COMMERCE AND EMPLOYMENT

A STATES OF GUERNSEY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT

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Sea Fisheries

Statistical Report

2006

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Contents

Cover Pictures- Local trawler Virtue (GU69) trawling *Banc Au Nord*.
A typical haul of demersal species from the *Schole Bank*.

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1. *Introduction*

All landings data presented in this report were obtained from logsheet submissions which are compulsory for all GU registered vessels. Only landings made by GU registered vessels are included, therefore the reader should not attempt to draw conclusions about the abundance of the various commercial species without referring to English Channel landings data and ICES stock assessments where available.

Fig 1: Local multi purpose vessel Discoverey (GU41) heading to an offshore wreck.

2006 brought mixed fortunes for the local industry. The potting fleet experienced another poor spider season with a continuation of poor market prices for edible crab due to the oversupply of product on the Continental markets. Helping to offset the decline in the crab sector was the now established winter bass fishery at Boue Blondel, the fish returning to the area in late November 2006. Bream landings remained strong, continuing the resurgence of this species in Bailiwick waters last seen in similar abundance in the 1970's. Conger landings exceeded 100 tonnes for the first time in many years with one of our larger trawlers almost exclusively fishing longlines for the species throughout 2006. A number of the larger planing vessels (fig 1) rod-fished and auto jigged the offshore wrecks for Pollack, ling, and cod taking advantage of excellent prices at times on the French market.

2. *Landings & Value*

Although landings by weight have been relatively stable over the last 4 years, the value has increased from just over three million pounds in 2003 to 3 3/4 million in 2006. The winter bass and bream trawl and line fishery is largely responsible for this increase in value.

Table 1: Landings and approximate value of principal commercial species taken by GU registered vessels 2003-2006.

Species	Landings 2006 (tonnes)	Landings 2005 (tonnes)	Landings 2004 (tonnes)	Landings 2003 (tonnes)	Average value per tonne (£000,s)
Anglerfish	1.6	2.3	0.9	1.9	3 (3)
Bass	162.4	173.0	127.8	49.2	5.5
Black Bream	161.7	158.8	49.9	131.3	1.1
Brill	12.7	13.8	9.8	9.4	6
Cod	0.9	0.5	1.0	3.0	2
Conger (1)	108	58.5	22.4	23.2	1.1
Crayfish	0.3	0.3	1.2	1.3	25
Cuttlefish	0.3	2.5	4.5	5	1
Dogfish	20.4	20.6	12.9	45	0.5
Edible Crab	751	810.4	899	885	1.2
Grey mullet	1.9	1.1	1	1.1	1
John Dory	0.4	0.4	0.5	1.1	7
Lobster	58.9	59.8	60.5	49	10
Ling	3.6	1.8	1.1	No data	1.5
Mackerel	6.8	7.1	5.2	No data	0.5
Plaice	2	2.9	2.7	1.7	3
Pollack	42	44.4	35.9	21.4	1.5
Ray	117.1	144.6	117.4	163	2 (3)
Red mullet	8.1	12.1	10.1	10.3	5
Sand Sole	0.9	2.0	1.1	1	3
Sandeel (2)	39.2	45	43.2	37.9	- (4)
King Scallop	123.4	101.3	107.6	89.2	3.5
Smoothound	16.8	18.8	11.3	No data	2
Sole	3.5	5.4	6.0	4.8	7
Spider	65	73.3	99	146	1
Squid	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.9	5
Turbot	5.9	8.1	7.0	4.3	8
Tope	10	38.0	26	No data	2
Wrasse (1)	7.1	4.7	5.5	No data	0.5
Total Weight (tonnes)	**1728**	**1819**	**1671**	**1688**	
Total Value (£000,s)	**3767**	**3961**	**3583**	**3077**	

1.Data not including majority of net and pot caught bycatch used for pot-bait.
2.Not including seine net caught fish used for bait purposes.
3. Whole fish
4. Value not included as fish re-used for bait. * No data (2003) where information is absent, unreliable or incomplete.

3. Analysis Of Shellfish Landings

Charts 1 and 2 show the crustacea landings (excluding crayfish) 2001-2006. The trend in falling crab landings continued in 2006. Landings per unit effort have however remained relatively stable with an average of between 73kg and 79kg of crab for every 100 pots lifted (calculated from total pot lifts of all types against total edible crab landings). 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. Lobster landings have been at or near 60 tonnes for the last three years, previous years data likely to have been under recorded prior to the introduction of logbooks in 2004.

