



COMMERCE AND EMPLOYMENT

A STATES OF GUERNSEY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT



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Sea Fisheries Section Statistical Report

2012

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Cover Picture: GU 79 Fleur de Braye, October 2012

Executive Summary

Background

All landings data presented in the following report have been collated from logsheets submitted by all licensed Bailiwick fishermen. The requirement for logbook returns was introduced by the Sea Fisheries Section in 2004 and applies to all licensed fishermen irrespective of vessel size.

Where data is submitted to the Marine Management Organization (MMO) directly, the Section obtains those catch records from the MMO and they are included within this report.

Overview

Exceptional lobster (*Homarus gammarus*) landings were again achieved in 2012, continuing on from the record 2011 season. A notable decline in the landings of bass was clearly evident in 2012, the reasons behind this decline being less clear. Looking at all sectors of the Bailiwick industry, there still remains the challenge of maintaining profitable operations against the background of a finite local market and increasing cost base. The cost of fuel has remained stable (but high) in the Islands throughout 2012, although the opening of Dielette with often better prices (on the Crie) for landing by local vessels has helped to offset rising operating costs.

You will see from the data contained in this report that 2012 brought with it the usual fluctuations in stocks targeted by Bailiwick fishermen. These changes in abundance of stocks on local grounds have always been experienced and are why the flexibility to target available fisheries is crucial to the success of the Bailiwick industry. It is hoped that the new Sea Fish Licensing Law 2012 will be a major contributory factor in ensuring that this flexibility is continued and that over-exploitation of fisheries resources can be avoided through sound fisheries management policies.

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1. Landings & Value

All landings data presented in this report were obtained from logsheets which are now compulsory for all Bailiwick licensed fishing vessels.

| Species | Annual Landings (tonnes) | | | | | | | Typical average value per kilo (£) (2010) |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---|
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 | |
| Anglerfish | 1.3 | 1.1 whole | 1.1 whole | 1.1 whole | 3.3 | 2 | 1.6 | 7 (tails) |
| Bass | 44.4 | 74 | 120 | 94.2 | 123.2 | 142 | 162.4 | 7 |
| Black Bream | 12.7 | 13.9 | 34 | 91.5 | 55 | 212.5 | 161.7 | 2 |
| Brill | 7.9 | 10.2 | 7.4 | 7.4 | 10.3 | 8.7 | 12.7 | 8 |
| Cod | 3 | 3.4 | 2.7 | 0.9 | 2.2 | 1.9 | 0.9 | 4 |
| Conger ⁽¹⁾ | 10.1 | 8.7 | 12 | 31 | 38.6 | 38.2 | 108 | 1.5 |
| Crayfish | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 25 |
| Cuttlefish | 1.7 | 1.4 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 2 | 0.7 | 0.3 | 2 |
| Dogfish ^(1,2) | 15.3 | 18 | 9 | 23.5 | 16 | 10.4 | 20.4 | 1 |
| Edible Crab | 778.6 | 692.7 | 759 | 622 | 802 | 933 | 751 | 1.3 |
| Grey mullet | 2.6 | 5.5 | 4.9 | 5.3 | 1.8 | 1.2 | 1.9 | 1 |
| John Dory | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.6 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 7 |
| Lobster (number) | 101.3 (146, 822) | 101.5 (147,204) | 79.0 (105,532) | 66.5 (58,881) | 67.2 (no data) | 71.5 (no data) | 58.9 (no data) | 12 |
| Ling | 2.0 | 2.6 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.6 | 4.1 | 3.6 | 3 |
| Mackerel | 5.2 | 5.4 | 7.4 | 9.7 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 6.8 | 1 |
| Plaice | 1.3 | 1.8 | 1 | 0.9 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 2 | 5 |
| Pollack | 82.0 | 85.8 | 59.8 | 68.2 | 52 | 47.9 | 42 | 4 |
| Ray ⁽⁴⁾ | 136.5 | 158.8 | 112 | 105.8 | 149.8 | 72.8 | 117.1 | 4 (wings) |
| Red mullet | 6.0 | 4.8 | 5.2 | 4.3 | 8.3 | 8.2 | 8.1 | 6 |
| Sand Sole | 0.4 | 1.1 | 0.9 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1 | 0.9 | 4 |
| Sandeel | 54.0 | 48.3 | 56.8 | 51.7 | 46 ⁽³⁾ | 60 ⁽³⁾ | 39.2 ⁽³⁾ | - |
| King Scallop | 114.3 | 108.2 | 118 | 89.6 | 102 | 108 | 123.4 | 4 (in shell) |
| Smoothhound | 4.4 | 3.5 | 2 | 16.7 | 19.8 | 23.1 | 16.8 | 2.5 |
| Sole | 2.3 | 4.0 | 3.1 | 3.2 | 6.0 | 3.6 | 3.5 | 12 |
| Spider Crab | 40.7 | 40.1 | 69 | 77.8 | 86.3 | 59 | 65 | 1.2 |
| Squid | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.1 | 5 |
| Turbot | 10.2 | 10.3 | 6.2 | 3.4 | 2.5 | 3.2 | 5.9 | 14 |
| Tope | 3.2 | 4.8 | 8.9 | 14 | 16.2 | 24.7 | 10 | 4 |
| Wrasse ⁽¹⁾ | 7.9 | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.5 | 5 | 4 | 7.1 | 1 |
| Total Weight (tonnes) | 1449.6 | 1426.3 | 1494.2 | 1403 | 1636 | 1851 | 1728 | |
| Value (£000's) | 4034 | 4214 | 4395 | 4014 | 3534 | 3877 | 3825 | |

