

Tim Oldham

Subject: FW: Proposed Fish Limits

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From: Paul Garrett [mailto: [REDACTED]]**Sent:** 30 May 2009 22:01**To:** Scrutiny**Cc:** [REDACTED]**Subject:** Proposed Fish Limits

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Dear Sirs

Having read numerous articles within the JEP recently regarding the proposed Fishing Regulations, I'm still unsure of the exact purpose of this new Law and what it will achieve.

I was born, brought up and have worked in Jersey all my life (as have my parents , grandparents etc.) and as a keen leisure fisherman for over 20 years, I've seen the fishing locally deteriorate considerably over this period of time. Has this deterioration been caused by local leisure anglers? The answer is "no". Has this deterioration been caused by those (very) few occasions when a leisure angler has caught and taken home more than 5 fish. I would imagine not.

The deterioration in local fishing has been caused by commercial fisherman pair trawling and netting through our local waters and decimating our future and current fish stocks. If the damage that commercial fishing has caused could be seen by the naked eye (if fish and their terrain were above water), then this method of harvesting food would have been outlawed many years ago. Unfortunately, we cannot see the damage that is being done and by the time we do, I fear it may be too late to sustain our fish stocks.

I am not under the illusion that we can do without commercial fishing or would I want to subject huge job losses within an industry that works so hard and in traitorous conditions on a daily basis. However, to ensure that jobs survive in the fishing industry, we need to ensure that the fish stocks are maintained for our future generations to enjoy.

Moving back to the proposed Law in question, I presume this will also outlaw the age old tradition of trots / ground lines and any form of netting, unless commercially licensed to do so. Perhaps you would confirm.

Personally, I only catch what I need and return the rest unharmed to the sea. In all my years of fishing, I think I have only ever taken more than 5 bass home on one occasion and these were shared with my close family and friends at no charge.

If the purpose of this new Law is to deter leisure fisherman from illegally selling their catch to restaurants, why can't restaurant owners simply obtain a daily receipt from their supplier of fish to authenticate the source? On the basis that this process was monitored successfully, it would be a very simple way to stop / reduce the number of fish being sold illegally. To digress but what I feel is still of importance, I was astonished to read that these new Laws would not affect UK or French boats leisure fishing in our waters. I would be interested to know the reasons behind this.

I have a number of examples of how small commercial bass fishing boats have destroyed local sandeel stocks over the last 5 years by constant netting thereby significantly reducing the number of sandeels and seabirds (Turns) in the Seymour Tower area and the fact that unwanted fish caught in commercial nets (dead or alive) are simply thrown back into the sea if they don't fetch enough money at the market. Surely these matters deserve more attention than an occasional angler catching and taking home more than 5 bass?

However, I am in favour of the maximum catches for lobsters and ormers. Lobsters you can choose your 5 largest at the end of the day and return the rest unharmed. 20 ormers is more than a sufficient number for anyone to feed their family and you can choose the ones you want to take.

19/06/2009

I hope this email has been useful but I would be happy to chat through any of my comments with you in greater detail if they're unclear or need further clarification. As you can tell from the contents of my email, this matter is important to me and future generations who have the joy of growing up in Jersey.

Yours faithfully

Paul Garrett