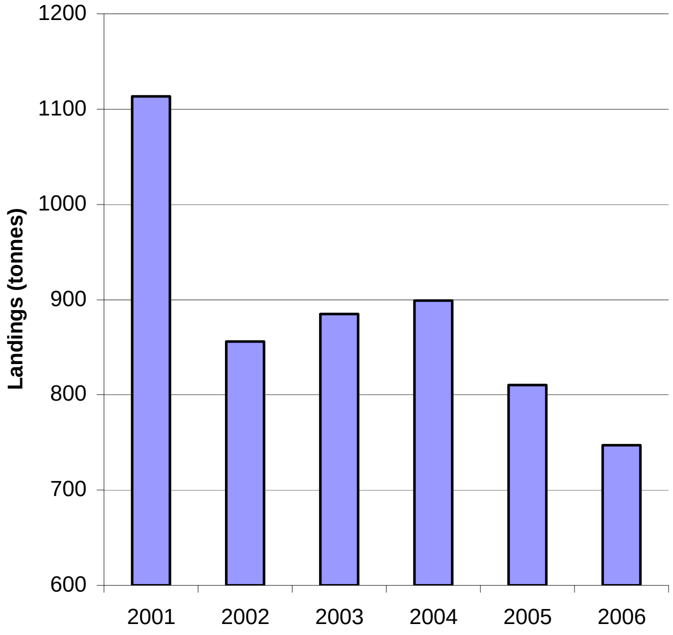


Chart 1: Edible crab landings 2001-2006

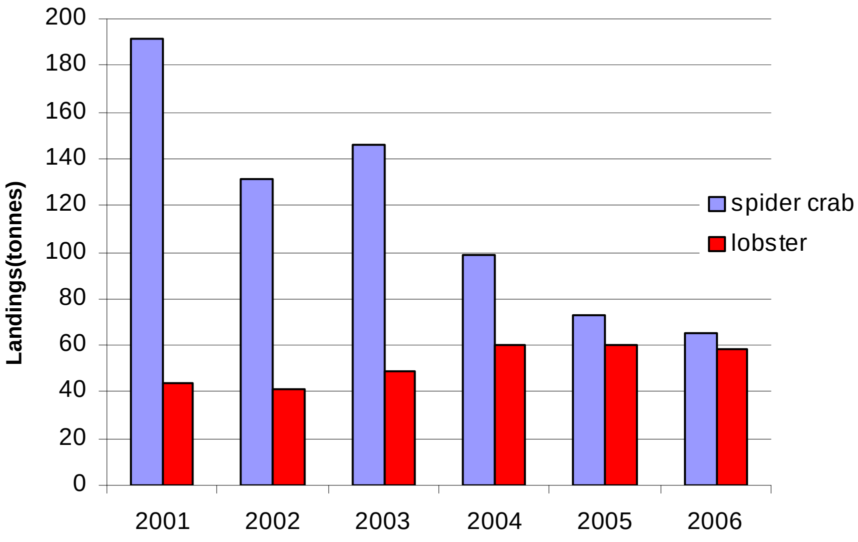


Chart 2: Spider crab and lobster landings 2001-2006

Monthly edible crab and lobster landings 2004 –2006 are shown in Chart 3 and 4. These charts depict the variation in the catchability of the two species throughout the year, due to factors such as bad weather and environmental conditions, for example sea temperature. As can be seen in both charts, higher catches are generally taken during the summer months when sea temperatures are higher and better weather is encountered.

***Edible Crab*:**

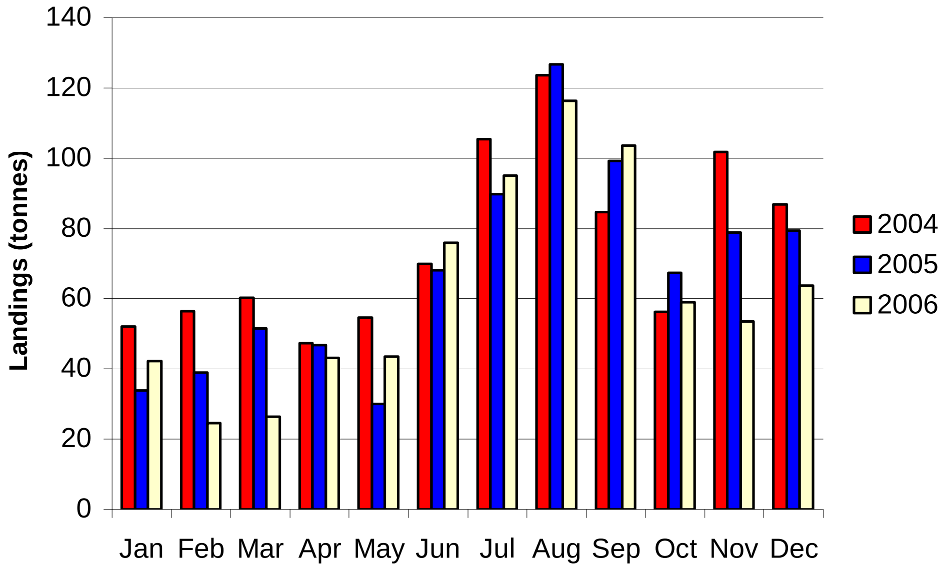


Chart 3: Edible Crab landings by month 2004-2006

***Lobster*:**

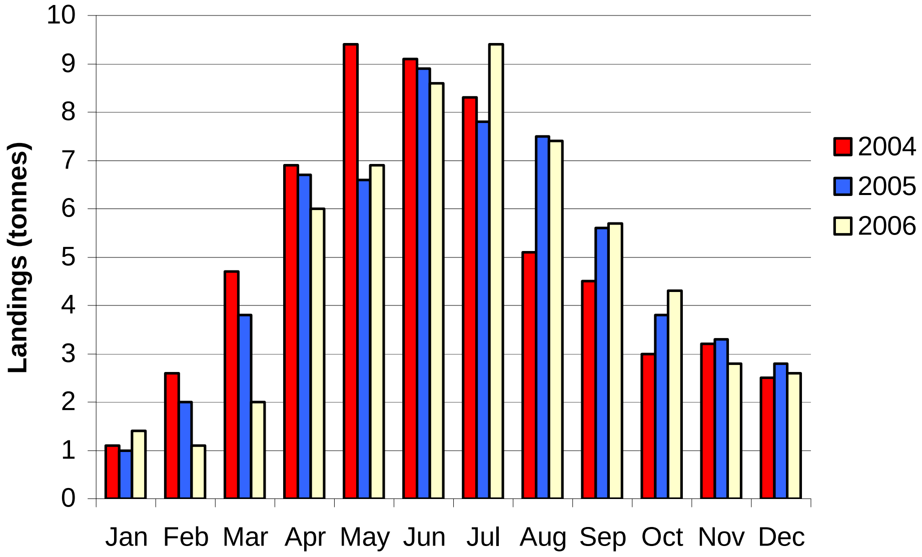


Chart 4: Monthly Lobster landings 2004-2006

Spider:

At just 65 tonnes, Spider landings in 2006 were the lowest for many years reflecting the declining abundance of the species in local waters. The distribution of the spider stock is known to have changed 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.

