

Panel Minutes	Date	Subject
1	04 Sep 03	Placing on agenda for lobster and ormers
2	13 Nov 03	EDC approval of principles
3	04 Mar 04	Bag limits for ormers discussed in terms of numbers
4	08 Jul 04	Importance of bag limits agreed and JFA supportive in respect of non commercial vessels
5	12 Oct 05	Numbers set for lobster and ormers and discussion on bass
5a	17 May 06	JRFA concerned at sales of bass and supportive of bag limit for bass
6	17 Jul 06	Bass bag limit agreed, as was the need to include restaurants etc in the regs.
7	17 Sep 06	Urgency of regs. agreed by panel.
8	12 Dec 06	Support from majority of anglers but not from those who lose income. Tourism benefits. Panel very supportive of draft regs.
9	22 Feb 07	Exemptions discussed
10	13 Jun 07	Exemptions agreed for recommendation to Minister

FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES ADVISORY PANEL

(21st Meeting)

Thursday 4th September 2003

Present :

Deputy Mike Taylor - Chairman
C Le Boutillier representing the Boat Owners (Northern Section)
R Viney representing Jersey exporters
Ian Syvret representing the Jersey Inshore Fishermen's Association
Gary Mourant representing the Jersey Fishermen's Association
Phil Inwood representing the Jersey Federation of Sea Anglers
Doug Le Masurier representing the Jersey Aquaculture Association

In attendance :

Chris Newton, Director of Environment
Dr S F Bossy, Sea Fisheries Adviser
M F Smith, Senior Fisheries Inspector
G Morel, Fisheries Officer R & D
P Lawrence, Assistant Harbour Master
F Smith, Fisheries Support Officer - Minutes

Constable Max de la Haye and Stan Le Cornu had both sent their apologies for being unable to attend.

- 1.0 The Chairman welcomed Ian Syvret to the Panel as the representative of the Jersey Inshore Fishermen's Association (JIFA). Ian Syvret described his fishing background to the Panel. Simon Bossy reminded the members that the role of representatives was to relay the discussions of the Panel to their members. Only items dealing with private individuals and their business were confidential and any press items would be dealt with through the Chairman.
- 2.0 **Minutes and matters arising**

The adoption of the Minutes was proposed by Robert Viney and seconded by Doug Le Masurier. The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.
- 3.0 **Update on the Granville Bay Treaty**
- 3.1 (a) Requiring French divers to log in and to land their catch at St Helier was no longer necessary as the raid by the French authorities at Erquy had contributed to solving the problem amongst both scallopers and merchants and the Attorney General had also advised that from a Human Rights point of view the legislation would have to concern all divers.

increase in the number of eggs.

Charges for Registration of fishing vessels

The Panel was consulted on the charges to be introduced by the Harbour Office under the Shipping Law 2000 (document attached). Feedback was requested from the Associations. Andrew Courtness was to be consulted concerning the possibility of illustrating the measures with examples and definitions of "full" and "simple" registrations.

7.6 Appointment of young persons and children on fishing vessels

When introduced the Shipping Law 2000 would render the employment of any one under school leaving age illegal on fishing vessels or any vessel. The employment of those ages between 16 and 18 would be subject to certain conditions. The Harbour Office requested feedback from the Panel on the numbers concerned by this Law and the impact it would have on the fishing industry.

7.7 Crab and crustacean dumping in the Harbour

The Panel was reminded that throwing anything into the Harbour was forbidden and this ban was to be actively enforced as was the ban on cleaning vessels and vans which lead to chemicals being washed into the sea. Couges were also to be banned. Mike Taylor hoped that at least one couge per fisherman would be left to provide shelter during winter months.

7.8 Ormer season

It was agreed that media coverage would be given to this at the same time as a reminder was published before the spring tide on 22nd September that this was not an ormering tide as the ormering season did not open until 1st October.

7.9 Bag Limits

With the EDC having commenced drafting work on legislation to allow the introduction of Bag Limits, it was agreed that the issue of Bag Limits for lobster, bass and ormers should be put on the Agenda for the next Panel meeting.

8.0 Date of next meeting

Thursday 13th November was agreed as the date for the next meeting.

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FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES ADVISORY PANEL

(22nd Meeting)

Thursday 13th November 2003

Present :

Deputy Mike Taylor - Chairman
C Le Boutillier representing the Boat Owners (Northern Section)
R Viney representing Jersey exporters
Ian Syvret representing the Jersey Inshore Fishermen's Association
Don Thompson representing the Jersey Fishermen's Association
Doug Le Masurier representing the Jersey Aquaculture Association

In attendance :

Dr S F Bossy, Sea Fisheries Adviser
D Yettram, Fisheries Officer
G Morel, Fisheries Officer R & D
M Freeman, Environment (for items 2 and 3)
P Lawrence , Assistant Harbour Master (for items 2 and 3 and AOB 10.1)
F Smith, Fisheries Support Officer - Minutes

Chris Newton and Steve Viney had both sent their apologies for being unable to attend.

1.0 Minutes and matters arising

In 5.2 the figure of 30 for the limit on the number of crabs in the UK should in fact read 25. Peter Lawrence had sent his observations completing points 7.5 and 7.6 and asked that they be attached to the minutes. Doug Le Masurier proposed the adoption of the minutes and Chris Le Boutillier seconded the proposal. The Chairman agreed to sign them as soon as the amendments had been made.

ENVIRONMENT

2.0 Ramsar Sites

Jersey's offshore reefs were to be proposed as Ramsar sites in April 2004. As deciding on the composition of the steering group was the next step, Chris Le Boutillier was asked to take part due to his in-depth knowledge of low water areas. It had not yet been decided if the two reefs would form one site or two separate sites. As both reefs were accessed by French fishermen it was decided that the Mairies of Granville, Carteret and St Malo would be contacted. Mike Freeman asked the Department to provide him with any addresses which may be useful.

3.0 Mud in St Aubin's Harbour

- 3.1 Over the last five years St Aubin's Harbour had once again silted up and Jersey Harbours planned to scrape 300 – 500 tons of mud from the east of the stream and deposit it at the back of St Aubin's Fort pier (east side). The water resources section planned to test the mud for heavy metals and hydrocarbons. They assessed projects taking into account criteria such as human health, the effect on amenities in the area and the effect on the environment.
- 3.2 The Department considered that there would only be a slow movement of mud into St Aubin's Bay over 2 – 3 months and this would be acceptable. The end of November would be a good time for dispersal.
- 3.3 The JFA considered that the area where the mud was to be deposited was a habitat for juvenile fish and if upset the repercussions would be felt for fishing in open seas. Given the sensitive eco-system in this area another method of dealing with the mud should be sought.
- 3.4 Discussion ensued on alternative options : return to the use of a barge with the mud being deposited at sea, the possible review of the project involving the construction of a groyne or the reduction in the amount of mud.
- 3.5 After a vote the Panel finally decided that other options should be explored. Peter Lawrence agreed to relay the comments of the Panel and to report back on progress.

