

Submission to the Scrutiny panel - "Monitoring and regulation of coastal waters"

September 25th 2010

From the Marine Biology section of the Société Jersiaise

We forward our submission in full from May 2009 to the Waste Plant scrutiny review as much of it is relevant to this review, and it gives a background to our comments on this subject previously.

We would also point out that Bex Holmes of the section has written a paper:

"Estimated inorganic nutrient loading to intertidal regions from catchment and waste water sources and the observed effects on the marine benthic macro-algae in Jersey, Channel Islands." E.R. Holmes 2010, a hard copy is in the Lord Coutanche Library and a PDF can be supplied on request.

The section would like to see some baseline data created for as much as possible in this area and would suggest the Island follow what is undertaken on a National basis in England and, or France as best possible practice. The implementation of such surveying and testing should be made a priority as the lack of baseline data will make any future management issues difficult to assess and calculate how the marine environment is standing up in a modern world where major pollution issues are becoming more and more common place and the Island has been close to or affected by a number of major contaminations from oil and chemical tankers. The Island sewage and drainage system is also a problematic issue with until recently raw sewage being pumped directly into the sea officially and unofficially. The neighbouring Bailiwick of Guernsey continues to pump untreated sewage in the sea, and some of the French systems would appear somewhat dated.

We suggest commercial species for example Bass, Mullet, Pollack, Lobster, Crab, and Whelks be tested along the lines of National testing regimes which are carried out over periods of time, most notably for PCB's and other known toxins.

The effects of global warming should also be considered and monitored in some way as rising sea temperatures have already been associated with a number of incidents locally in the form of shellfish diseases to Ormers, Oysters (farmed), lug worm mortality. There are issues with both zoo and phyto-plankton that need to be assessed and we would suggest these dovetail in with French schemes which are most likely of more value to the Island as they cover and monitor the surrounding waters coupled with the importance of water quality for aquaculture there and they are familiar with the associated problems. A detailed ongoing survey of the Islands plankton should be considered.

Water clarity and turbidity: the storm of March 2008 affected the clarity of the waters around the Island for several months, causing starvation amongst sea bird colonies, there was also an effect on the fisheries during this period, should these occurrences of major storms due to global warming as predicted by some scientists happen on a more frequent basis this issue will become more of a concern. We realise that this is most likely out of the bounds of a fix by the Island, but never the less should be at least noted and recorded.

There is pollution in the form of discarded waste most notably plastics, the Island has successfully reduced its dependency on carrier bags, so initiatives in other areas should also be considered for example the use of plastic packaging and containers should be phased out where possible. A great

deal of waste from the La Collette and previously west of Albert reclamation site has been allowed to enter the sea through bad management and negligence; this should not be allowed to happen in the future schemes should they occur.

Nicolas Jouault - Chairman