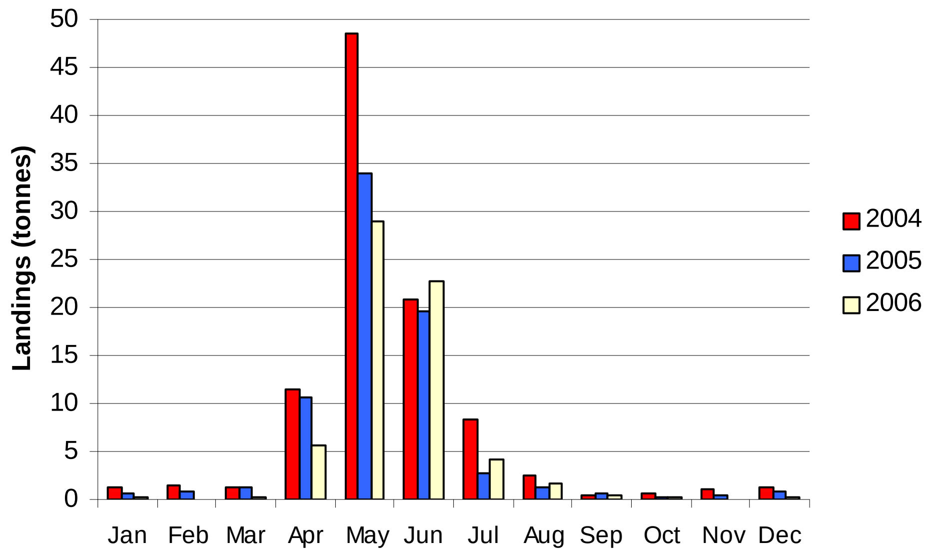


Chart 5: Monthly Spider Crab landings 2004-2006

5. *The Fleet*

Table 2 shows compares the Guernsey licenced fleet as it stood at the end of 2004 with the current position.

Table 2: The Guernsey licensed fleet 2004-2007.

Vessel Category	Number Of Vessels December 2004	Number of vessels August 2006	Number of vessels July 2007
GU registered <10m (32'9")	158	164	175 (2)
GU registered >10m	16 (1)	13 (1)	13 (1)
Jersey registered >10m	9	9	9
Jersey Registered <10m	1	2	2
UK registered (all vessels)	84	86	89
Total	268	274	288

(1) Includes L'Etoile Du Nord, GU45 (non active) and Anne Thierry, GU1 (fish carrier).
(2) Not including 6 vessels with entitlements awaiting completion of registry.

The fleet has increased since December 2004 by 20 vessels, 17 of these being GU registered vessels Although 89 Guernsey licences are currently issued to UK registered vessels as part of our reciprocal licensing arrangement with the UK, only 4 under ten metre and three over ten metre UK vessels fished in Bailiwick waters in 2006. (three angling {2<10m 1>10m}, one wreck netter (<10m), one scalloper (<10m), and one pair team (>10m).

6. *Fishing Effort*

6.1 Fleet Effort

Chart 6 compares the combined number of days at sea exerted by the GU registered licensed fleet 2004 - 2006. There was an overall increase in days at sea in 2005/2006 compared to 2004. This mirrors the increase in the number of licenced vessels since 2004 shown in table 2.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. Chart 7 (overleaf) shows the monthly proportion of licenced vessels actively fishing. It can be seen that between 35%(March 06) and 75% (June 06) of the fleet were actively fishing, similar levels to 2004/2005.

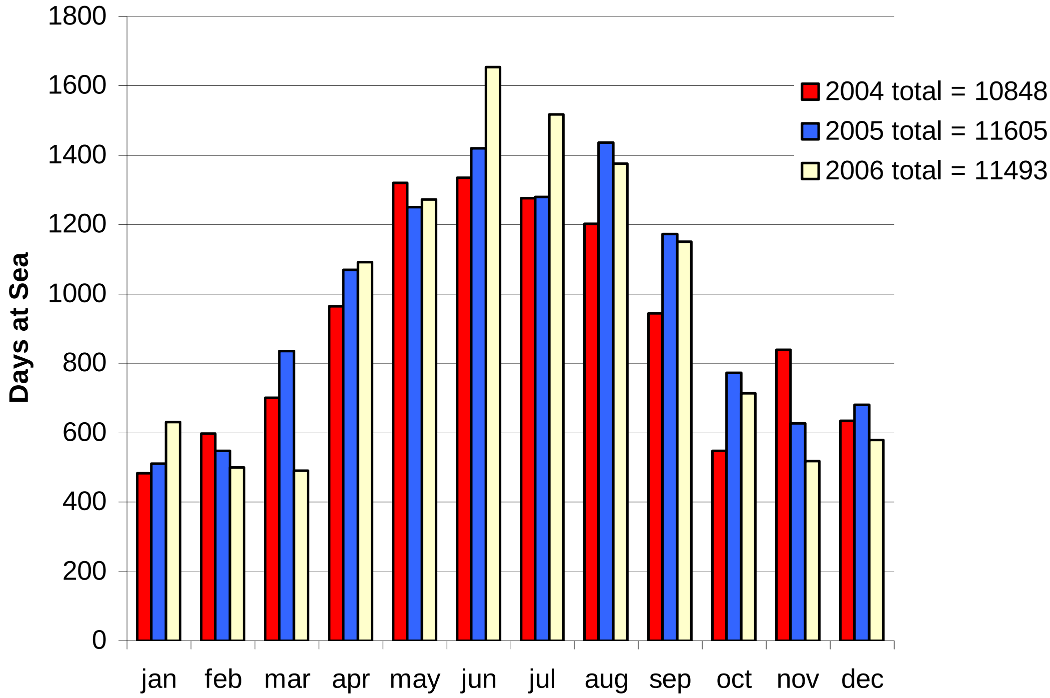


Chart 6. Combined fleet days at sea 2004 –2006.

