



# COMMERCE AND EMPLOYMENT

A STATES OF GUERNSEY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT



## COMMERCE AND EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT

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# Sea Fisheries Economic and Statistical Report for 2005

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\* **Cover Picture**- Clearing spider gear north of Herm aboard Fleur De Braye (GU79). Overall spider landings in 2005 were the lowest for many years reflecting declining abundance on local grounds. Changing distribution of the English Channel spider stock, possibly in response to increasing sea temperatures has probably contributed to this decline.

## 1. Introduction

Statistics presented in this report were compiled using logbook data, which is compulsory for all GU licenced fishing vessels. The Bailiwick licenced fleet is dominated by smaller day boats and accurate data regarding the composition and amount of catches and the types and amount of effort employed from these boats is crucial for managing fisheries resources both locally and at the European level. Having access to reliable fishery data allows the Department to assess management proposals from a properly informed position.



**Fig1:** Small day running boats that typify the GU registered fleet.

It is important to note that none of the landings data presented in this report includes catches taken within the 12 mile sea area by recreational vessels, UK and Jersey licensed vessels, or by the French. The reader should avoid drawing conclusions about the status of fish stocks from the data presented, however the information does provide an excellent barometer on the abundance of key commercial species in Bailiwick waters.

## 2. Landings

**Table 1:** Landings and approximate value of major target species taken by GU registered vessels 2003-2005.

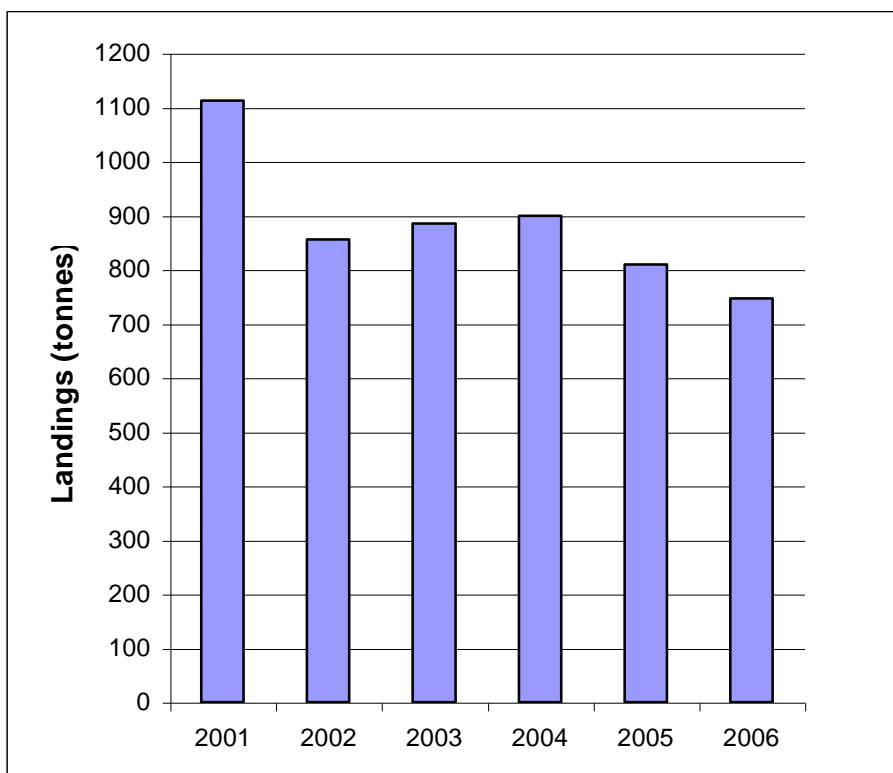
Species	Landings 2005 (tonnes)	Approx Value (£000's)	Landings 2004 (tonnes)	Approx Value (£000's)	Landings 2003 (tonnes)	Approx Value 2003 (£000,s)
Anglerfish	2.3	7	0.9	3.2	1.9	6.6
Bass	173.0	951	127.8	639	49.2	246
Black Bream	158.8	175	49.9	50	131.3	131
Brill	13.8	97	9.8	78.5	9.4	75.2
Cod	0.5	1	1.0	2	3.0	6
Conger <sup>(1)</sup>	58.5	60	22.4	10	23.2	2
Crayfish	0.3	5	1.2	21.6	1.3	23.4
Cuttlefish	2.5	2	4.5	1.6	5	3
Dogfish	20.6	10	12.9	9	45	35
Edible Crab	810.4	1078 <sup>(3)</sup>	899	1215 <sup>(3)</sup>	885	1194 <sup>(3)</sup>
Grey mullet	1.1	0.5	1	0.5	1.1	0.6
Gurnard	5.5	2	3.6	1.1	15	11.25
John Dory	0.4	2.8	0.5	3.5	1.1	7.7
Lobster	59.8	718	60.5	725.4	49	588
Ling	1.8	2	1.1	0.7	No data	-
Mackerel	7.1	1.5	5.2	2	No data	-
Plaice	2.9	9	2.7	8	1.7	5.1
Pollack	44.4	67	35.9	43	21.4	25.7
Pout	1.5	0.5	1.1	0.4	2.3	1
Ray	144.6	217 <sup>(2)</sup>	117.4	173.9 <sup>(2)</sup>	163	239.3 <sup>(2)</sup>
Red mullet	12.1	61	10.1	50.2	10.3	51.5
Sand Sole	2.0	6	1.1	3.2	1	3
Sandeel <sup>(4)</sup>	45	-	43.2	-	37.9	-
Scallop	101.3	354.5	107.6	376.7	89.2	312.2
Smoothound	18.8	37.6	11.3	22.6	No data	-
Sole	5.4	37.8	6.0	48.1.	4.8	38.4
Spider	73.3	80.6 <sup>(3)</sup>	99	115 <sup>(3)</sup>	146	171 <sup>(3)</sup>
Squid	0.3	1.5	0.4	2.0	0.9	4.5
Turbot	8.1	65	7.0	55.7	4.3	34.4
Tope	38.0	76	26	45	No data	-
Wrasse <sup>(1)</sup>	4.7	-	5.5	-	No data	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1819</b>	<b>4126</b>	<b>1675.6</b>	<b>3701.9</b>	<b>1703.3</b>	<b>3215.9</b>