INSHORE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

4.0 Bag Limits

It was recorded that the EDC had accepted the principle of legislation concerning bag limits and that the draft legislation was to be drawn up.

5.0 Crab limit for non-licensed vessels in the Shellfish Licensing Scheme

- 5.1 The Jersey Inshore Fishermen's Association (JIFA) representative advocated the adoption of a figure of 50 crabs per day with possible storage of another 50. This, he felt, reflected the investment in equipment and courses undertaken by his members. Of some 32 vessels in JIFA 28 would be affected by this decision.
- 5.2 Other members of the Panel considered that, as those concerned did not depend on this resource for their livelihood, 25 was a generous figure.
- 5.3 It was agreed that a catch of 25 crabs per day would be permitted with the possibility of landing 50 on a Monday morning to take account of merchants being closed on Sundays. This applied to a combination of spider crabs and chancre crabs.

6.0 Quotas for the last part of the year

Figures were communicated to make planning of fishing operations possible.

FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES ADVISORY PANEL

(26th Meeting)

Thursday 8th July 2004

Present :

Deputy Mike Taylor – Chairman
C Le Boutillier representing the Boat Owners (Northern Section)
R Viney representing Jersey exporters
Don Thompson representing the Jersey Fishermen's Association
Doug Le Masurier representing the Jersey Aquaculture Association
Andrew Syvret representing the Jersey Federation of Sea Anglers

In attendance :

Jr S F Bossy, Sea Fisheries Adviser
P Lawrence , Assistant Harbour Master (for Items 1 to 5)

Apologies for not being able to attend had been received from Max de la Haye and Ian Syvret. Mike Smith and Greg Morel had been called out on Fisheries duties.

1.0 Minutes and matters arising

The minutes of the meetings held on 12th May 2004 and 10th June 2004 were adopted without comment and signed by Mike Taylor.

1.1 Matters arising

Proliferation of mussel spat in oyster bags.

Doug Le Masurier explained that the problem still existed but that as some bags were still to be graded in September no decision would be taken before then. He asked for Greg Morel to attend that grading. Chris Le Boutillier reported good mussel growth on pot ropes at Petit Plemont.

1.2 Financing of pontoons

Peter Lawrence stated that this was still under discussion. Don Thompson added that the Port Users' Group consultation was functioning well.

1.3 Pot limitation recommendations from the JFA

Due to an incorrect vote at the last full meeting of the JFA where a 75% majority had not been attained another meeting would be called to agree the way forward.

1.4 Rent at Huelin Renouf building

Jersey Harbours had conceded that the rent was too high and a progressive increase over 9 years had been agreed. It was thought that Aquamar Ltd may release part of the upstairs of the building in which case Jersey Harbours would look for a marine related business.

1.5 Charter boats

It was noted that UK Charter vessels were not registered as fishing vessels, the definition being that "if a vessel is chartered to a specific person and no trade in fish occurred" the term fishing vessel does not apply.

2.0 Justin Surcouf's concession

The Panel agreed that Mr Surcouf's work on ormer farming carried out on land should be progressed as experimental until such time as his concession was granted. This recommendation should be made to the Committee so that they may authorize this under the powers available to them.

3.0 Collection of "vraic"

The Panel agreed that even though Mr Surcouf would have sufficient seaweed from cutting it from oyster sacks, the Committee should still be asked to repeal the legislation. Officers were asked to forward this recommendation to the Committee.

4.1 Report on recreational fishing

The JFA generally welcomed the report but suggested that some of the figures calculated i.e. number of leisure anglers, spend of leisure anglers, were in their opinion wide of the real figure. They felt that if this document were to be used for management changes then they would disagree with more detail contained in the document.

4.2 The JFA concluded that they could support "bag limit" legislation on non-commercial vessels and would consider some form of ban on netting on beaches on the south east coast.

4.3 Other comments on the paper suggested that there was no indication of stock depletion although there was no good method of measuring stock strength in place. The Panel was informed that the proposed "bag limit" legislation had been dropped from the Law drafting agenda for 2005 and agreed that this may have serious consequences for the management of local stocks. The Chairman agreed to take this up at Committee level to see if the legislation could be pushed forward.

5.0 Items from the last JAC meeting held on 1st and 2nd July at Rennes were discussed as summarized below .

5.1 The French were preparing to increase the MLS on prawns from 3 to 5cm. The JFA agreed to take this up with their members particularly Tony Farnham who is known to fish for prawns.

5.2 The French agreed to extend the limits concerning larger beamers, as used by the EU, to this area.

5.3 Jersey was asked to change their scalloping regulations to allow for a 92mm ring size. As Jersey had only just moved to 80mm ring size it was agreed that Jersey would stay at this size for the time being.

FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES PANEL

(32nd Meeting)

Wednesday 12th October 2005

Present :

- Deputy Mike Taylor – Chairman
- Robert Viney representing Jersey exporters
- Don Thompson representing the Jersey Fishermen's Association
- Doug le Masurier representing the Jersey Aquaculture Association
- Andrew Syvret representing Jersey Federation of Sea Anglers
- Ian Syvret representing the Jersey Inshore Fishermen's Association
- Chris le Boutillier representing Boat Owners (Northern Section)

In attendance :

- Dr S F Bossy, Head of Fisheries and Marine Resources
- Mike Smith, Senior Fisheries Inspector
- Greg Morel, Fisheries Officer R & D
- Felicity Smith, Fisheries Support Officer - minutes

Apologies for not being able to attend had been received from Captain Peter Lawrence.

Action

1.0 Minutes and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 3 August 2005 were adopted without comment.

2.0 Items to be discussed at JAC in Carteret

2.1 (a) Finalise beam trawling limits

2.2 (b) Transition to 92mm dredge ring size

No trials had as yet been carried out on the harder sea bed in Jersey waters. It was certain that the existence of a closed season for scallop dredging in France had resulted in an inundation of the market immediately after the end of the closure with possible dumping of excess catch. However, Jersey fishermen were not keen to encourage an open season all year round in French waters as this would reduce the price obtained for Jersey caught scallops during the closed season.

(c) Report on pot tag scheme. This had not, as hoped, provided statistics of the amount of gear being fished but distribution of the tags had gone smoothly. It was not certain that after the 2006 issue Brittany would continue to renew tags annually in line with Normandy and Jersey. It had previously been confirmed that after 1 January 2006 Jersey Fishery Officers would report to the French authorities any incidents of French pots in Jersey waters without currently valid tags.