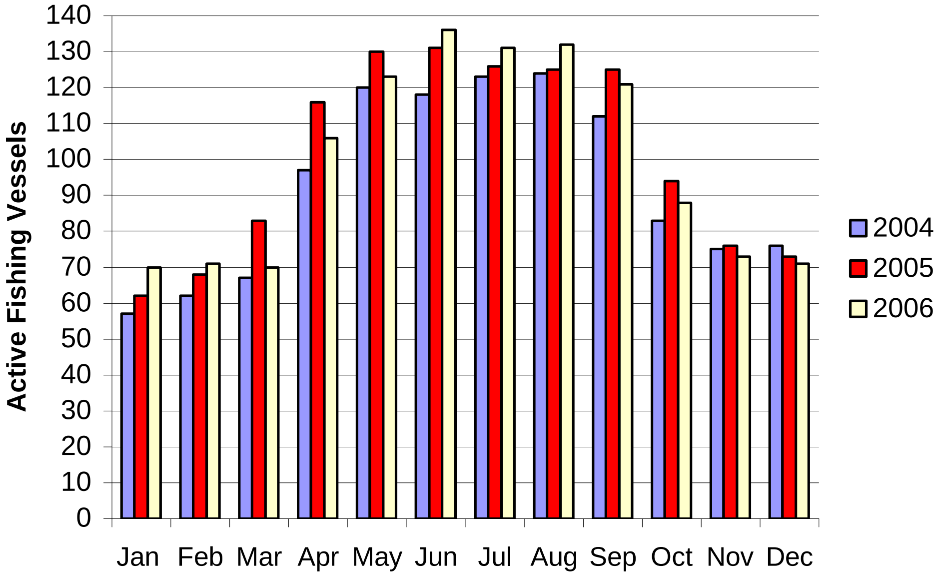


Chart 7: Active fishing vessels 2004-2006. Vessel recorded as active if a logsheet is submitted for that vessel in a particular month.

6.2 *Pots In Use*

Chart 8 compares the total number of all pot types (inkwell, creel, parlour e.t.c) in use by GU registered vessels 2004-2006. Pot numbers fell in 2006 compared to 2004/2005 due mainly to the cessation of fishing by the over ten metre Alderney based potter Paulanda, and also the reduction in participants in the spring spider fishery due to the poor abundance of this species in recent seasons.

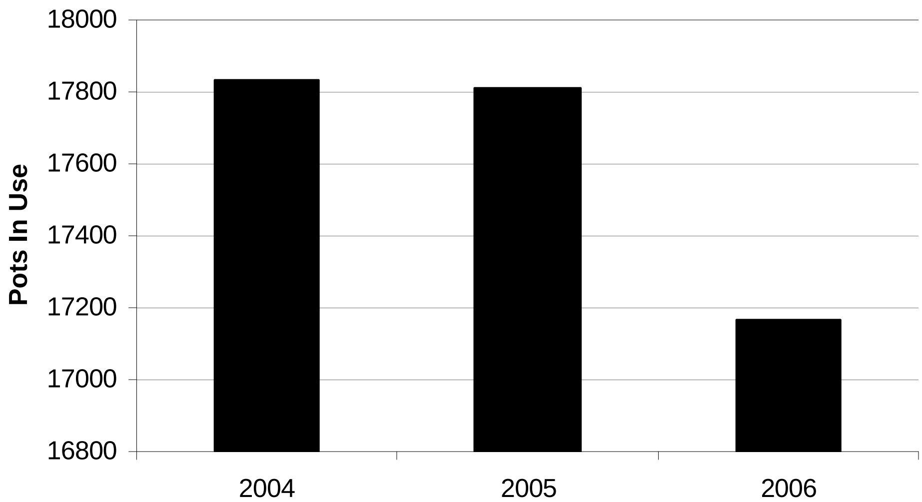


Chart 8: Pots in Use (All types) 2004-2006.

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 2006 peak month of 17166 pots is approximately £858,000.

6.4 Pot lifts

Chart 9 compares the total number of pots lifted by month 2004 - 2006. Potting effort has stabilised in the last two years following a reduction in the fleet of full time crabbers. The reduction in the abundance of spider crab has meant that the season has been shorter with less gear turnover and in some cases vessels have opted not to work their inkwell gear at all. The reduced number of inkwell lifts has contributed to the overall reduction in pot lifts since 2004.

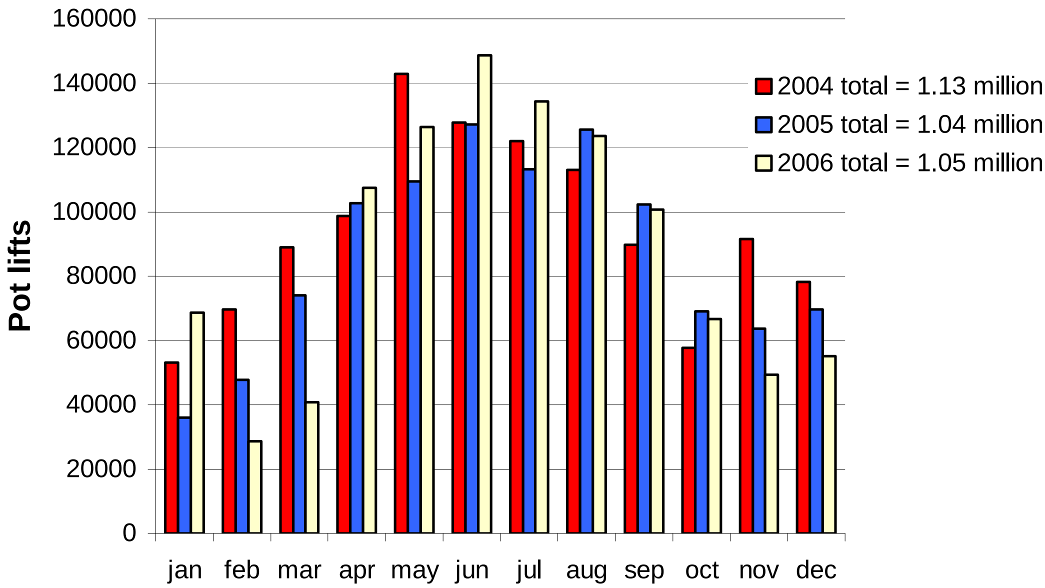


Chart 9: Monthly Pot lifts 2004-2006.