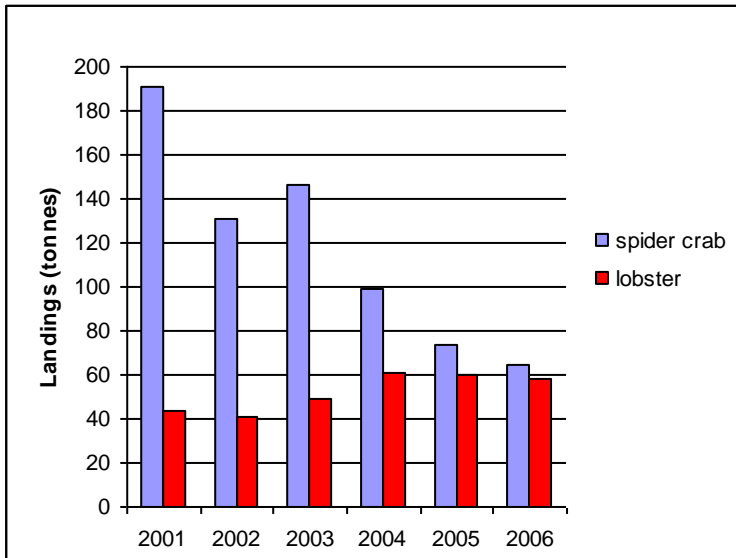
1. Data incomplete as many more are landed in pots and used for bait
  2. Includes ray back bait value
  3. Value based on landings adjusted for mortality (-10%)
  4. Sandeel landings all sold locally for bait, value not shown.
- \* No data where information is absent, unreliable or incomplete.

Table 1 above shows the landings of principal commercial species taken by GU registered vessels 2003 – 2005. Bass landings in 2005 were the highest ever taken in a calendar year by GU registered vessels reflecting the high abundance of this species in Channel waters. The winter line fishery at Boue Blondel accounted for around 85 tonnes of this total (see section 4). Bream landings reverted to similar levels achieved in 2003 with the re-establishment of a pelagic pair team (Copius and Amy Blue) with all fish landed into Cherbourg.

The longline fishery for conger, tope and smoothound prosecuted by one of our larger over ten metre trawlers (Nicola May GU 57) continued in 2005 being joined by a similar vessel operated from Alderney (Maurandus GU74). Landing into Cherbourg the vessels achieved consistently good prices for these species locally regarded as only fit for crab pot bait but sought after for human consumption on the Continent. Maurandus foundered off the Casquets in April 2006. Overall the landings and value increased in 2005, and although potting continues to be the mainstay of the under ten metre sector in terms of weight landed, wetfish accounted for 54% of the total value of fish and shellfish landed by GU registered vessels in 2005.

### 3. Analysis Of Shellfish Landings





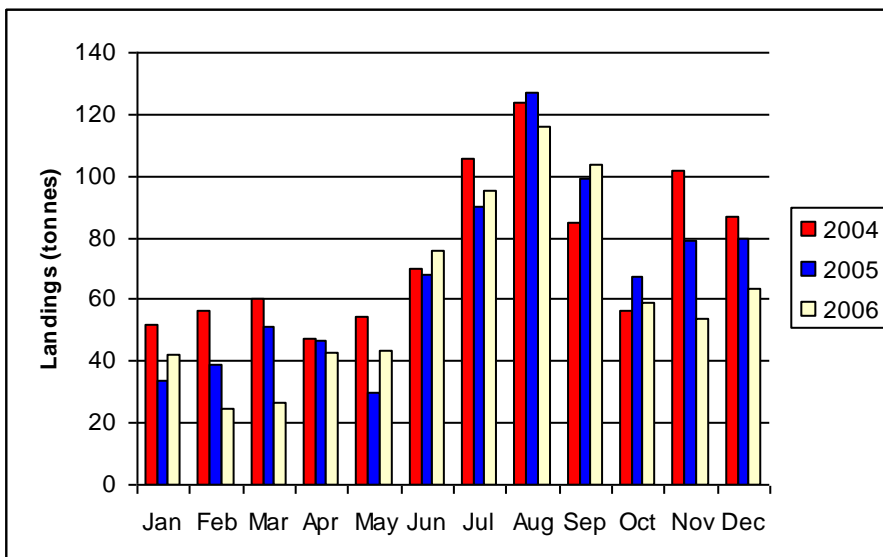
**Chart 1:** Edible crab landings 2001-2005

**Chart 2:** Spider crab and lobster landings 2001-2005

Charts 1 and 2 show the crustacea landings (excluding crayfish) 2001-2005. There was again a fall in edible crab landings for 2005 and this trend has been evident for a number of years now. Landings per unit effort have remained relatively stable with an average 79kg per 100 pot lifts in 2004 and 77kg per 100 lifts in 2005 (calculated from total pot lifts of all types against total edible crab landings). At the end of 2005 the last of the Channel class of potters based in Alderney (Paulanda GU9) ceased fishing .