(d) A definition of a floppy eyed creel was to be arrived at.

(e) A solution was to be sought concerning the number of French vessels trawling for bream south of La Frouquie Aubert buoy. This area was heavily potted and a bream nursery area which could not sustain this activity.

- 3.0 Bag Limits.**
- 3.1** The original named species in legislation to be drafted was ormer and the bag limit of 20 had been proposed. This was confirmed and it was decided that if the legislation stated 20 ormers "at any time" a boat limit would not be necessary. This would concern anyone fishing for ormers.
- 3.2** It was agreed that lobster should now be included and that a bag limit of 5 was acceptable. Some members viewed this as a very generous limit. The boat limit would also be 5; however, shore gatherers would be exempt from this restriction. The bag limit would include the number of lobsters in store boxes in the 5 allowed. French amateur fishermen were already restricted to 2 pots only and therefore would not object to a bag limit of 5.
- 3.3** A discussion took place concerning the likelihood of bass being subject to a bag limit and it was agreed that a restriction in Jersey was not possible without a similar restriction in France. The MLS for bass was under discussion and it was difficult to imagine both measures being adopted.
- 4.0 Implications of UK increase in bass MLS**
Like the UK commercial fishermen the JFA was against this measure and for a phased increase, possibly from 36cm to 39cm but not 36mm to 55mm. The Department would write to DEFRA to explain that this measure was not suitable for Jersey. The Granville Bay Treaty was in place and although refusal to follow wetfish measures may mean breaking the UK/Jersey management agreement increasing the MLS in waters adjacent to French waters could not be envisaged.
- 5.0 Ormer report**
- 5.1** In the second part of the ormer survey different sites had been inspected and evidence confirmed the previous conclusions that recovery was underway but slow. Reports from Brittany showed good recovery in these waters.
- 6.0 Amateur fishing effort**
- 6.1** The paper presented by the Department suggested waiting for the implementation of bag limit legislation before further measures were discussed. Ian Syvret, the JIFA representative, accepted that this would be effective in capping amateur effort. The contents of store boxes would be included in the bag limit.
- 6.2** Policing any measure would require increased resources and the possibility of recruiting seasonal (May to October) inspectors was discussed.
- 7.0 Appeals board for lost pot tags**
- 7.1** It was decided that both the JFA and the JIFA would propose three members who would be willing to sit on the board and this would allow one member from each to be called on if the board was convened. The right of the person appealing to object to one member on the board was recognised.
- 7.2** Jurat Stan le Cornu, Jurat Roy Bullen, the Minister of the Environment or the Harbour Master were proposed for possible Chairman of the board.
- 8.0 Any other business**
- 8.1** Mike Taylor updated the Panel on the evolution of the situation concerning Guernsey. The JFA (?) had until 21 October to appoint a legal representative from London to put the Jersey point of view. Any decision would now have to go the Guernsey States for approval even if agreement was reached between the politicians of both Islands. Fears were expressed that with the departure

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FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES PANEL

(35th Meeting)

Wednesday 17 May 2006

Present :

- Mike Taylor – Chairman
- Robert Viney representing Jersey exporters
- Don Thompson representing the Jersey Fishermen’s Association
- Chris le Boutillier representing Boat Owners (Northern Section)
- Trevor le Cornu representing the Jersey Aquaculture Association
- Keith White representing the Jersey Recreational Fishermen’s Association
- Ian Syvret representing the Jersey Inshore Fishermen’s Association

In attendance :

- Capt Peter Lawrence, Jersey Harbours
- Chris Newton, Director of Environment
- Dr S F Bossy, Head of Fisheries and Marine Resources
- Mike Smith, Senior Fisheries Inspector
- Greg Morel, Fisheries Officer R & D
- Felicity Smith, Fisheries Support Officer - minutes

The Chairman welcomed Keith White who had been elected to represent the Jersey Recreational Fishermen’s Association. Mike Taylor had thanked Andrew Syvret for his contribution to the work of the Panel.

Action

1.0 Minutes and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 8 March 2006 were adopted and signed by the Chairman.

4.5 Ian Syvret asked if trawling operations would continue during the CEFAS trials on skate and ray and it was explained that this was necessary in order to obtain accurate information on the percentage of tagged fish caught. The 40cm MLS had been agreed on at the meeting on 8 March 2006 and the opinion of CEFAS would be sought in the autumn to confirm the suitability of a cut wing size.

2.1 It was decided to wait until the end of the season when used bags would become available in Granville and the least worn ones could be used for the trials.

6.4 Officers had no power to regulate on gear moved to a position outside a concession and so during the site visit Panel members had helped to remove it. Following this Mr Legg had received a letter requesting him to remove any unused gear inside his concession. The JAA had also received a letter explaining that discarded fish farming equipment left on the beach put the whole fish farming industry in a bad light and urged concessionees to clear away any unused material.

2.13 Wetfish

2.14 Fears concerning the bass stocks had not been supported by catches reported in 2005. Keith White expressed the concern of anglers about fish being sold directly to hotels and suggested that a ban on cash sales may help to alleviate the problem. Tagging, in conjunction with 'Genuine Jersey', of fish caught legally had been introduced. Tags could be obtained from Don Thompson.

2.15 The JRFA now supported the introduction of a bag limit for the species. Bag limits legislation was with the UK for approval. Further draft legislation if adopted will mean that vessels landing catches for sale in Jersey must not only be registered vessels but also be licensed in Jersey or elsewhere.

2.16 Policing 'blackfish' sales was difficult and officers welcomed information from all sources which would be investigated and remained confidential.

2.17 Aquaculture

2.18 Figures reported for 2005 were down on 2004 but confidence remained high. Collaboration with French oyster growers was being sought to avoid the reoccurrence of problems concerning the exportation to France of the on-grown French oysters. Accelerated growth in Jersey waters remained a distinct advantage for Jersey aquaculture.

3.0 Concession Application – Dave and Gary Cowburn

3.1 Dave and Gary Cowburn had applied for a concession covering 50 hectares in St Catherine's Bay to farm oysters and scallops. Both Dave and Gary attended the Panel meeting to present their project.

