

MARINE RESOURCES PANEL MEETING

112th Meeting

Brief notes and action points from meeting held at Howard Davis Farm

26th February 2024

Present:	William Peggie – Director Natural Environment (Chairman) Steve Luce – Minister for the Environment Don Thompson (DT) - representing Jersey Fishermen’s Association Steve Viney (SV) - representing Jersey Fishermen’s Association Chris Le Masurier (CLM) – representing the Aquaculture Industry Garry Allan (GA) – representing Jersey Inshore Fishermen Association Natalie Porritt (NT) – representing Jersey Merchants Stanley Richard-dit-Leschery (SR) – representing Ports of Jersey Chris Isaacs – representing Recreational Fishermen’s Association Peter Tarrant (PT) – Jersey Merchants/Aquaculture Steve Mullins (SM) - representing Jersey Inshore Fishermen Association
In Attendance:	Francis Binney (FB) – Acting Head of Marine Resources Alex Plaster (AP) – Marine Science and Research Officer, Marine Resources Jonathan Billot (LB) – Acting Marine Resources and Compliance Manager Kerrie-Anne Egge (KAE) Assistant Marine and fisheries Officer (minutes)
Apologies:	Société Jersiaise

		Action
1.	Approval of Minutes from the previous meeting and Matters Arising	
	<p>The minutes from the previous meeting on 23rd October were approved.</p> <p>Opening remarks from Steve Luce, Minister for the Environment.</p> <p>Welcome to everyone, and I’m sure you’ll recognise me from my previous term in government as Minister for the Environment. As before, my door is always open and please do email me if you have an issue of concern.</p>	
2	<p>Capture Fisheries</p> <p>Bream box closure</p> <p>Marine Resources confirmed closure of the two sites to mobile gear would run April to July to cover known nesting period, as with previous years. SV asked if other sites may be considered for closure in the future. FB explained that more work would be required to map out habitats.</p> <p>Bass permit system</p>	

Marine Resources advised that approx. 8 netting and 8 rod and line permits would be made available. Fleet have been contacted but there is a waiting list. Permits will be reviewed every 2 years in line with usage. Two so far have been forfeited and will be re-allocated.

DT – good to see the system working with constraint and control. Recognised that the permits are allocated in an intelligent way. It is an example of a successful scheme and a good collaborative piece of work – a credit to those involved.

Fisheries Management Agreement (FMA)

Marine Resources explained that now that the Isle of Man FMA has concluded, Jersey has started the negotiations on the Jersey FMA.

DT – negotiations on historic rights goes back to the London Convention (Jersey was not a signatory). Keen that we do not copy and paste the old agreement or the Isle of Man agreement, and that the main benefit is for local marine resources and for it not to be designed to suit the UK. Some concerns over external relations support in this area.

FB explained that the FMA would take the form of an operational agreement, more of a peer-to-peer agreement that is not legally binding. Next month we will work to develop the agreement. The agreement will not be the same as Isle of Man but will share some similarities. Marine Resources will meet with the JFA/JIFA to discuss in more detail.

MR/JFA/JIFA

PT mentioned that the Isle of Man don't own the seabed as Jersey do and FB pointed out that there are also some geographical differences which may perhaps allow for a shorter route to completion.

JFA – engagement with French Authorities

DT – Thinking back to an era where regular meetings were held with French counterparts that brought marine managers together. Since the collapse of the GBA there haven't been many meetings, and it would be useful to re-engage on a new level with the French authorities. Will there be any scope for new meetings where the JFA could be included?

WP – Agrees that there is a place and part for us in a post-Brexit world to build relations.

FB explained that DEFRA are supportive of us to engaging with France now on science and joint research and hopes that there will be a meeting in May/June where the JFA will be included. We will also host the Technical management meeting in October with DEFRA, France and the EU in attendance.

CLM – Aquaculture would also like to be included in any joint meetings.

SL agreed and said he was happy from a political aspect to engage with France, reignite those conversations and get back to grass-roots and local management.

	<p>Catch App Jersey</p> <p>Marine Resources have been working with a technology supplier to develop an app which would replace the current paper fishing logbook system. KAE provided some screen shots of the app which is in its pre-production state and agreed to invite JFA/JIFA in for a full demo and testing during March/April</p>	
3	<p>Other matters</p> <p>JFA – role of MRP and engagement levels.</p> <p>DT – an incredible forum that others would be envious of. Needs to be influential. Perhaps we need a Terms of Reference (ToR) to remind us of what we are doing here, what is the panel for, and to encourage everyone to participate. SL agreed a ToR would be useful and FB agreed that MR would draft one ahead on next MRP. Some questions around membership, and assessing membership arose but agreed we could look at once we have a draft document.</p> <p>(I)-VMS update</p> <p>MR are getting close to go live for (I)-VMS but there are some outstanding integration tasks with the MMO. 31st March pencilled in but may be a short delay. SV raised concerns over the data being shared and questioned whether Jersey Coastguard can see the data, AP confirmed that they could but it was for SAR purposes. FB explained that the project was inexpensive in comparative terms and that the airtime would be paid by Marine Resources for 24 months.</p> <p>TCA licencing – replacement engine policy</p> <p>Discussion around the need for a replacement vessel policy for when a vessel drops out of the system and makes room for another. JB explained that there is an administrative process for EU vessels in Jersey waters, and that it is separate from the Jersey licencing scheme. There is an absolute maximum ceiling/capacity in place for French vessels to ensure that there is not a continual trade up for larger vessels with more capacity.</p> <p>Marine Spatial Plan</p> <p>Marine Resources receive 130+ consultation responses and are working them into a summary point/document. Will go to Minister to accept or reject and then redraft over 4-6 weeks. Also meeting scrutiny panel to brief. PT asked if responses would be published and FB explained that it follows the Island Plan procedure, and that each comment will receive a response.</p> <p>Marine Resources Annual report 2022</p> <p>FB advised that the annual report is ready to go if anyone would like to read/provide feedback.</p>	MR

	<p>NP raised concerns over the data and noticed a discrepancy with the commercial landings. As an example, the differences between what is declared for the commercial landings and what is exported, the figures do not seem like they can be absorbed locally.</p> <p>AP said that (I)-VMS will be able to address this and give us more insight into these discrepancies.</p> <p>NP disappointed that measures agreed at the Lobster WG have not been implemented (not one measure since 2019).</p> <p>SL agreed to prioritise looking at the law drafting schedule for Marine Resources, will assess all in the pipeline and prioritise accordingly .</p> <p>Ramsar</p> <p>KAE described the protected wetlands area and advised that the Ramsar group have a new chair, Andrew Mitchell, and have had a bit of an overhaul of their Terms of Reference. It was explained that JFA/JIFA are currently listed in the membership of the ToR and a question was raised as to how involved they wanted to be with the group.</p> <p>CLM suggested it may be an idea to invite Andrew Mitchell to MRP to explain the changes and direction of the group. MR to speak to Andrew on this front.</p>	MR
	<p>Next Meeting date 22nd April 2024</p>	