

**QUESTION TO BE ASKED OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY 11th MAY 2004, BY THE DEPUTY OF ST. JOHN**

Question

Would the President advise members –

- (a) whether the Committee proposes to restrict the number of ormers landed, and, if so, would he explain the reasons for this and provide evidence to support the proposals together with the levels of ormer landings that will apply? and,
- (b) if records of ormer landings currently exist, and, if so, how these records have been compiled and the size of these landings over the last three years?

Answer

- (a) Yes, the Committee is considering putting a bag limit on the number of ormers that may be caught per day.

Inspections during low water surveillance for undersized shellfish suggest that landings at Les Minquiers have dropped from 12 to about 3 per person and on the southwest coast from 10 to 4 per person. These records are not comprehensive and some low water fishermen may have up to 3 or 4 times this amount.

Because catches of ormers have decreased from the high levels that occurred immediately after the fishery opened following disease, the introduction of a bag limit will give the opportunity for more of the general public to catch at least a few ormers. The Committee is considering a bag limit of 20 per person per day and a maximum of 100 per boat per day. These proposals will also be applicable to the French on the offshore reefs.

- (b) No formal record of landings exist as this is not a commercial fishery and putting in place a catch reporting system would be costly and time-consuming.