3.1 In response to questions from the Panel Messrs Cowburn explained that

- the substantial size of the area was explained by the existence of large unusable patches of silt inside the area.
- their consultation with recreational and commercial divers and the St Catherine's Sailing club had indicated that the project would not be seen as a problem.
- two tanks of kelp had already been grown without major difficulty and wild kelp would be transplanted and encouraged to grow on rope within the concession to feed the oysters. Divers would go down to feed the oysters every two weeks.
- cages of 2ft in height would sit on the seabed

3.2 After Messrs Cowburn had left the meeting, concerns were expressed on the following points

- the depth of research concerning the growing of kelp and problems of applying the method locally
- the difference in environment between the project studied in the Isle of Myll and the concession in St Catherine's Bay
- the depth of research concerning the number of cages involved
- the lack of a market for further scallops
- the large size of the area (making it unavailable for other scallop divers and other fishermen)

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FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES PANEL

(36th Meeting)

Wednesday 19 July 2006

Present :

Mike Taylor – Chairman
Don Thompson representing the Jersey Fishermen's Association
Chris le Boutillier representing Boat Owners (Northern Section)
Chris le Masurier representing the Jersey Aquaculture Association
Keith White representing the Jersey Recreational Fishermen's Association
Ian Syvret representing the Jersey Inshore Fishermen's Association

In attendance :

Capt Peter Lawrence, Jersey Harbours
Dr S F Bossy, Head of Fisheries and Marine Resources
Mike Smith, Senior Fisheries Inspector
Greg Morel, Fisheries Officer R & D
Felicity Smith, Fisheries Support Officer - minutes

Action

1.0 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 17 May 2006 were adopted subject to certain amendments.

3.1 Don Thompson suggested that the cages were 2ft high but rested on the seabed

3.2 Don Thompson requested that "other fishermen" be mentioned after "scallop divers".

1.1 Matters arising

Don Thompson ruled out any possibility of "Genuine Jersey" bass tags being extended to cover "not trawled" fish.

Simon Bossy explained that following his letter to Jersey Turbot, the decision had been taken by Jersey Turbot not to continue with the application if only orniers could be reared.

2 Update on draft legislation

2.1 Mike Smith explained that the following legislation was at present with the UK Secretary of State for approval

- Log books legislation to apply to French fishermen
- Definition of pots at les Minquiers
- Pot tagging
- Change in latin names
- Prawn MLS
-

The following legislation was being drafted

- Satellite Monitoring

4.0 Lobster stocks

4.1 Greg Morel reported on the 2006 lobster survey. Gales had meant that the data for May had been poor and only partially collected but the June trials had shown good results for juvenile lobsters. However, data indicated that a high proportion of lobsters were being caught as soon as they reached 87mm.

5.0 Ormer stocks

5.1 On Island stocks had recovered but at les Minquiers recovery was slower possibly due to a higher rate of mortality. Sampling at les Minquiers was also difficult.

6.0 Changes to scallop diving permit conditions

6.1 Mike Smith presented a paper dealing with the different options available to combat scallops being taken from concession areas. The current problem involved natural scallops but it would become even more serious when the recently imported seed grew to size. Banning permit holders access to the areas (Options A and B) was deemed unacceptable but it was agreed that Option C should be adopted. This banned permit holders from being in a concession while in possession of diving kit and scallops. Chris le Masurier agreed that this measure would reassure concession holders. The pending police report would perhaps recommend additional measures.

6.2 Scallop permit conditions would be modified to take account of this decision.

MS

7.0 Use of circle hooks

7.1 Keith White presented examples of circle hooks and photos of trials done with them to the Panel. He explained the advantage of this type of hook was to increase the chance of survival of fish put back into the water after being caught. His principal concern was to make anglers aware of the advantages of using these hooks as a way of conserving fish stocks. They could also be used on ground lines. Although he was reluctant to make these hooks immediately compulsory he welcomed the suggestion that the measure could be announced as becoming compulsory in possibly 5 years time. He admitted that this type of hook was not feasible for fishing which involved striking and that only hooks above a size 2 would be affected.

7.2 Don Thompson would not support an overall ban on J hooks as the method of monoline fishing could not be carried out with circle hooks.

7.3 Keith White reassured Don Thompson that only recreational angling would be affected.

7.4 Mike Taylor agreed that the general public should be made aware that this measure was being envisaged and consultation should be carried out. For this the approval of the Minister would have to be sought.

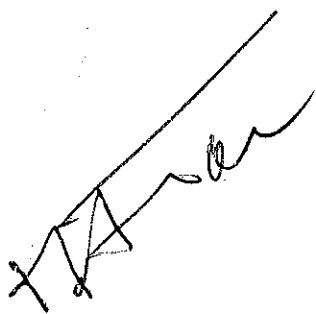
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8.0 Measures concerning bass

8.1 Of the four proposed options the bag limit was agreed as the easiest to introduce and could become effective in January 2007. A figure of 5 bass per person within 24 hours was agreed. This measure would apply to recreational fishermen. The legislation concerning bag limits, still being drafted, was to be amended to include bass.

MS

- 8.2 In order to include the professional fishermen in the conservation of stocks a cap on the annual tonnage was suggested. Any figure adopted would be well above the current tonnage.
- 8.3 The situation concerning nets set on the beach by professional fishermen and compliance with this bag limit would have to be discussed in more detail with a possible exemption for owners of licensed fishing vessels.
- 8.4 A restriction on amateur nets and trot lines was discussed with a figure of 50m maximum net length and 50 hooks per person being suggested.
- 8.5 Control of the sale of fish involved making it illegal for hotels, restaurants etc. to purchase fish from non licensed fishermen. The bag limit legislation would make "possession" of over 5 fish illegal and these establishments would have to provide proof of purchase from a bona fide source.
- 8.6 The measure concerning the possibility of a bass/sport fish licence for professional J registered vessels was considered to be the last resort in the management of the fishery. Any licences granted would be based on track record.
- 8.7 Simon Bossy underlined the new situation created by these measures as they could not be argued to be for conservation reasons, bass stocks being at an all time high in the English Channel. The situation in Jersey could be monitored more precisely with the advent of under 10m logbook data giving quarterly rather than annual figures. Here any measures taken would benefit one sector of the fishing community and regulate the distribution of the resource.
- 9.0 Simon Bossy reminded members that the documents concerning the National Shellfish Strategy were still private information and not for public distribution.
- 10.0 The date of the next meeting would be Wednesday 27 September 2006.

A handwritten signature, possibly 'Simon Bossy', is written in black ink. The signature is stylized and includes a large, sweeping flourish that extends upwards and to the right. There are some additional scribbles and lines below the main signature.

FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES PANEL

(37th Meeting)

Wednesday 27 September 2006

Present :

Mike Taylor – Chairman

Doug Ward representing the Jersey Fishermen's Association

Chris le Boutillier representing Boat Owners (Northern Section)

Doug le Masurier representing the Jersey Aquaculture Association

Ian Syvret representing the Jersey Inshore Fishermen's Association

Robert Viney representing Jersey exporters

In attendance :

Chris Newton, Director of Environment

Capt Peter Lawrence, Jersey Harbours

Dr S F Bossy, Head of Fisheries and Marine Resources

Mike Smith, Senior Fisheries Inspector

Greg Morel, Fisheries Officer R & D

Paul Bizec

Felicity Smith, Fisheries Support Officer - minutes

Keith White had sent his apologies for not being able to attend. He had sent views emanating from the Anglers' Association in an email which was distributed to the Panel. **Action**

1.0 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 19 July 2006 were adopted with no comment being made.