Table 1: Landings and average per kilo prices (first sale) for commercial species landed by GU registered vessels 2006-2012. Prices for shellfish have remained broadly similar over the years shown. Wetfish prices have tended to increase since 2004 reflecting increased exports to auction markets in the UK and France.

1. Data not including majority of net and pot caught bycatch landed for pot-bait.
2. Lesser Spotted Dogfish, Greater Spotted Dogfish.
3. Not including seine net caught sandeels (seines used by several vessels for self supply of sandeels)
4. All species except Undulate Ray since 2009 which are subject to a landing prohibition.

2. Unusual Captures

During 2012 some unusual species were captured by commercial and recreational anglers.



Fig 1: An Atlantic Salmon, *Salmo salar*, was caught by Philip Lomax over the Godine Bank near Sark on 7 April 2012. The fish weighed 2.8kg, and measured 596mm nose to tail. The salmon was captured using a live sand eel for bait.

Both Atlantic Salmon and the Sea Trout *Salmo trutta*, a species similar to and also from the Salmonidae family, turn up in Guernsey waters from time to time. More information about these fish and capture reports in Guernsey is available here:

<http://www.sustainableguernsey.info/blog/2011/06/atlantic-salmon-and-sea-trout-from-guernseys-west-coast/>

Photo by Hans-Petter Fjeld (CC-BY-SA)

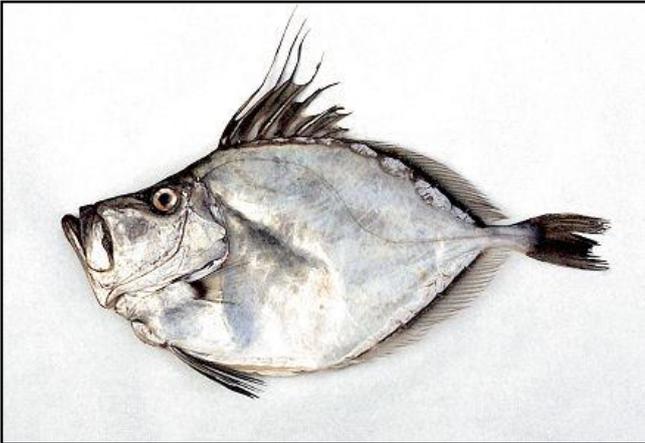


Fig 2: A Silver John Dory or Sailfin Dory, *Zenopsis conchifer* was caught on 30 May 2012 by local trawler Amy Blue GU 116, fishing at the northern end of the Big Russell in about 30m of water. It is reported to be the first record of a Silver John Dory in Guernsey waters. The full report of the capture and photos can be viewed on the Sustainable Guernsey website:

<http://www.sustainableguernsey.info/blog/2012/06/first-record-of-silver-dory-zenopsis-conchifer-in-guernsey-waters/>

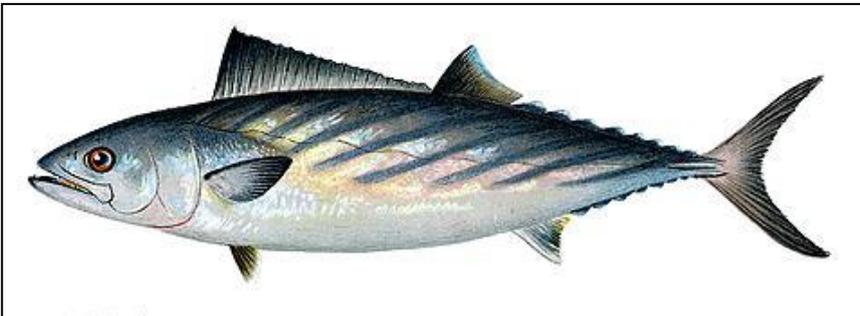


Fig 3: An Atlantic Bonito, *Sarda sarda*, was caught by local trawler JBP GU 103 off Sark in September 2012. The fish weighed just over 5 lbs. The Atlantic Bonito is a small type of tuna and closely related to mackerel. It is a fast swimming oceanic fish, most commonly found in warmer waters. However, UK fishermen occasionally catch them off the southwest coast of England and reports from recreational fishermen are becoming more common.

3. Sea Temperature

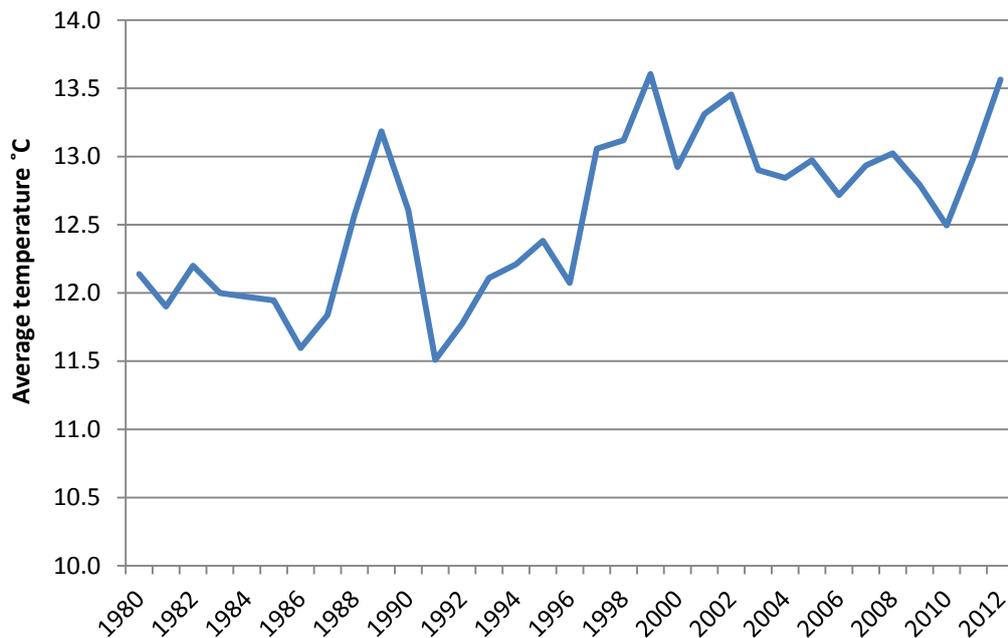


Chart 1: Annual average sea surface temperature °C 1980 -2012. (Temperatures taken weekly at St Peter Port Harbour)

The contribution of the cold winters of 1986/1987 and 1991 are clearly evident in Chart 1. The general warming trend seen throughout the 1990's and early 2000's had begun to reverse in recent years due to colder winters and generally cooler summers. However, the 2012 average temperature was one of the highest on record and reflects the early hot weather experienced in March, bringing the spring/summer warming forward to earlier in the season.