Although it is not possible to identify a reduction in potting effort through the logbook data at present, some skippers have switched to targeting wetfish as a major part of their fishing activity due to the poor marketing prospects that persist for shellfish. Prices for edible crab show no sign of improving with expanding pot fisheries in Ireland and the East coast of the UK landing catches into the Continent.

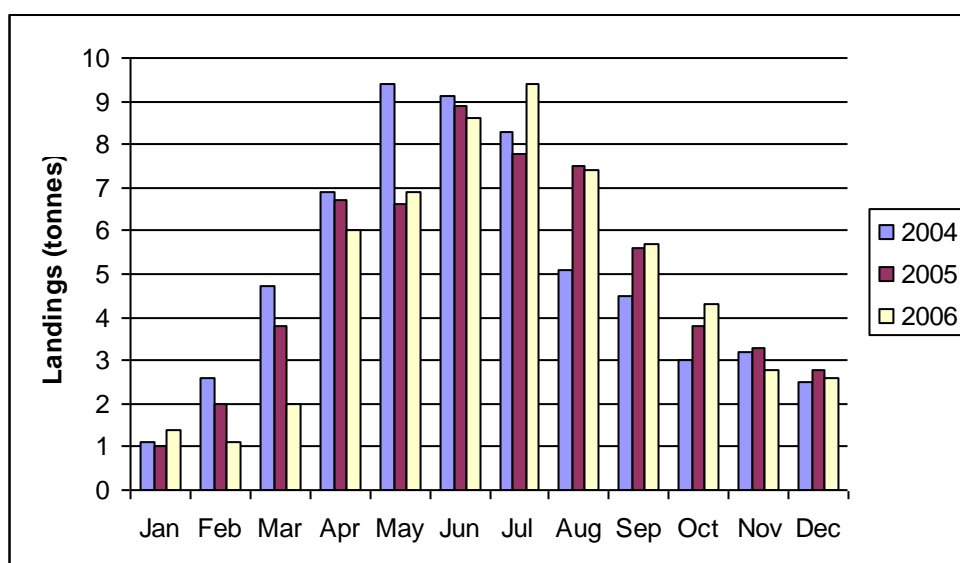
**Edible Crab:**



**Chart 3: Monthly Edible Crab landings 2004-2006**

Chart 3 compares monthly edible crab landings by month for 2004/2005. The main edible crab fishery occurs in the second half of the year as clearly depicted above. It can be seen that there were higher landings in most months of 2004 compared to 2005. The reduction in effort from 2 larger crabbers reported earlier certainly contributed to this reduction with overall LPUE not indicating a decline in edible crab abundance locally.

**Lobster:**

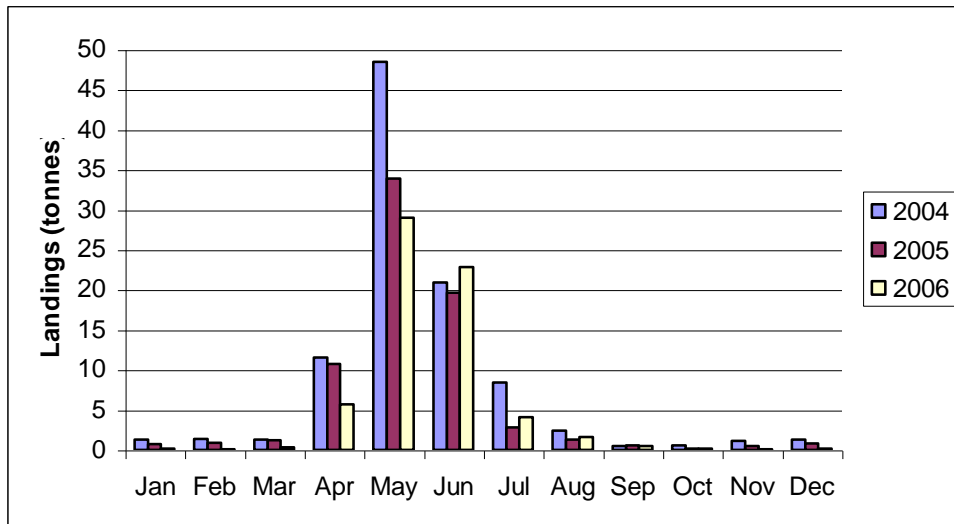


**Chart 4: Monthly Lobster landings 2004/2005**

Chart 4 compares lobster landings by month for 2004/2005. It can be seen that overall landings were of a similar level in 2005 as recorded in 2004 at around 60 tonnes. Landings were generally higher in the first half of 2004 than 2005, probably due to the known variability in the feeding behaviour of lobsters. Less potting effort was also evident in the first half of 2005 due to some crabbers targeting bass during this period.