2 Consultation document from Guernsey

2.1 Guernsey had sent out a consultation document to stakeholders likely to be affected by the introduction of a total catch allowance applicable to commercially licensed charter angling vessels not in possession of a fishing vessel licence. (The situation in Jersey was different as all charter boats were in possession of a fishing licence.) The Panel agreed to reply expressing its support for the measure.

SB

3.0 Propositions from the Jersey Inshore Fishermen's Association

3.1 (i) Possible 20 pot limit for recreational fishermen

In addition to the proposed limit on net length and number of hooks the JIFA requested a limit on pot numbers. Simon Bossy explained that drafting legislation was a lengthy process and that no move had yet been made concerning nets and hooks; however, the bag limit legislation was ready to be lodged for debate in the States Assembly. It was decided that no further

legislation to limit gear would be envisaged in the immediate future until the impact of bag limits had been assessed.

- 3.2 Chris le Boutillier expressed the view that neither bag limits nor gear limitation would address the basic issue of fish being sold by fishermen without a licence. Only tagging of all fish landed where the non saleable status would be clear would solve the problem.
- 3.3 (ii) Position of restaurant owners concerning bass bag limit
Mike Smith explained that the draft legislation was based on possession and the burden of proof lay with the restaurant owner if more than 5 bass were being held. Evidence must be supplied that the fish were purchased from a legitimate source.
- 3.4 Concerning the bag limit Regulation the Panel was urged to express to the Minister their eagerness to see the legislation in place as it represented the solution to many problems facing the fishing industry. The possibility of organising a pre-debate briefing where Officers would be able to underline the importance of the legislation to the fishing industry was broached
- 3.5 (iii) Non commercial/controlled fishing zones
In this request JIFA had the support of anglers. It was decided that this measure would constitute an allocation of resources rather than a conservation measure and therefore was not a notion which could be supported by the Panel.
- 3.6 (iv) Items put on the JAC/JMC agendas
As JIFA concerns applied to many fishermen in the 0-3 mile zone this did not fall within the Granville Bay Agreement; however many amateur associations did exist in France and Doug Ward agreed to enquire at the JAC and inform Ian Syvret.
- 3.7 (v) Update on position concerning a seasonal fisheries officer
The increased cost to the Department of an additional Sea Fisheries officer even seasonal would have to be offset by an increase in fees. This could possibly be justified if it resulted in an end to illegal selling of fish by non-licensed fishermen, currently for bass an estimated loss of £35,000 to the professional fishermen. The bag limit legislation was expected to improve the situation.
- 3.8 Self regulation by anglers had proved successful and could be used by other categories of fishermen. The Honorary Police could also play a role although previous attempts to involve them in Fisheries tasks had not met with a great deal of success.
- 4.0 **Defra consultation document on lobster MLS increase from 87mm to 90mm**
- 4.1 This measure was being studied following the abandoned berried lobster ban and would only be applicable in the UK. The Jersey position favoured a progressive increase and talks had taken place at the JAC but no progress had been made. The French MLS would only increase if it became EU legislation. Support for an increase could be sought from the Regional Advisory Council only if the stakeholder i.e JFA requested it. Simon Bossy

SB/CN

DW

therefore agreed to contact Don Thompson suggesting this should be done.

SB

5.0 **Reaction to Defra's increase in bass MLS**

5.1 In order to set an MLS closer to the size of a maturity in bass and under pressure from anglers Defra had decided to introduce 40cm. Under the UK/Jersey Management Agreement Jersey was committed to follow the UK legislation concerning wet fish; however, as many Jersey fishermen depend on bass from 36cm – 40cm from inshore waters for their livelihood there was opposition to the move.

5.2 The new MLS was due to come into force in April 2007 and Jersey would ask for a delay before harmonising the legislation. Jersey bass fishermen would be asked to present their case to the Panel in December.

SB

6.0 **Any Other Business**

6.1 Political responsibilities

The Minister responsible for Fisheries issues would continue to be Senator Cohen for environmental issues; however, for issues relating to the fishing industry Senator Ozouf would take responsibility.

6.2 Before the change in government structure there had always been political input onto the Fisheries and Marine Resources Panel. The possibility of a renewed political presence on the Panel was discussed.

7.0 Jersey/Guernsey Access agreement

Jersey had sent its reply to the amended document issued by Guernsey. At present there was a move towards a formal access agreement and also the setting up of a Channel Islands Fishery Advisory Panel.

7.1 Ray tagging

Greg Morel reported on the ray tagging exercise which was underway. So far approximately 150 rays had been tagged.

7.2 Update from Mike Smith

Mike Smith drew the attention of the Panel to the need to renew licence applications every two years rather than every year. Granville Bay Access Permits, beam trawl permits and authorisation to fish in Zones E and F remained subject to annual renewal.

Logbooks for vessels under 10m was due to be introduced in January 2007.

The case in Cornwall where undersize lobsters had not been banded and were therefore refused as evidence had given rise to a letter from Cornwall Sea Fisheries saying that any shellfish on board had to be of legal size. In practice they intended to use their discretion as to whether or not the fish were being retained. Jersey intended to do likewise.

Don Thompson would be asked to contact "Spud" at Harbours concerning the possible training of JFA members in use of the hoist. This could lead to a reduction in the price of use of the hoist.

7.3 Freight to France

The probable services proposed by Condor during the winter months involved sailings on Mondays and Fridays. The Commodore "Goodwill" sailed on a Saturday. Local exporters found this unsatisfactory as merchants in France required products for the Thursday for the weekend market.

FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES PANEL

(38th Meeting)

Tuesday 12 December 2006

Present :

Mike Taylor – Chairman
 Peter Gosselin representing the Jersey Federation of Anglers
 Paul Bizec representing the Jersey Fishermen's Association
 Don Thompson representing the Jersey Fishermen's Association
 Chris le Boutillier representing Boat Owners (Northern Section)
 Trevor le Cornu representing the Jersey Aquaculture Association
 Ian Syvret representing the Jersey Inshore Fishermen's Association
 Robert Viney representing Jersey exporters

In attendance :

Senator Philip Ozouf for items 2, 3 and 7
 Chris Newton, Director of Environment
 Capt Peter Lawrence, Jersey Harbours
 Dr S F Bossy, Head of Fisheries and Marine Resources
 Mike Smith, Senior Fisheries Inspector
 Greg Morel, Fisheries Officer R & D
 Felicity Smith, Fisheries Support Officer - minutes

Keith White had sent his apologies for not being able to attend.

