

Marine Spatial Plan Review Submission

Philip Channing – 28 August 2024

I am a fourth generation fisherman and my son is at present fishing and he is the fifth. I personally have been fishing professionally for over 50 years and I am a great believer in sustainability and conservation of our local fish stocks in my family. There are more than 600 years combined effort in the local fishing industry so I feel I know what I'm talking about. Since Brexit, I've witnessed a large proportion of our fishing fleet go to the wall due to the deal done with the EU by not being able to market our fish into France like we always used to. An even bigger threat is on the horizon by banning us mobile gear boats out of traditional grounds that have been fished for hundreds of years. I know the main people pushing to have Mobile gear boats thrown out local waters are a few divers, the same divers that received tens of thousands of pounds of taxpayers' money to purchase scallops from local mobile gear boats to stock the inshore scallop beds (they didn't mind mobile gear boats then). Over the last few months I've attended half a dozen meetings with other fisherman to put a chart forward, showing our most valued ground to us. We thought we had come to a compromise as Fisheries were involved. Then we see a revised chart, throwing us out of traditional grounds that have been fished for hundreds of years. In the latest chart I've seen we will be banned from all the sandbanks of our inshore grounds Saint Aubin's Bay and Grouville Bay. I can't see why we're being banned from sandbanks during the winter months. Our small boats rely on these inshore areas to make a living during the winter.

With our raging tides we shelter on inshore grounds. By throwing us our traditional grounds out to deeper water they will be in no doubt putting fishermen's lives at risk. We will be pushed out to fish among the French and we know in the future we're gonna lose a big chunk of ground in the deep water due to the proposed windfarm in all other jurisdictions. They have grandfather rights etc.

A blade of grass is not worth a fisherman's life. Please, please don't let our fishing industry end up like the farming industry.