**Spider:**

At just over 73 tonnes, Spider landings in 2005 were the lowest for many years with lower fishing effort and lower abundance particularly off the Islands west coast the contributing factors. The distribution of the spider stock is known to have changed in recent years with a northward extension in the range of the stock evident. The main fishery is associated with the inshore migration of the stock in the spring as clearly illustrated in the May landings peak in Chart 5.



**Chart 5:** Monthly Spider Crab landings 2004-2006

## 5. The Fleet

Table 3 shows compares the Guernsey licenced fleet as it stood at the end of 2004 with the current position. Although 86 Guernsey licences are currently issued to UK registered vessels as part of our reciprocal licensing arrangement with the UK, only a small number of these vessels have actually fished in Bailiwick waters since January 2004.

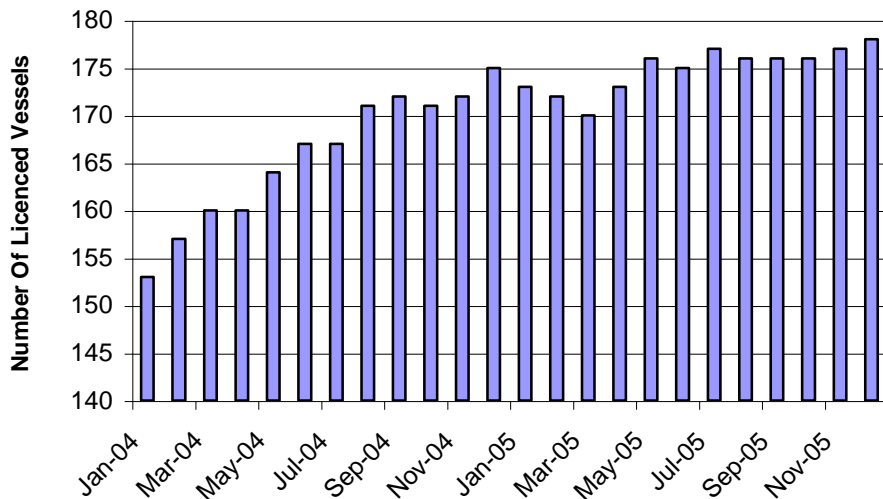
**Table 3:** The Guernsey licensed fleet.

Vessel Category	Number Of Vessels December 2004	Number of vessels August 2006
GU registered <10m (32'9")	158	164
GU registered >10m	16	13 <sup>(1)</sup>
Jersey registered >10m	9	9
Jersey Registered <10m	1	2
UK registered (all vessels)	84	86
Total	268	274

(1) Includes L'Etoile Du Nord, GU45 (non active) and Anne Thierry, GU1 (fish carrier).

Chart 7 shows the development of the GU registered licensed fleet. It can be seen that an additional 25 vessels were added to the GU fleet in the period January 2004 to December 2005.



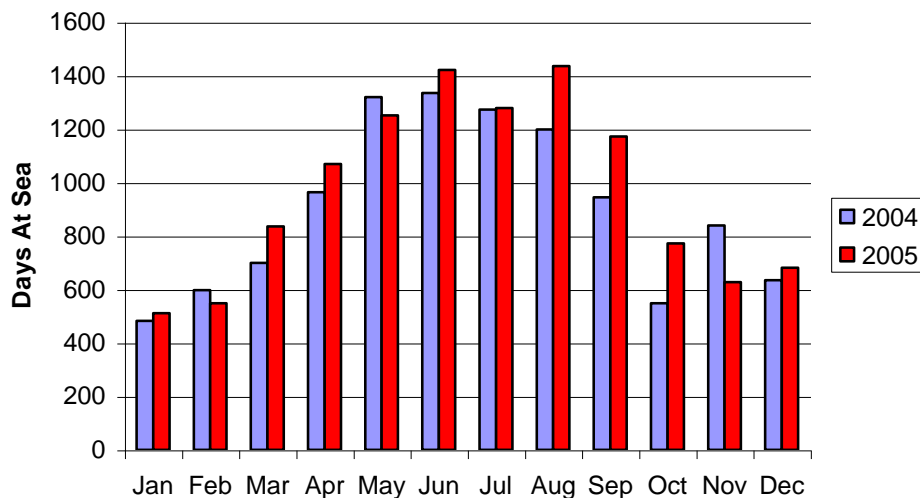


**Chart 7.** Development of the GU registered and licensed fleet January 2004 – December 2005. Number of vessels as at month end.