Action

1.0 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 27 September 2006 were adopted with no comment being made.

2.0 Matters arising

2.1 In response to Robert Viney's observation that St Catherine's Breakwater was different from the plans shown to the Panel, Peter Lawrence explained that the final surface was not as flat as originally planned in order to dissipate waves. Simon Bossy commented that during a FEPA inspection it had been noted that the interstitial spaces would encourage the development of marine life.

2.2 Greg Morel reported on the ray tagging scheme in which currently 445 rays had been tagged including blond, small eyed and undulate rays. From the 37 returned tags it was clear that the rays had not moved far afield although one was found off Carteret and another off Sark. All data collected was passed on to Cefas.

2.3 The Constable of St Brelade, Mike Jackson, had accepted to be the political representative on the Panel beginning in 2007. He had received the agendas and minutes of the 2006 Panel meetings.

2.4 As of 12 December 2006 responsibility for fisheries regulatory matters in the States had passed to Senator Philip Ozouf as Minister for Economic Development.

2.5 The increase in the lobster MLS would be taken to the RAC once there had been feedback from the South Devon Association and the Shellfish Association of Great Britain.

2.6 The role of the banksman dealing with the boat hoist at the La Collette was now to include the collection of fees for the use of the hoist and this had discouraged fishermen from taking on the role. Ian Syvret compared this with the role at Bonne Nuit where, in addition, insurance was needed to cover liability in the case of an accident. Peter Lawrence agreed to look into the problem.

PL

3.0 **Senator Philip Ozouf**

3.1 Panel members were introduced to Senator Ozouf who underlined the importance of fishing as part of the Island economy. Although responsibility for fishing still remained with the Planning and Environment Department all legislation would be taken to the States of Jersey by the Minister for Economic Development. This mirrored the situation in Guernsey where the Minister for Commerce and Industry had responsibility for fishing matters and it would facilitate discussions with the Guernsey government. Senator Ozouf informed the Panel that the Guernsey issue was on the agenda for the Council of Ministers on 14 December where ways to avoid the case going before the Privy Council would be sought.

3.2 Mike Jackson had agreed to represent the SoJ on the Panel but Senator Ozouf would attend meetings if required.

4.0 **Bag Limits legislation**

4.1 Draft legislation limiting ormer, lobster and bass catches per person per day was ready to be presented to the SoJ. While it was recognised that limiting the number of ormers caught was a conservation measure to protect stocks which were still recovering after the disease, limiting numbers of lobster and bass targeted illegal vending of fish and shellfish by non-licensed fishermen. The Panel explained to the Senator the reasons why this legislation was deemed necessary.

4.2 The existing legislation, whereby the sale of fish and shellfish by non-licensed fishermen is prohibited, was difficult to enforce as providing a court with evidence of the offence would require manpower resources far beyond those that were available. Policing bag limits however was more feasible.

4.3 The Fishing industry called on the Department to introduce legislation which would effectively prevent the sale of "black" fish as the market price of fish

was significantly depressed as a consequence. The JFA said it would welcome a clear definition of professional activity.

4.4 At present professional fishermen either had a shellfish qualified licence which allowed them unlimited catches of shellfish or were only allowed to fish for 15 lobsters and 25 per crabs per day. No such restriction existed for leisure fishermen and this legislation would rectify the disparity. If compared with bag limits existing elsewhere the amounts in the proposed legislation were extremely generous.

4.5 Although the majority of anglers would support the introduction of bag limits the representative for angling did foresee certain objections to the legislation being raised particularly from those who saw the measure as a denial of a source of income. Shore angling which did not at present require a licence for fish to be sold would be affected by this legislation.

4.6 The existence of bag limits for bass would contribute to the increase in angling tourism as it would underline the importance in the Island of the management of the fishery.

4.7 The Panel underlined the fact that the legislation was necessary and denied no one the right to fish. Fish caught in excess of the bag limit could be put back into the sea or, if fishermen wished to sell their catch and legalise their activity, licences were available for them to buy.

5.0 Sole management in Ville

5.1 The sole quota allocated by the EU to the UK for Ville was 350 tonnes (or is this the entire UK quota?) which was divided into 2 quotas, one for over 10m vessels and the other for under 10m vessels. The quota allocated to the under 10m fleet was exhausted at the beginning of November and the fishery was therefore closed. The Jersey fishermen fish for sole from October until December and therefore had little opportunity to fish before the closure.

5.2 The JFA reminded the Panel that this problem arose every year and the same fishermen were affected. Business plans based on this fishery were difficult to maintain.

5.2 Political pressure on the UK government was required for a larger quota to be allocated to Ville and a more equitable division of the quota between over and under 10m vessels. UK south coast fisheries had already expressed their dissatisfaction with the management of sole and pressure from Jersey would add to this.

5.3 When asked for his support for this representation to Defra Senator Ozouf agreed but thought it imperative to offer possible solutions to this problem. The Panel discussed the possible creation of a sub-zone for the area and the division of the under 10m quota into monthly allocations, the Panel agreed that an increase in the quota allocated to Ville was necessary and granting a higher tonnage to the under 10m vessels constituted a feasible solution.

5.4 The Head of Fisheries and Marine Resources was asked to write to the UK authorities to express the dissatisfaction with the management of sole stocks.



FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES PANEL

(39th Meeting)

Thursday 22 February 2007

Present :

- Mike Taylor – Chairman
- Constable Mike Jackson – Vice Chairman
- Keith White representing the Jersey Recreational Fishermen’s Association
- Paul Bizec representing the Jersey Fishermen’s Association
- Don Thompson representing the Jersey Fishermen’s Association
- Trevor le Cornu representing the Jersey Aquaculture Association
- Ian Syvret representing the Jersey Inshore Fishermen’s Association
- Robert Viney representing Jersey exporters

In attendance :

- Capt Peter Lawrence, Jersey Harbours
- Dr S F Bossy, Head of Fisheries and Marine Resources
- Mike Smith, Senior Fisheries Inspector
- Greg Morel, Fisheries Officer R & D
- Julia Elvidge - minutes

Senator Philip Ozouf and Chris Le Boutillier have sent their apologies for not being able to attend. **Actior**

1.0 Welome Constable Mike Jackson

Mike Taylor introduced and welcomed Mike Jackson, he thanked him for joining the panel.

2.0 Minutes

The following changes on the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12 December 2006 were to be noted.

Keith White asked if it could please be noted that the association that he represents is not known as Jersey Federation of Anglers but Jersey Recreational Fishermen’s Association.

Don Thompson asked for the following changes to be made to the minutes:-

2.5 The increase in the lobster MLS would be taken to the RAC once there had been feedback from the South Devon Association and the Shellfish Association of Great Britain.

setting up a scheme to make sure everything was in order. Mike Jackson passed comment that it should be kept as simple as possible. Sean Pritchard told the Panel that it was up to the industry to lead with this idea and then EBD would assist with carrying it forward.

