

26th January 2021

Dear Connetable Jackson and EHI scrutiny panel,

I like many others loved fishing so much, we just had no other career path choice. But every year extra burdens are placed on operating a Jersey fishing boat, and the impact of Jersey's inclusion in TECA, along with other factors, will end the Jersey fleet as we know it.

Shellfish market

Covid-19 destabilised worldwide shellfish markets, but Europe recovered after 4 months. Following the TECA the European market instantly became harder to access with lengthy paperwork to complete for boats and live shellfish lorries. Marine Resources have helped no end trying to smooth this over, but UK shellfish is already being sold cheap into ASIA, instead of Europe, and most likely will continue. Many UK boats have been told to tie up. There is insufficient domestic demand to support the whole UK or Jersey fleet. Where we will sell our catch in future is of great concern. It is still a fantastic product.

Territorial Seas

All boats will travel to the most productive ground for the species they can best sell. As species know no political boundaries, it means Jersey boats do cross over to French waters, just as French boats come Jersey. Restricting this cross over will only add pressure to stocks closer to home, as all boats will target the same species. It is no secret Jersey waters are fished to their limit for chancre crabs and lobster. Spider crabs and scallops are once again abundant. French waters are very different, that's why we choose to go there.

It is right for each flag state to license all boats fishing in their respective waters, and charge for the privilege.

I have only just learned I may not qualify for continued access to French waters. This after having invested in a replacement boat and UK license specifically to fish that far away. This for me will be the biggest impact of TECA.

Kind Regards

Peter Gay 'POT LUCK' J 140