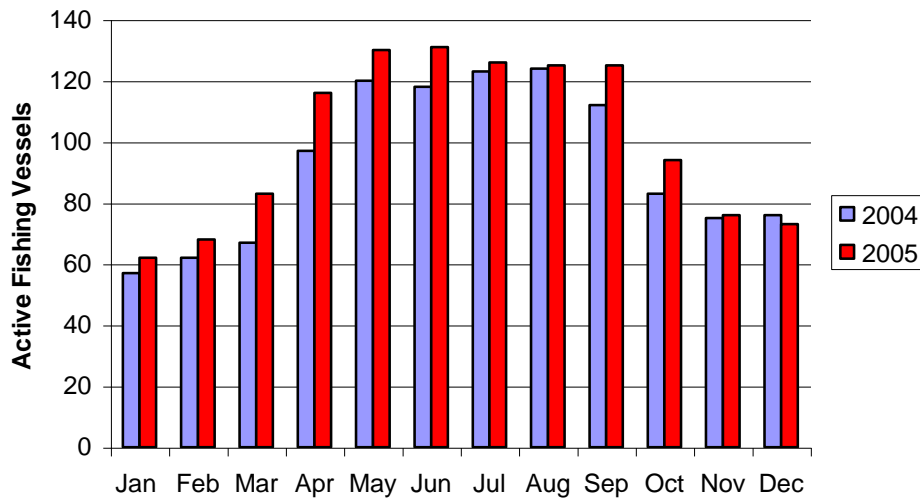
## 6. Fishing Effort

### 6.1 Fleet Effort

Chart 8 compares the combined number of days at sea exerted by the GU registered licensed fleet in 2004 and 2005. There was an overall increase in days at sea in 2005 compared to 2004. An increase in the number of licenced fishing vessels that actively fished for all months except December 2005 was the major reason for this increase (see chart 9). The influence of better summer weather allowing more vessels and more days at sea is clearly illustrated by the sharp increase in activity from April through to September on both charts



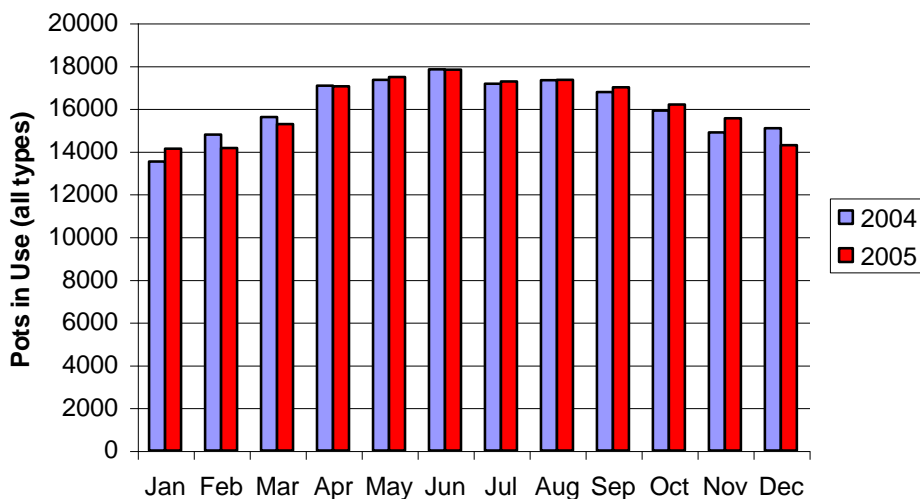
**Chart 8.** Combined fleet days at sea 2004 /2005 (All GU vessels).



**Chart 9:** Active fishing vessels 2004/2005. Vessel recorded as active if a logsheet is submitted for that vessel in a particular month.

## 6.2 Pots In Use

Chart 10 compares the total number of pots in use by GU registered vessels in 2004/2005. The number of pots in use by the fleet has remained relatively stable. Peak month in both years was June with 17811 pots in use in June 2005. The increased number of pots in the water evident during the summer months is due to the many seasonal vessels working small numbers of pots inshore.



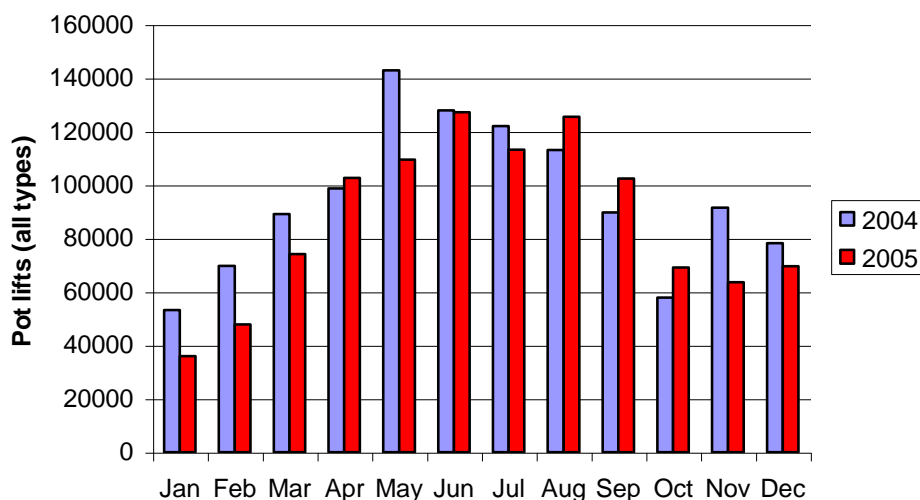
**Chart 10:** Pots in Use by month 2004/2005

## 6.3 Investment In Pots.

Assuming an average cost per pot (rigged in the water) of £50, the replacement value of pots operated by the GU registered fleet, based on the June 2005 peak month of 17811 pots is £890,550.