Mike Taylor thanked Sean Pritchard for his interesting presentation and useful information.

5.0 RAC and Coastal Futures Meeting

5.1 Simon Bossy had attended the RAC meeting in Spain, he presented a paper on the meeting and noted that the following items would be of interest:

5.2 There was interest in raising the profile of the under 10 metre fishing fleet – quotas.

5.3 Management of fish stocks, to discuss bass management at the next meeting.

5.4 EU admits that fishing controls are not harmonised at all. An agency is to be set up, not controlled by the Commission but to advise them.

5.5 Greg Morel attended the one day Coastal Futures Meeting.

5.6 Habitat mapping was discussed to manage stocks, and is important on the basis of having to know what is there in the first place.

5.7 A new marine bill is to be drawn up to join up many items of legislation as one.

5.8 Marine Protection Zones were discussed - how many there should be, if any. How to put them in place, a zone has been explored in Jersey.

6.0 Bag Limits legislation

6.1 The panel agreed that whilst the previously approved bag limits were necessary, consideration should be given to allowing professional boat fishermen limited exemptions for shore based fishing activities. During long spells of bad weather a number of fishermen have traditionally fished on shore/beach to supplement their income. If the proposal of limiting numbers caught to 5 Bass is applied to professional fishermen at certain times of the year when they fish from the shore, then it may cause them financial hardship.

The proposed amendment to allow professional fishermen (those that make a living from fishing from a licensed fishing vessel) to be able to catch more than 5 Bass from the shore was agreed.

Simon Bossy suggested that this amendment would allow a time restriction to be put on e.g. end of October to March. A suggestion was put forward that the

markers should have the individuals J number on.

The amendment requires that a notice will be put in the Gazette and individuals will then have to apply for a licence. A register will be kept of those that have been issued with one.

It was agreed that the report accompanying the draft regulations will have to be carefully worded to ensure that the States Assembly fully understand the amendment.

The amendment will be incorporated within the regulation by the Law Draftsman and then the Minister will be asked to take it to the States of Jersey for approval after first seeking the concurrence of the UK Secretary of State.

M.S.

7.0 JAC

7.1 Don Thompson reported on the discussions which took place at the meeting on 21 February 2007.

7.2 At previous meetings tags had been discussed and the Jersey legislation had been endorsed by the French so that every pot in the Bay of Granville now has to be tagged and Jersey will police tags on all pots in the Jersey territorial sea. An element of the French delegation felt that such enforcement should wait until pot limitation had been harmonised.

Brittany boats do not have 2007 tags yet and the French legislation only requires that 2007 tags are fitted by 15/3/07. Jersey had thought that all tags had to be fitted by 01/01/07 and the legislation had been drafted with that in mind, but agreed not to police 2007 tags until 05/03/07. Jersey had however advised the meeting that pots found before 15/03/07 without 2006 tags may still result in a prosecution of the skipper/owner of the vessel setting them. Mike Smith stated that our legislation does not say annual but stipulates that tags have to display the year or years for which they are valid. The legislation will not therefore need to be modified if 15th March becomes the accepted date by which tags must be fitted in future years, but the tags may need to be slightly modified.

7.3 The Defra paper on shellfish (crab) management was put together as slide show, Don was under the impression that they (Defra) want a level playing field and a way to move forward would be to pull the French into the RAC.

7.4 France had discussed the Jersey proposal to increase the lobster size by initially 1 millimetre at a recent meeting of the French National Shellfish Committee. The conclusion of that meeting was that such a size increase would be acceptable only after a harmonisation of the amount of pots that could be set by Jersey and French fishing boats. Mike Taylor had suggested that a solution would be to reduce the overall number of pots from both France and Jersey in the Bay of Granville (last time this was suggested it was rejected out of hand) but perhaps it may be an idea to go down this route again.

7.5

Bass – the French Chairman of the RAC had offered to write a letter to assist

FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES PANEL

(41st Meeting)

Wednesday 13 June 2007

Present :

Mike Taylor – Chairman
Constable Mike Jackson – Vice Chairman
Chris Newton – Director of Environment
Don Thompson representing the Jersey Fishermen's Association
Paul Bizec representing the Jersey Fishermen's Association
Trevor le Cornu representing the Jersey Aquaculture Association
Ian Syvret representing the Jersey Inshore Fishermen's Association
Chris le Boutillier representing Boat Owners (Northern Section)
Robert Viney representing Jersey exporters

In attendance :

Mike Smith, Senior Fisheries Inspector
Greg Morel, Sea Fisheries Officer
Dave Yettram, Sea Fisheries Officer
Felicity Smith - Minutes

Action

1.0 Minutes and Matters arising

Concerning point 6.2 (ii) Ian Syvret asked if the JFA had endorsed the closure of a given bay for the duration of a competition and Don Thompson agreed that they had. The minutes were adopted subject to the amendment to show this.

1.1 Funding of MOB equipment

As agreed Mike Taylor had sent a letter to Senator Ozouf requesting assurance that funding would be found in the 2008 budget for the scheme. Paul le Mière was also working on finding funds from the 2007 or 2008 budget. Mike Taylor underlined the fact that any costs received by the JFA as a result of the Privy Council decision would automatically be repaid to EDD and this might free up funds from elsewhere. So far the JFA had received 8 complete applications and although production had been halted to allow for improvements to be made it was due to begin again in the coming months. Chris Newton agreed that his Department would deal with the administration of the scheme. He asked DT to supply exact details of applications. This would be a single payment to those who installed the device at the outset of the scheme.

CN
DT

2.0 Bass catches in 2006 Annual Report

2.1 Greg Morel explained that the bass catches as presented in the report did not reflect the fish caught in Guernsey waters. Don Thompson pointed out that this had not been done for the bream figures. It was decided that a foot note would be added to the report to make this clear.

GM

3.0 Exemptions to Bag Limits legislation

The Minister for Economic Development had asked for the Panel to agree on the categories of fishermen who could be exempted from the bag limits legislation particularly where bass was concerned. When the draft legislation returned from the UK it would be lodged for debate in the States.

3.1 All J licensed professional fishermen would be unaffected by the legislation. The Panel discussed the traditional activity of setting nets from the shore with unpredictable numbers of bass being caught. This was carried out by Category (i) professional fishermen in periods of sustained bad weather
Category (ii) recreational fishermen "for the table"
Category (iii) a small number of fishermen not owning boats but who derived at least part of their livelihood from selling their catch
It was in particular this third category who would be adversely affected by the legislation if no exemptions were possible.

