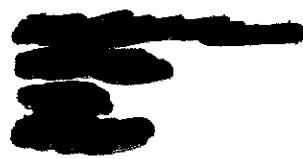
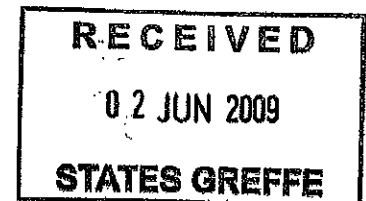


Further to my E-mail of 30-5-09
Please find this written confirmation
Best Regards,
Paul Dwyer



30th May 2009

Scrutiny Office
Morier House
St. Helier
JE1 1DD



Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to provide this written submission, for evidence, in order to support local leisure anglers and amateur boat fisherman, against adopting the proposed legislation for "Bag Limits" for non professional fishermen. The restrictions that presently occur on Leisure Fisherman are already more than enough to contend with.

In my opinion, it would be more economical for the amateur to buy his fish from the fish market than to spend his hard earned cash, on his boat, fishing gear, rods, reels, lines, terminal tackle and bait; not taking into account, the time taken in preparation before he/she can actually start fishing!

Once actually fishing he is confronted by commercial strings of pots, close in-shore or by commercial netting which takes place close in-shore.

While I understand and support the need of commercial fishermen to earn their livelihoods, coupled with the costs, involved in boats tackle licence, bait etc., I firmly believe that strings of pots or commercial netting taking place presently, should not be allowed to continue in-shore, but should be taking place and limited to $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to 1 mile at least out from the shore line and larger commercial vessels should fish further up channel.

Placing further restrictions on the amateur is not the way to go, in my opinion. The small local fisherman has been fishing from our bays, harbours and coastline and when the seasons have been good, they have been able to provide fresh fish for their families and friends, while enjoying their leisure time and the beautiful sea and landscape around them. This way of life has continued in our Island for generations.

Most fishermen are environmentally aware of the consequences of overfishing and obey the law concerning the taking of fish or shellfish. For example: Lobsters which are the correct size but are breeding (hens with eggs) are returned to the sea.

If, as alleged there are fishermen without licences who are selling their catches, thus breaking the law, then proper policing should ensure that these people are brought to book. The vast majority of leisure fishermen obey the law and should not have their way of life disrupted or be penalised because of a greedy small minority.

If the main purpose of the proposed legislation is to prevent abuse by a very small number of anglers who have been catching fish and selling them, then I submit that it will fail. The proposed limits will affect a lot of people in our Island. Better policing will succeed and also allow the vast majority of people to enjoy this wonderful leisure activity and way of life.

It may not be an exact analogy, but it could be claimed that it is like legislation that existed in the middle ages, when only the Seigneur of the manor was allowed to keep a Colombier with doves to provide meat in the winter, but not the peasants.

I totally support the conservation of fish stocks, in particular, Bass stocks. I feel there must be a greater movement, to stop trawling for Bass by commercial vessels off the south coast of England particularly in the winter months when the Bass are spawning. Normally after spawning and during the spring the immature fish return to rivers and estuaries, surrounding the Channel. It has been reported that commercial vessels are taking the spawning fish at their most vulnerable time. This is a period when the fish should be left to follow their natural cycle. Once again, over- exploitation, by commercial fishermen is shown to be the problem and not the leisure angler.

Oceana is a leading organisation that campaigns to protect and restore the world's oceans and the people and creatures that depend on them. In a recent report by Andrew Sharpless the CEO of Oceana, it was stated:

"In 2006, an international team of scientists assessed the state of the world's oceans in an article that was published in Science magazine. Their findings were that: Nearly a third of the world's commercial fisheries had already collapsed and if trends were allowed to continue, all the world's fisheries would collapse by mid century.

First, people assume that ocean collapse is driven by pollution. For example, oil and mercury pollution of the oceans is a consequence of things that people want and need, e.g. petrol in their cars, electricity in their homes.

The good news is that most of the collapses in ocean fisheries are not caused by pollution! They are instead caused by short-sighted commercial fishing practices that include overfishing, habitat destruction and high levels of bycatch. These are fixable problems. We know what to do. We just need to get the government officials who set the rules for commercial fishing to do a better job."

Yours Faithfully,


Paul Dwyer