6.5 *Effort On Finfish and Molluscs*

Set Nets:

Chart 10 compares the total amount of set nets deployed by the licenced fleet 2004 - 2006. Nets are set for a variety of species including ray, bass, and sole with an autumn and winter increase clearly evident in chart 13 as the red mullet netting season takes place. Netting effort has declined since the first data was available in 2004, although in that year there was relatively high levels of bass netting during the winter months.

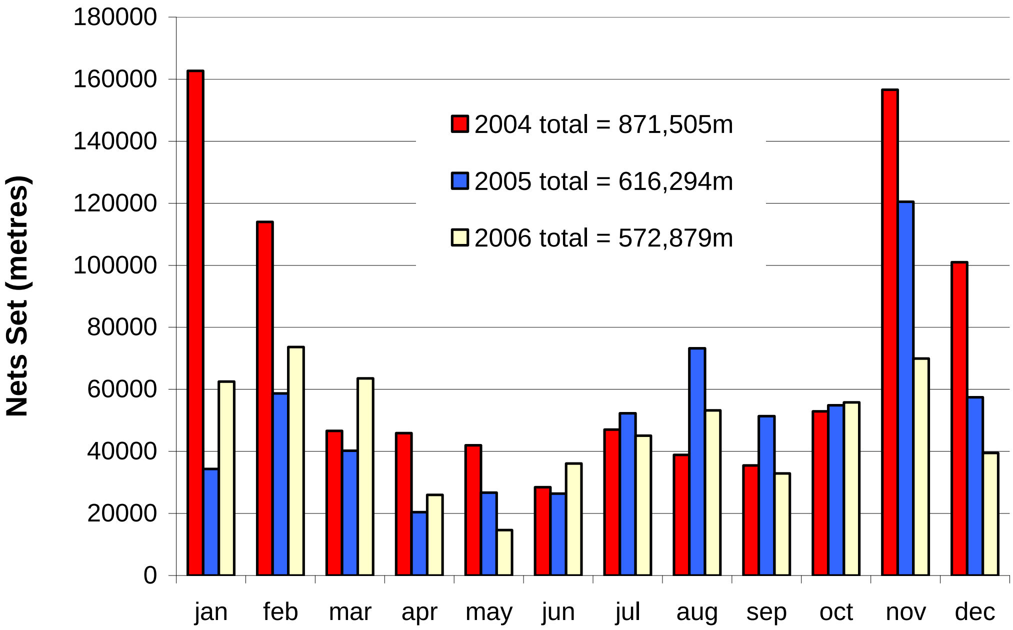


Chart 10: Monthly netting effort (metres deployed) 2004-2006.

Angling :

Angling effort in 2006 was down slightly on the 2005 total due in part to less vessels participating in the Boue Blondel bass fishery and its early finish in March of 2006. This is clearly evident in chart 11 below where the fleet spent over 1500 hours in March 2005 against 600 in March 2006. Angling during the summer months for bass and flatfish is the mainstay of many full time and part time licensed vessels as shown by the increased effort for these months followed by a noticeable fall from October onwards (December increase 05/06 due to Boue Blondel bass fishery resumption).

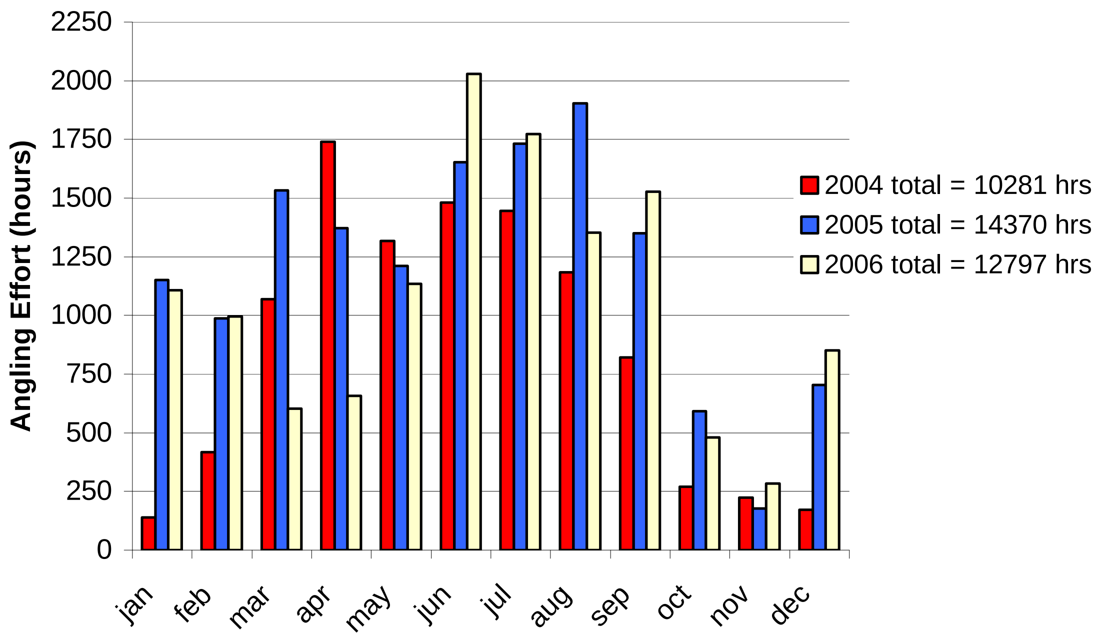


Chart 11: Monthly angling effort (hours fishing) 2004-2006

Longlining (mono trotting):

Chart 12 compares the number of hooks set by the GU fleet 2004-2006. Longlines are set for a variety of species, mainly bass, ray, Pollack, and more recently conger eel and smoothounds / tope. This fishery, prosecuted by 2 local over ten metre vessels (Nicola May GU57 pictured opposite) were responsible for the increase in lining effort since 2004. Targeting a combination of conger and various dogfish, hounds, and tope, the catches sold directly into Cherbourg where much higher prices are received than can be secured locally. This fishery serves as an important alternative relieving some pressure on the trawl grounds in Bailiwick waters.

