed by the over 10 metre fleet.

Annex XIII - Wetfish landed by the 6 - 10 metre.

Species	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Angler	228	195	908	584	364	258	46
Brill	1 994	2 102	1 753	1 743	988	841	1 332
Bass	6 275	4 617	4 316	3 825	6 887	8 686	4 960
Cod	599	456	227	736	38	69	17
Conger	12 665	8 759	15 171	8 745	7 555	9 519	15 574
Dogfish	8410	4823	4351	8 208	6 542	6 138	2 420
Gurnard/Latchet	992	537	719	810	530	480	9
Horse mackerel	380	651	557	608	524	448	0
John Dory	103	144	168	128	89	122	0
Ling	1 444	879	394	283	121	172	176
Mackerel	2 048	1 531	2 291	1 718	2 612	2 813	1 119
Mullet -grey	2 732	1 469	1 838	1 905	2 533	2 213	268
Mullet –red	420	30	313	574	788	725	251
Plaice	1 466	1 511	1 365	1 095	518	730	100
Pollack	7 259	6 181	4 680	4 523	3 075	3 386	1 826
Sea Bream	3 383	1 855	2 870	1 935	2 687	2 500	1 561
Skate/Ray	15 055	13 652	23 579	19 248	17 040	16 792	11 708
Sole	2 054	2 955	4 920	3 414	2 383	1 729	515
Торе	1 490	467	860	2 226	2 058	1 980	1 341
Turbot	302	217	536	415	582	474	133
Other Species					0	50	589
Total	70 344	53 766	72 777	63 537	58 577	60 557	43 945

Annex XIV - Wetfish landed by the under 6 metre.

Species	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Angler	8	10	0	0	0	0	0
Brill	61	123	164	116	267	250	195
Bass	3 920	8 405	11 241	9 521	12 025	14 107	5 589
Cod	10	51	13	76	18	127	27
Conger	1 130	1 845	2 918	1 586	1 302	9 145	95
Dogfish	873	1548	2155	3 595	1 533	2 714	345
Gurnard/Latchet	21	50	35	18	0	80	0
Horse mackerel	649	776	1 619	922	612	652	3
John Dory	13	56	42	54	49	38	9
Ling	25	111	143	0	10	20	0
Mackerel	1 912	3 534	4 580	3 713	4 982	4 781	4 171
Mullet -grey	1 720	3 713	4 495	2 951	4 494	3 985	293
Mullet -red	151	169	200	334	590	292	194
Plaice	335	824	590	640	678	253	174
Pollack	2 236	2 707	3 766	2 836	2 310	1 866	609
Sea Bream	1 251	1 610	1 346	1 143	2 071	1 880	1 118
Skate/Ray	1 589	1 235	2 371	2 456	3 037	3 622	970
Sole	1 298	2 103	2 425	2 767	1 834	882	320
Торе	172	215	129	201	182	240	202
Turbot	82	127	193	146	342	265	199
Other species					0	0	237
Total	17 829	30 469	39 279	33 937	37 212	46 127	14 750

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