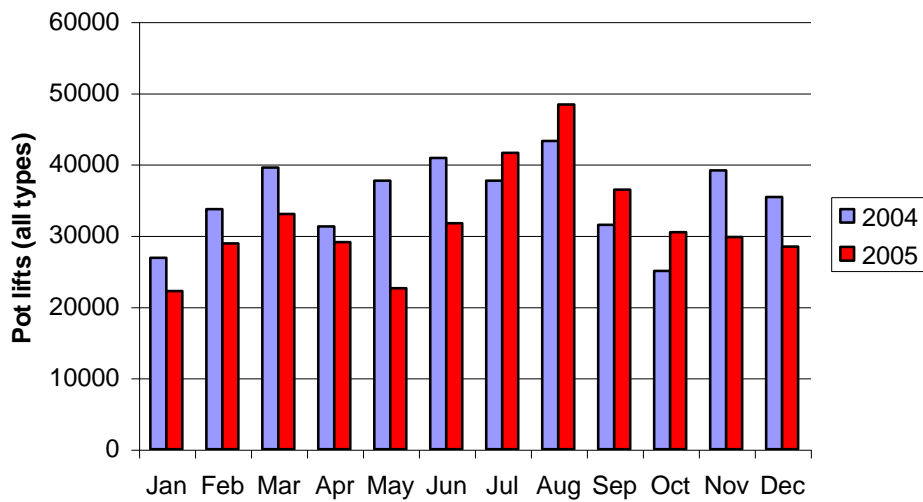
## 6.4 Pot lifts

Chart 11 compares the total number of pots lifted by month for 2004 and 2005. There was approximately a 10% reduction in pots lifted in 2005 compared with 2004, with a total of 1,042,465 pots lifted in 2005. The cessation of fishing by the large Alderney based crabber Paulanda towards the end of 2005 and a refit for our largest crabber Sarah P (GU399) contributed to this decline (as illustrated in Chart 12). There was also a marked reduction in the turnover of spider gear by the under ten metre fleet with a number of skippers opting not to target the species in 2005. The variation in pot lifts during the year is largely due to the influence of the under ten metre fleet as better weather and catch rates during the summer allows more access to the gear for the smaller vessels.



**Chart 11:** Monthly Pot lifts all vessels

Monthly pot lifts for the 5 over ten metre potters in the Guernsey fleet is shown in Chart 12. A total of 382,469 predominantly inkwell lifts were made by these vessels in 2005, some 40,00 lower than in 2004. The Sarah P refit from April to June 2005 and the cessation of fishing by the large Alderney crabber Paulanda were responsible for this lower turnover of gear by the over ten metre crabbers in 2005.

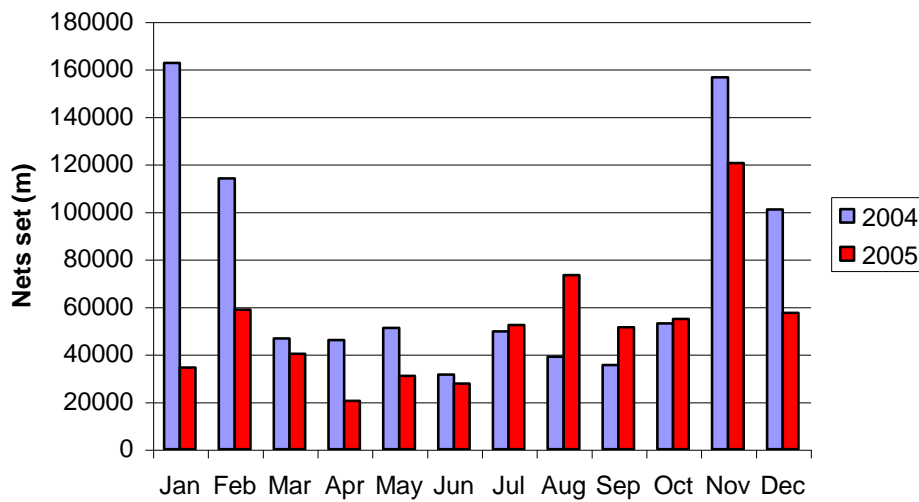


**Chart 12:** Monthly pot lifts (>10 metre vessels)

## 6.5 Effort On Finfish and Molluscs

### Set Nets:

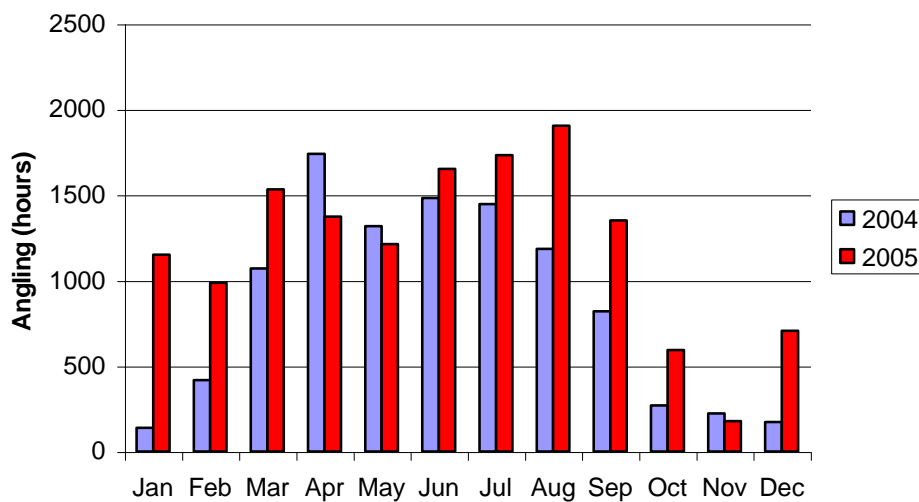
Chart 13 compares the total amount of set nets deployed by the licenced fleet in 2004 and 2005. Nets are set for a variety of species with an autumn and winter increase evident as the red mullet fishery takes place. In 2005 a total of 621,694 metres of net were set by the fleet compared with 886,030 in 2004. A major factor in this reduction was that there was less effort from an Alderney based netter targeting bass in the winter of 2005.