3.2 Various solutions were discussed including the issue of permits for the activity, a scheme where an entitlement to license a boat could be bought with no obligation to transfer the entitlement to a boat, tagging fish to land and exemption on application on a case by case basis.

3.3 It was decided that
for Category (i) exemption could be granted on seasonal application for a set period to the licence owner or a crew member of a licensed boat
for Category (ii) no exemption to be granted
for Category (iii) exemption could be applied for and may be granted if proof of a track record was provided through receipts, income tax returns etc. This exemption would not be tradeable or transferable and would end with the life of the holder.

It was also decided that such exemptions would be subject to a number of conditions:

The exemption should only apply during the period 16th October to 31st March.

The exemption should only relate to fish caught using nets or hooks. Exemptions will only be considered in respect of written applications on the form provided.

Professional fishermen who work on licensed fishing vessels will have to provide evidence to this effect.

Fishermen awarded an exemption will have to carry it with them whilst on the shore to conduct their activity and when transporting/selling fish to which the exemption applies.

Each exemption will be given an identifying number and any gear set on the shore by the holder of an exemption must display that number in addition to the normal markings.

Fishermen will not be permitted to take other individuals to assist them with their activities unless each individual is the holder of an exemption.

Fishermen with exemptions will have to provide statistical information to the department in the same format and manner as that of the log books issued to under 10 metre commercial fishing vessels.

4.0 Jersey/Guernsey Access

4.1 Correspondence had been sent to Defra at officer level and from the Governor requesting Jersey involvement in any Management Agreement made between Guernsey and the UK for the Guernsey 3-12 mile area. Mike Smith showed the most recent article from the Guernsey Press (copy attached).

4.2 It was not thought that the Privy Council decision would affect the pot tagging scheme. French fishermen remained dissatisfied with the comparison between numbers of tags authorised in France and in Jersey. Greg Morel planned to work with IFREMER on economic models to explain the difference.

5.0 Setting of nets from the shore and neap tides

If nets caught by neap tides continued to be a problem measures might then be considered. Department Officers requested Panel members to report any incidents brought to their attention.

6.0 Any Other Business

6.1 Forthcoming JAC meeting

Mike Smith reported on the various items to be discussed at the JAC due to take place in Jersey on 19 June 2007. These included whelk stocks, the possible introduction of an Ecolabel, adherence to the 1997 Pair Trawling Agreement, net length, gear losses and lobster MLS. The JMC meeting would discuss Officer exchanges and VMS data. Don Thompson asked for the non-respect of beam trawler numbers to be added to the agenda.

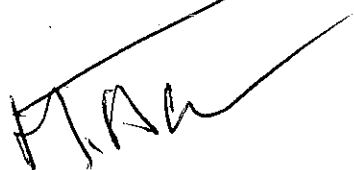
6.2 Don Thompson invited all those interested in the "Toute la Mer sur un Plateau" in Granville to contact him. Steve Luce had offered to transport produce.

6.3 Chris le Boutillier thought that a reminder of the fact that selling fish from a JY boat was illegal could be issued.

6.4 Ian Syvret requested an update on the enrolment of Honorary Police Officers to help in Fisheries enforcement. Mike Smith explained that of the initial 4 officers appointed two would be accompanying him on patrol to receive further training.

7.0 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 29 August 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Smith', is written over the date line.

FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES ADVISORY PANEL

(23rd Meeting)

Thursday 4th March 2004

Present :

- Deputy Mike Taylor - Chairman
- C Le Boutillier representing the Boat Owners (Northern Section)
- R Viney representing Jersey exporters
- Ian Syvret representing the Jersey Inshore Fishermen's Association
- Don Thompson representing the Jersey Fishermen's Association
- Doug Ward representing the Jersey Fishermen's Association
- Doug Le Masurier representing the Jersey Aquaculture Association

In attendance :

- Chris Newton, Director of Environment (for Items 1 & 2)
- Dr S F Bossy, Sea Fisheries Adviser
- M Smith, Senior Fisheries Inspector
- G Morel, Fisheries Officer R & D
- P Lawrence , Assistant Harbour Master (for Items 1 to 5)
- F Smith, Fisheries Support Officer - Minutes

Max de la Haye had sent his apologies for not being able to attend.

1.0 Minutes and matters arising

Chris Le Boutillier pointed out that in 2.0 concerning Ramsar designation "Ecréhous" was to be replaced by "low water areas". Lawrence Carter had been contacted concerning this same item but had not yet attended any meetings. As to mud in St Aubin's Harbour, Peter Lawrence explained that the problem was being investigated and the Panel would be kept informed.

2.0 Application for development of oyster and mussel farm

- 2.1 The Jersey Aquaculture Association expressed its concerns about the damage already caused by the proliferation of mussel spat inside the oyster bags. This was a problem which would be exacerbated by proximity between the different concessions. Regular division of the developing oysters prevented too many mussels developing but the problem remained.
- 2.2 The Jersey Fishermen's Association voiced their concerns about the loss of valuable fishing grounds particularly for bass netting if the application was accepted. They wondered if all the already allocated area was being used intensively.
- 2.3 Steve Luce explained that expansion was necessary to compensate for fewer poles being used than initially planned. In addition oyster bags were occupying more and

proposed legislation on this point.

5.0 Ramsar designation

5.1 A meeting was to be held at Grouville Parish Hall on 10th March concerning the three proposed designated sites, the Minquiers, the Ecrehous and the Pierres de Lecq.

Peter Lawrence left the meeting.

5.2 The French Comités Locaux had been informed of the meeting. French fishermen were opposed to the location of a wind farm in this area.

5.3 Jersey fishermen were concerned about the extent of the area which would be lost for the fishing industry.

6.0 Bag Limits

6.1 The EDC had agreed the principle of bag limits in September 2003.

6.2 Ormers and bass would be the first species targeted. A figure of 20 ormers per person per day or 100 ormers per day per boat was agreed. Law drafting for the legislation relating to ormers to be ready for the beginning of the next season (October 2004) would be requested.

7.0 Increase in MLS spider crabs to 130mm

7.1 Spider crabs of 115mm - 125mm could gain up to four times in weight and 40mm in one moult which should be an incentive to fishermen to accept this change. Merchants saw this as a way of improving the quality of the market and the reputation of the Jersey spider crab.

7.2 This change and these arguments would be proposed at the forthcoming meeting of the JAC but with little hope of it being accepted as a market for small immature crabs existed in France.

8.0 Sole stocks in Vlle

8.1 It was not clear if regulations would affect under 10m vessels as well as over 10m ones. Measures concerning sole were based on a decline in sole statistics.

8.2 It was necessary for Jersey to declare sole catches to DEFRA to demonstrate that Granville Bay stocks were not in decline. There was some evidence that the Granville Bay stock and the Vlle stock were separate stocks.