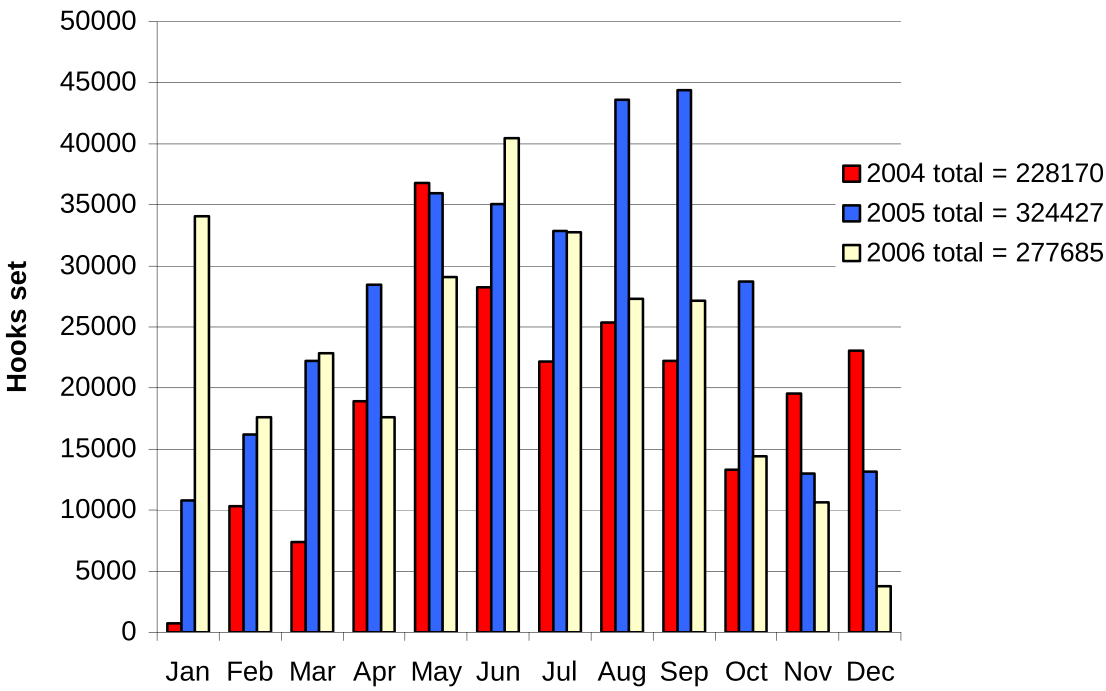


Chart 12: Monthly longlining effort (hooks set) 2004-2006**.**

Otter Trawling:

Chart 13 compares the number of days at sea the fleet spent otter trawling 2004-2006. Effort has increased since data was first available in 2004. Contributing to this increase was one GU vessel that switched from potting to trawling early in 2006 splitting his effort between sandeel trawling and demersal trawling for ray and flatfish. There are currently a total of 7 over ten metre trawlers, but only 3 of these otter trawling exclusively, the rest switching between pair trawling, scalloping, or longlining. There are currently 2 full time under ten metre otter trawlers.

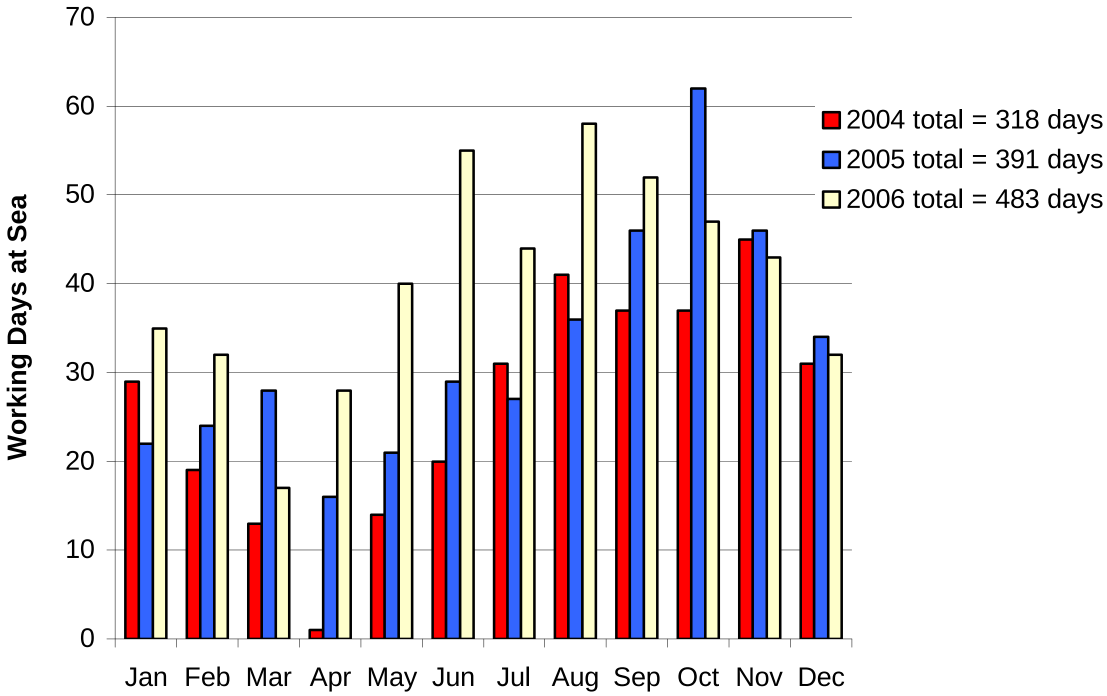


Chart 13: Otter trawl fishing effort expressed as fishing days 2004-2006. Tow time varied per day at sea. Comprehensive data on actual tow time is not available.