The effect of sea temperature on fish populations is difficult to predict or quantify, and is just one factor out of many that can be attributed to any perceived changes in populations and movements of fish stocks.

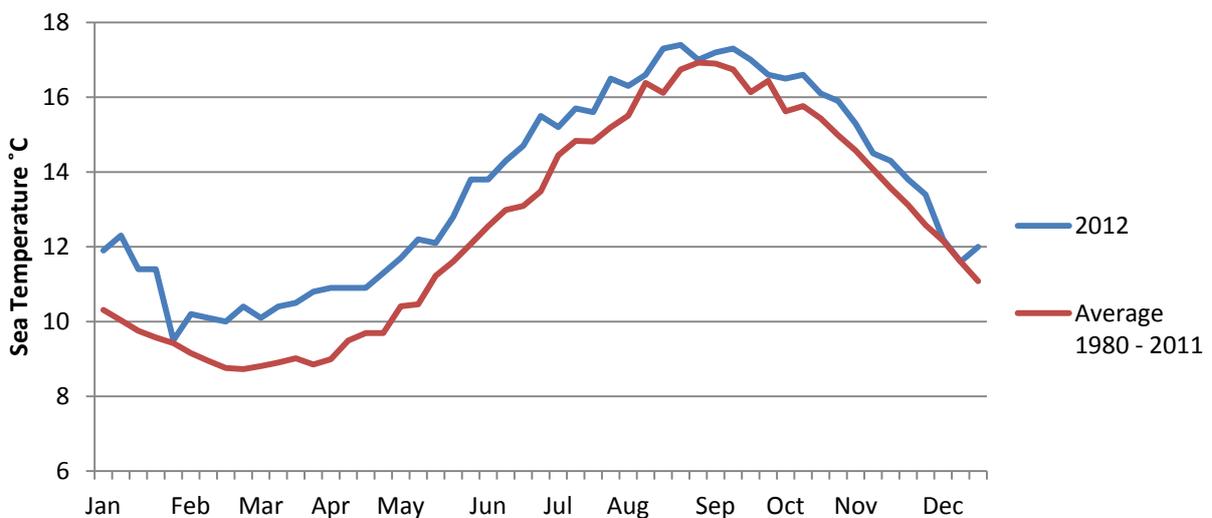


Chart 2: Weekly sea surface temperature °C for 2012 compared with the 31 year average (1980 – 2011)

4. Analysis of Shellfish Landings

Chart 3 below shows the edible crab landings over the last ten years, 2002-2012. Landings of edible crab increased slightly in 2012 to just short of the ten year annual average of 800 tonnes, whilst effort (pot lifts, Chart 6) decreased compared to the 2011 figures. Overall crab landings remain relatively stable over the time period shown.