**Chart 13:** Monthly netting effort (metres deployed) 2004/2005.

### Angling :

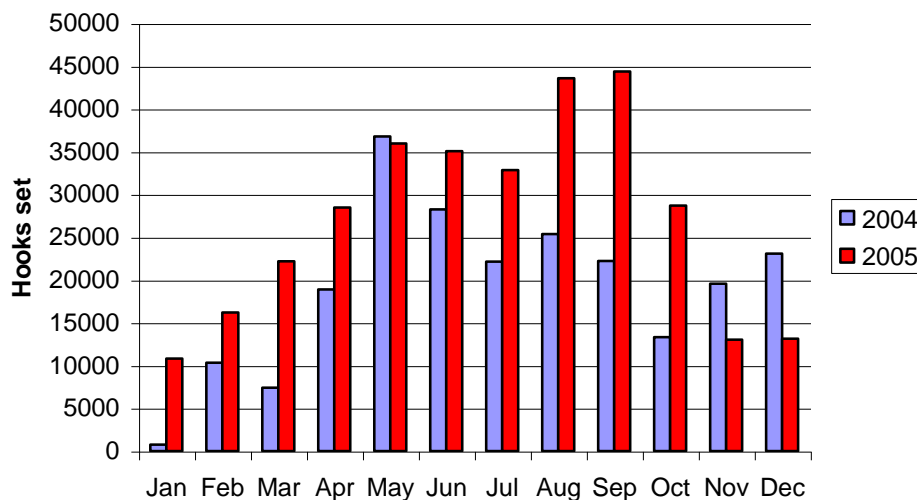
There was an increase in angling effort in 2005, due largely to the fishery at Boue Blondel. This is clearly evident in chart 14 below where the fleet spent over 4000 hours for the period January to March 2005 and December 2005. There was a total of 14370 hours spent angling in 2005 compared with 10281 in 2004. The increase in effort during the summer months again reflects the large number of part time seasonal vessels that make up the GU fleet.



**Chart 14:** Monthly angling effort (hours fishing) 2004/2005

### Longlining:

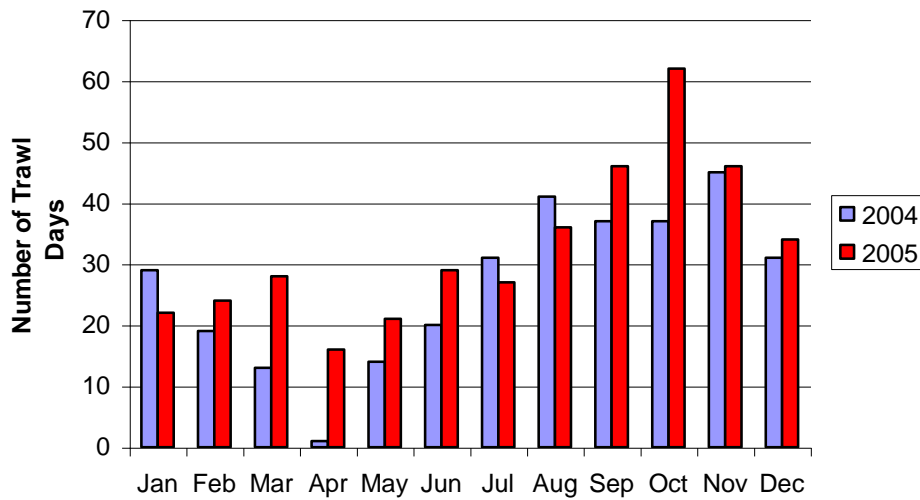
Chart 15 compares the number of hooks set by the GU fleet in 2004/2005. It can be seen that there was a significant increase in effort from this sector with a total of 324,427 hooks set in 2005 compare with 228,170 in 2004. This increase was due to two over ten metre vessels targeting tope and conger in 2005 reported in section 2 of this report.



**Chart 15:** Monthly longlining effort (hooks set) 2004/2005.

### Otter Trawling:

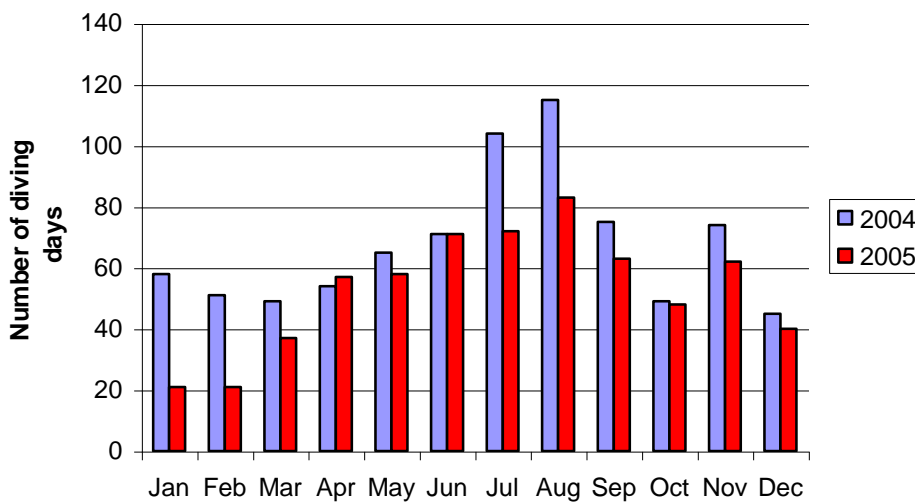
Chart 16 compares the number of days at sea the fleet spent otter trawling in 2004/2005. There were eight over ten metre vessels that trawled in 2004/2005 but only four did so as the main part of their annual fishing activity. Only four under ten metre vessels trawled in this period with only one doing so on a full time basis in 2005. There was an increase in effort in 2005 with 391 combined days at sea spent trawling compared to 318 in 2004.