Diving:

Chart 14 compares the number of dive voyages undertaken 2004-2006. Most dive voyages were for scalloping where a typical day would involve around 2 hours bottom time per man for a two man operation. Around 20% of total dive effort was directed at flatfish, mainly sole, plaice, and brill. Data for the number of individual dives per vessel day and total bottom time is not available.
The apparent rise in effort in 2006 is largely due to the seasonal scallop fishery off Dartmouth prosecuted by a number of local vessels. There was also an additional vessel that participated the traditional Little Russel dive fishery.

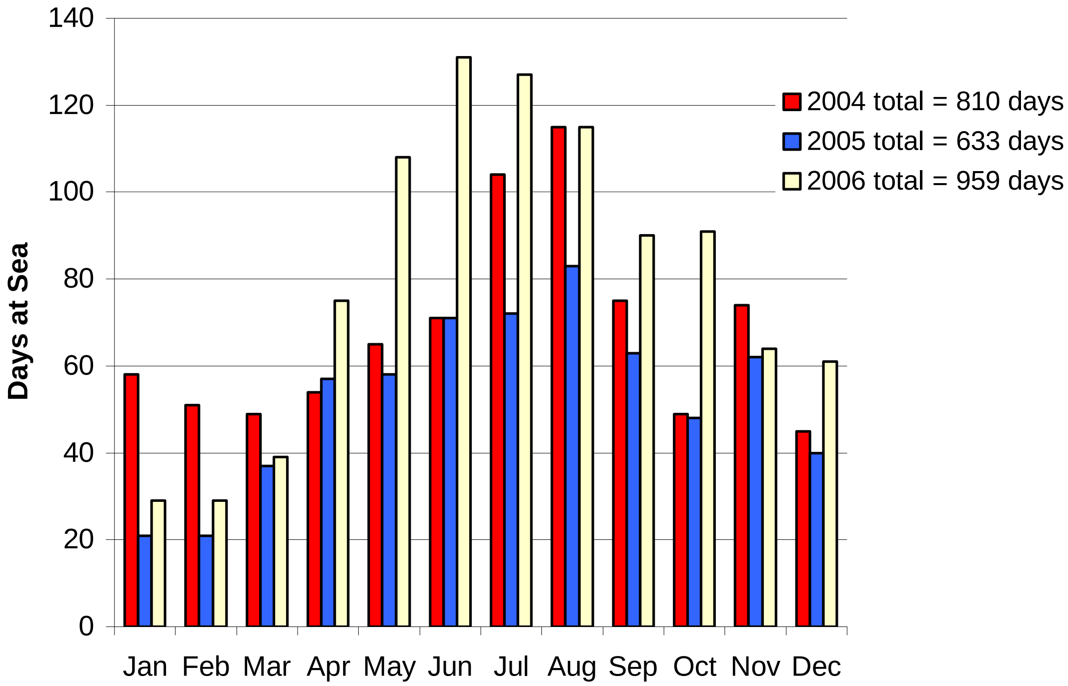
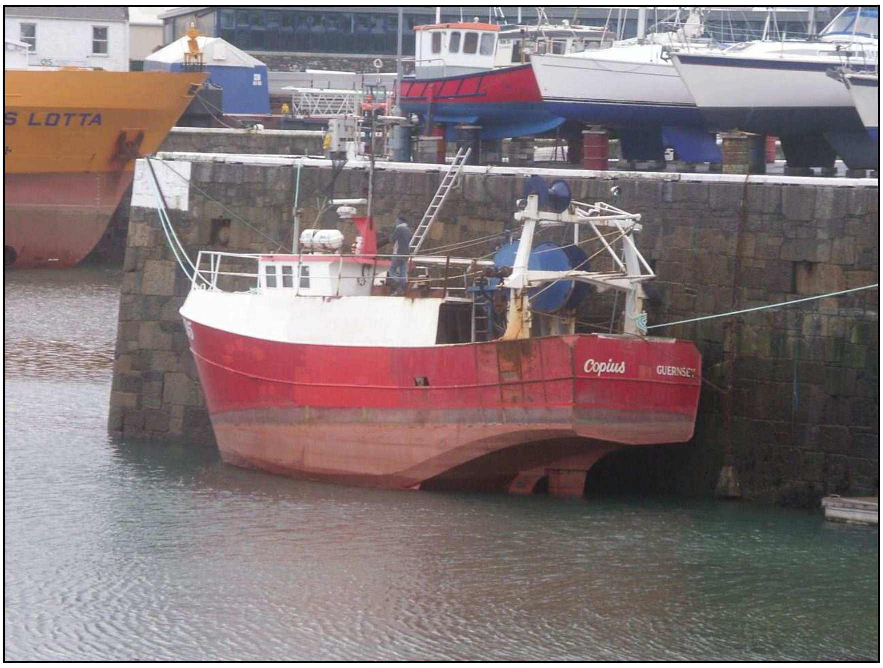


Chart 14: Dive effort (number of diving days) 2004-2006.
Bottom time varied depending on fishery.