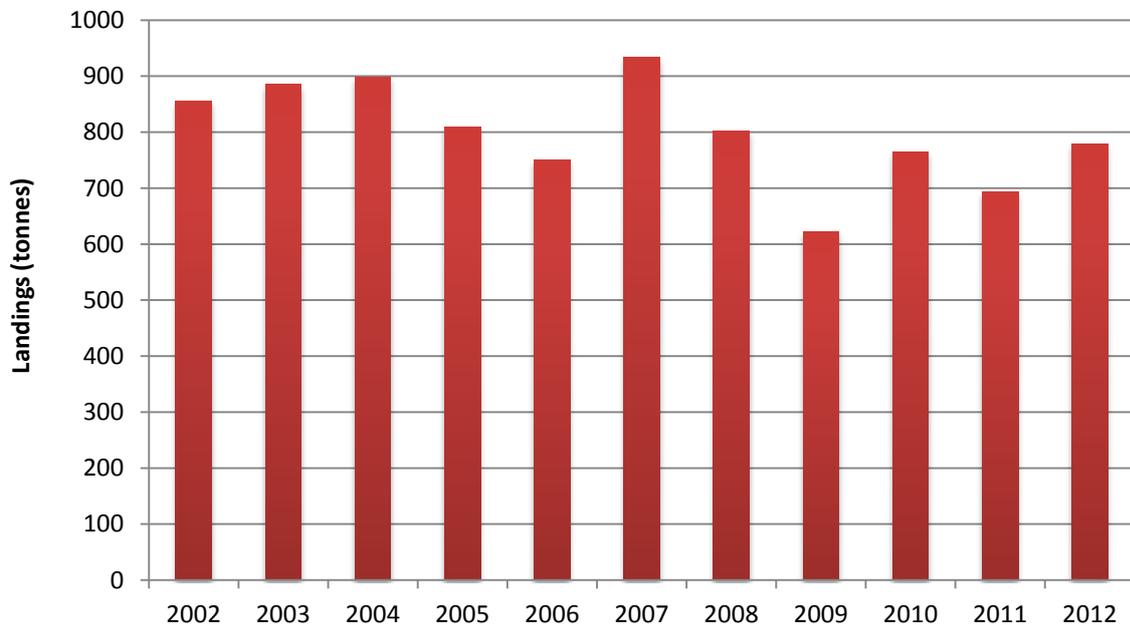


Chart 3: Edible crab landings 2002-2012

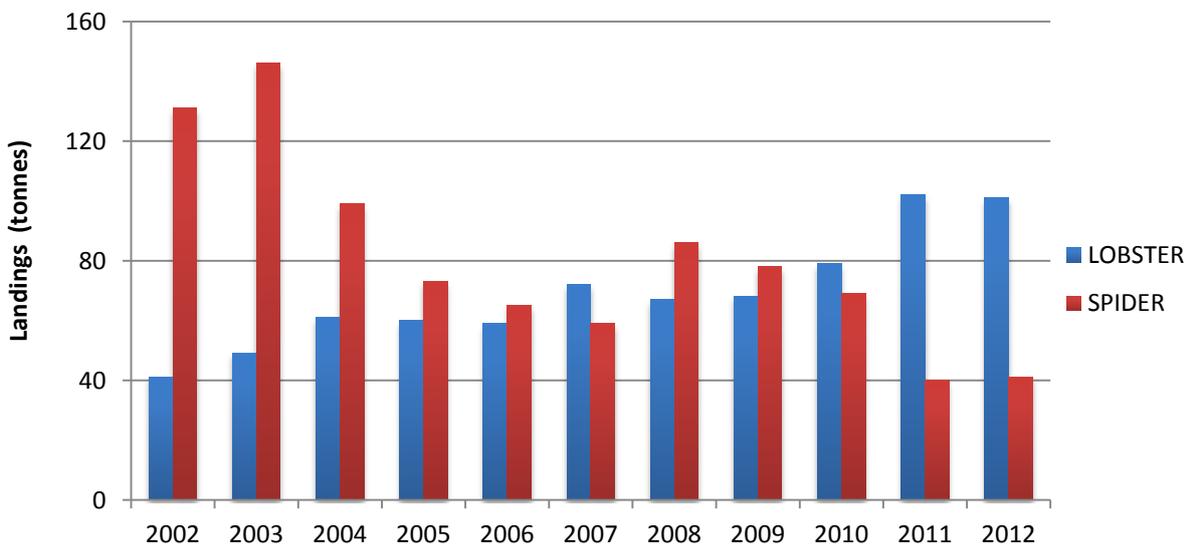


Chart 4: Spider crab and lobster landings 2002-2012

Landings of spider crab remain low compared to quantities landed in the early to mid 2000s. This may reflect significant netting effort by French vessels in the 6-12nm limit of Bailiwick waters, which may contribute to lower abundances of spider crab in inshore waters. Fishing effort for spider crab has also

declined within the GU fleet. Similarly to 2011, lobster landings were excellent and, again, more than 100 tonnes were landed by the Guernsey fleet (includes >10m vessels).

5. The Fleet

Table 2 shows the changes that have occurred within the Bailiwick licensed fleet between December 2008 and August 2013. Figures are correct at the time of publishing this report.