**Chart 16:** Otter trawl fishing effort expressed as fishing days. Tow time varied per day at sea and comprehensive data on actual tow time is not available.

**Diving:**

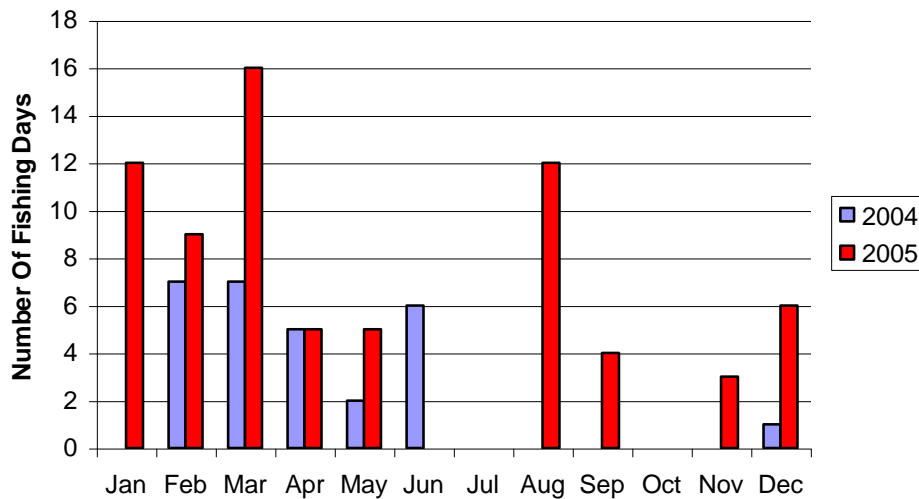
Chart 17 shows the number of dive voyages undertaken in 2004 and 2005. Most dive voyages were for scalloping where a typical day would involve around 2 hours bottom time per man. Around 20% of total dive effort was directed at flatfish. Data for the number of individual dives per vessel day and total bottom time is not available. There was a reduction in dive effort in terms of days at sea in 2005 (633 days) when compared with 2004 (810 days).



**Chart 17:** Dive effort (number of diving days) 2004/2005. Bottom time varied depending on fishery.

**Pair Trawling:**

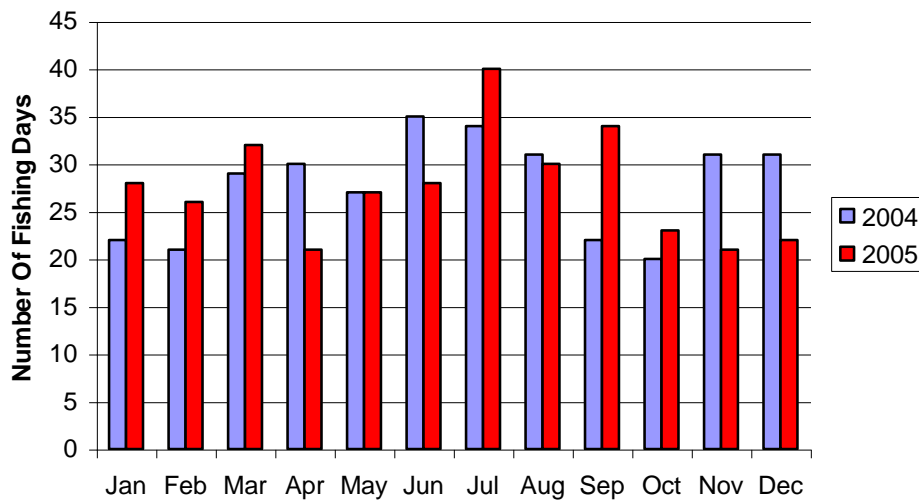
Chart 18 compares the pair trawl fishing effort in 2004/2005. Effort increased substantially from 28 fishing days at sea in 2004 to 72 days at sea in 2005. This increase was due to increased effort from a locally based pair team that were not fully operational in 2004. Target species were bass and bream and tow time was typically very short at 1 hour per tow with searching, shooting, hauling, and sorting making up most of the fishing time per day.



**Chart 18:** Pair trawl fishing effort (days at sea) 2004/2005

**Scallop Dredging :**

Chart 19 compares the scallop dredge effort expressed as number of fishing days. The local scallop fleet is a day running operation with three boats operated in both years, 2 under ten and one over ten. The under ten metre vessels towed a maximum of 6 dredges each. Overall effort was near identical with 333 fishing days in 2004 and 332 days in 2005.



**Chart 19:** Scallop dredge fishing effort (days at sea) 2004/2005.