Pair Trawling:

Chart 15 compares the pair trawl fishing effort 2004-2006. Effort increased substantially from 28 fishing days at sea in 2004 to 71/72 days at sea in 2005/2006. This increase was due to increased effort from a locally based pair team that were not fully operational in 2004. Effort in this fishery is concentrated during the winter months, the target species being bass and bream. A summer and early autumn bream fishery was also targeted 2005/2006 as shown by the effort increase for these months in chart 18 below. The majority of fish taken in this fishery were landed direct into either Cherbourg or Brixham.



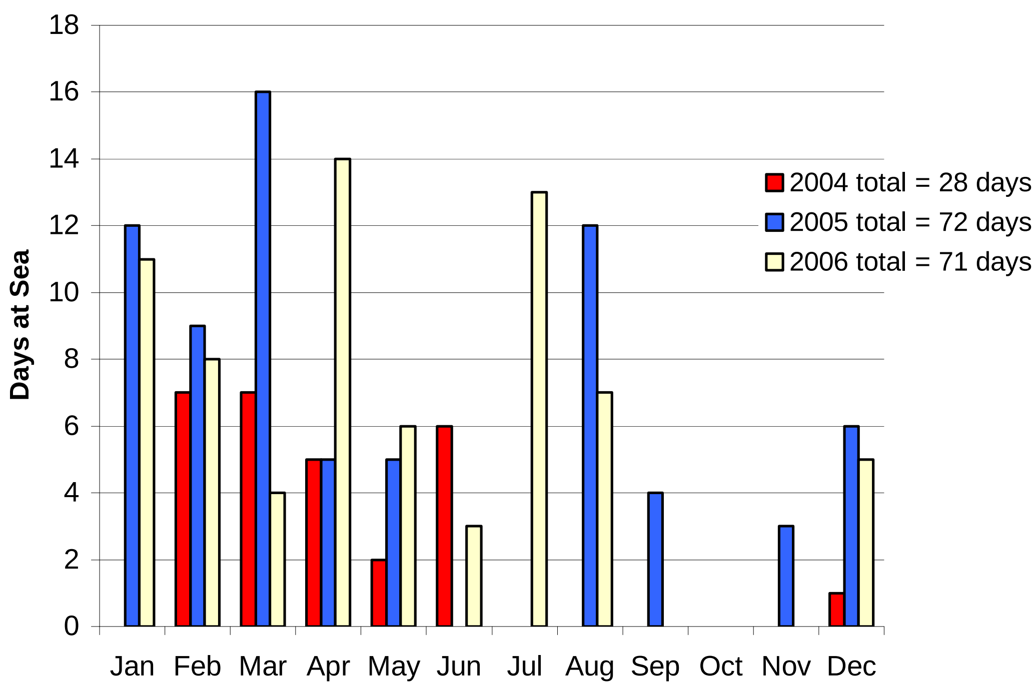


Chart 15: Pair trawl fishing effort (days at sea) 2004-2006.

Scallop Dredging :

Chart 16 compares the scallop dredge effort expressed as number of fishing days 2004-2006. The local scallop fleet is a day running operation with three boats currently operated, 2 under ten metre and one over ten metre. The under ten metre vessels towed a total of 10 dredges, the over ten vessel a total of eight dredges. There was a 9% increase in effort expressed in days at sea in 2006 compared to 2004 and 2005. Waters fished by these vessels are shared with a fleet of Jersey scallopers and more recently an influx of larger UK scallopers have moved into Bailiwick waters.

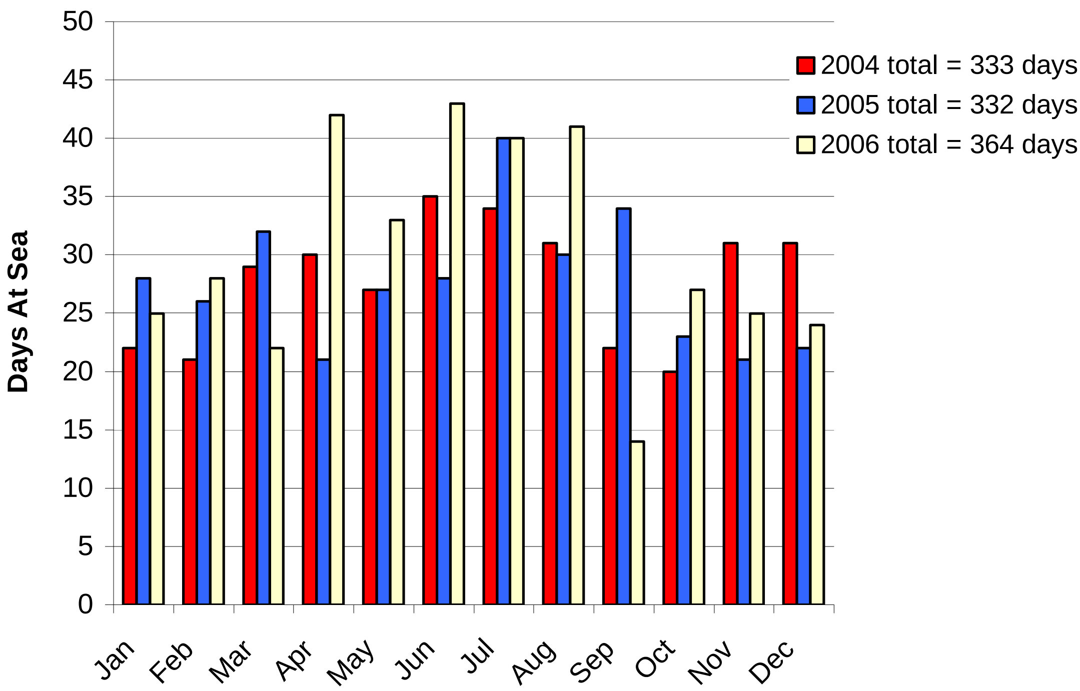


Chart 16: Monthly Scallop dredge fishing effort (days at sea) 2004-2006.