Table 2: The Bailiwick of Guernsey licensed fleet 2008 – 2013.

| Vessel Category | Number of vessels August 2008 | Number of vessels August 2009 | Number of vessels August 2010 | Number of vessels August 2011 | Number of vessels August 2012 | Number of vessels August 2013 |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| GU registered <10m | 175 | 175 | 171 | 160 | 158 | 156 ⁽¹⁾ |
| GU registered >10m | 12 | 11 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 5 ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾ |

(1) Approx 12 – 15 vessels awaiting licence

(2) Includes vessel GU 219, D-IMMP (not currently active)

(3) Consists of two trawlers and three potters

The under ten metre GU registered fleet remains relatively stable and currently stands at 156 vessels. Approximately 12 – 15 vessels are awaiting a Bailiwick of Guernsey licence and will shortly be entering the GU under 10m fleet. Harbour Regulations now state that a suite of MCA Safety Courses must be completed by fisherman before vessels can be registered, which has inevitably affected licence processing times.



Fig 4 Four out of five of the over 10m fleet – GU 199 Peadar Marie, GU 399 Sarah P, GU 116 Amy Blue and GU 355 Hayley B, alongside the fish quay in St. Peter Port Harbour.

The number of over 10m vessels continues to decrease, with GU 57 Nicola May, GU 358 Rachael-B and GU 168 Lady Patricia all being sold to the UK within the last 12 months. High running costs (i.e. fuel and bait) involved in running a larger vessel will no doubt contribute to the dwindling number of over 10m vessels within the Bailiwick fleet.

In February 2013 the new Sea Fish Licensing (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law 2012 was enacted, giving control and administration of licensing out to the 12nm limit. Currently 15 UK registered vessels and 17 Jersey registered vessels hold a Bailiwick of Guernsey fishing licence, although not all are active within Bailiwick waters.

6. Fishing Effort

Pots in Use (inkwells, parlours, creels)

Chart 4 compares the total number of all pot types (inkwell, creel, and parlour) in use by GU registered vessels 2004-2012. The total number of pots actually in use varies seasonally, Chart 4 showing the peak number at a single point in time each year. Pot numbers have not changed significantly over the time series shown.

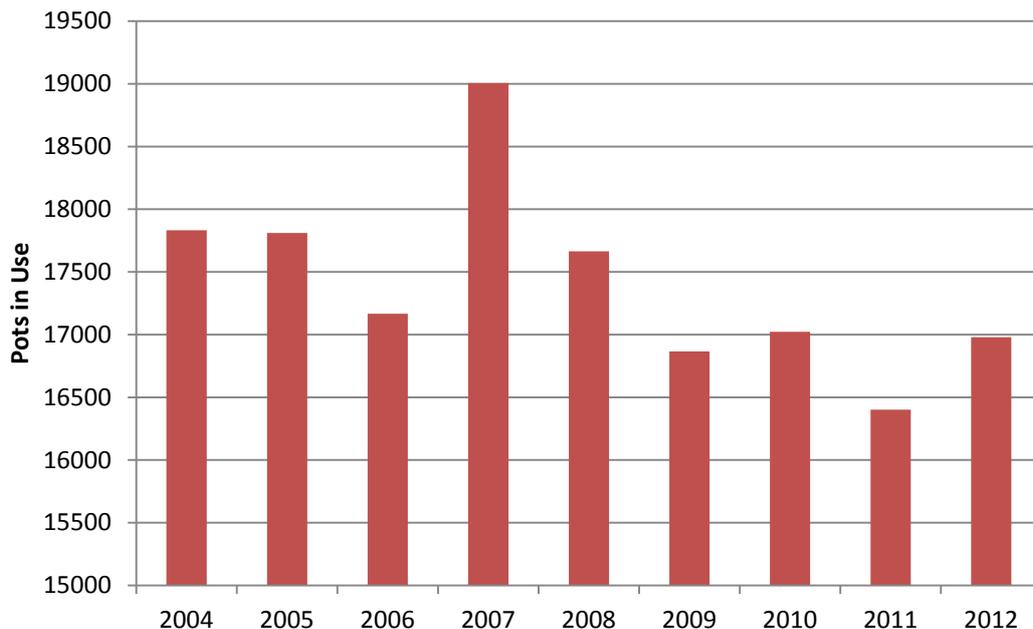


Chart 4: Pots in Use (All types) 2004-2012. A pot in use is one which is being baited and cleared at regular intervals.

Pot Lifts



Fig 5: GU 437 Huntress steaming back to her mooring in Grand Havre Bay after hauling and clearing pots.

Chart 5 compares the total number of pots lifted 2008 - 2012. Pot lifts have remained relatively stable over the time series shown. A small decrease in pot lift effort is observed in 2012, however two of the >10m potters were both out of action for a few weeks over the summer due to routine maintenance.

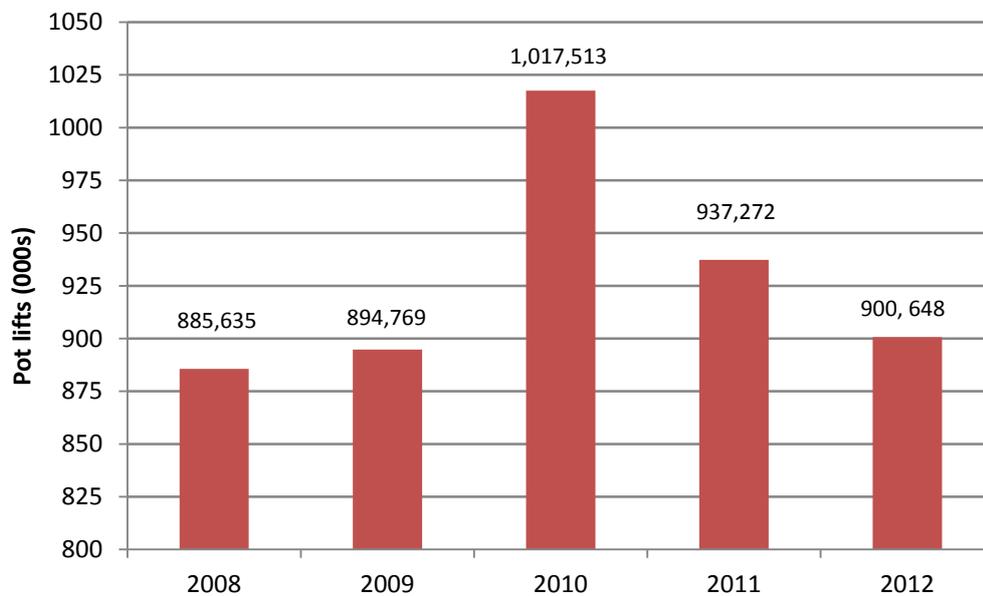


Chart 5: Pot Lifts 2008 – 2012

Set Nets (gillnets, trammel nets, tangle nets)



Fig 6: Alderney based trawler Katie C (GU74) is one of many under 10m vessels that frequently fishes using set nets.

Chart 6 compares the total amount of set nets deployed by the licensed fleet 2008 – 2012. Nets, mainly of monofilament construction and of various mesh sizes are set for ray, bass, sole, and red mullet depending on the season. Although Mayfair GU 362 remains the only full time inshore netter within the fleet, many multi-purpose <10m vessels will fish using set nets at certain times of the year, and a total of around 700km of net is typically set during the course of most years. Bycatches of species such as pout, dogfish, and wrasse are landed for use as bait by crab fishermen.

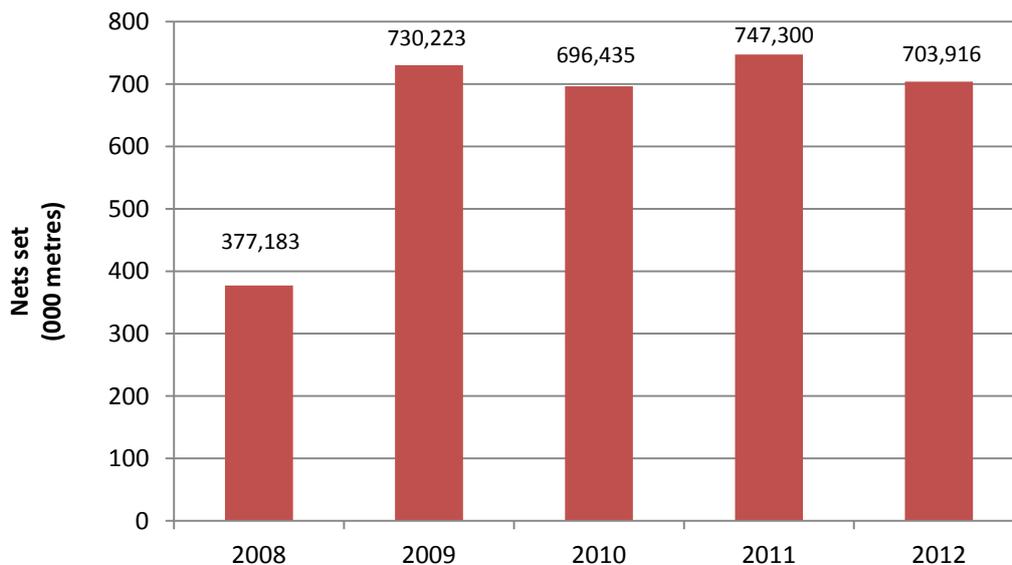


Chart 6: Netting effort 2008 – 2012 (metres worked = net length x number of days net lifted and re-deployed)

Angling (handlines, jigging machines, rod and line, trolling)



Fig 7: GU 41 Discovery – one of many vessels that fish using a hook and line within Bailiwick waters

Angling is the most commonly practiced method in the local fleet with nearly all vessels carrying some means of deploying a hook and line. The data presented in Chart 7 does not include effort from recreational anglers which far exceeds that of the commercial fleet.

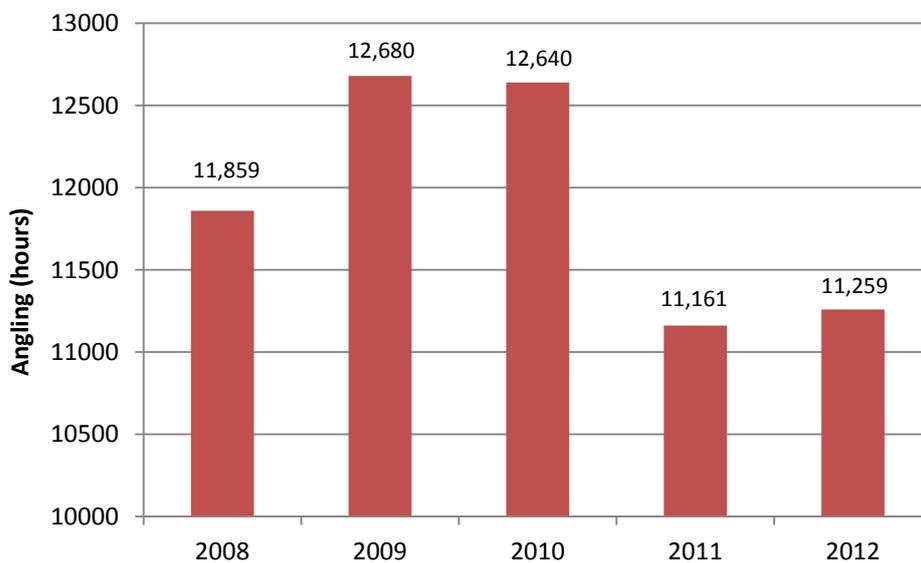


Chart 7: Angling effort (hours fishing) 2004-2012

Longlining (mono trotting)



Fig 8: Three J's (GU 46) set up for mono-trotting.

Chart 8 compares the number of hooks set by the GU fleet 2008-2012. Previously, there were two distinct longline fisheries operating from Bailiwick ports. Offshore longlining boats targeted tope, smoothounds, dog fish and conger but effort in this fishery has dropped markedly in recent years. A recent EU ruling means that tope caught by longlining must be returned alive to the sea, thus reducing the profitability of this type of fishing. Many vessels still mono-trot to target bass, pollack and ray within inshore waters.

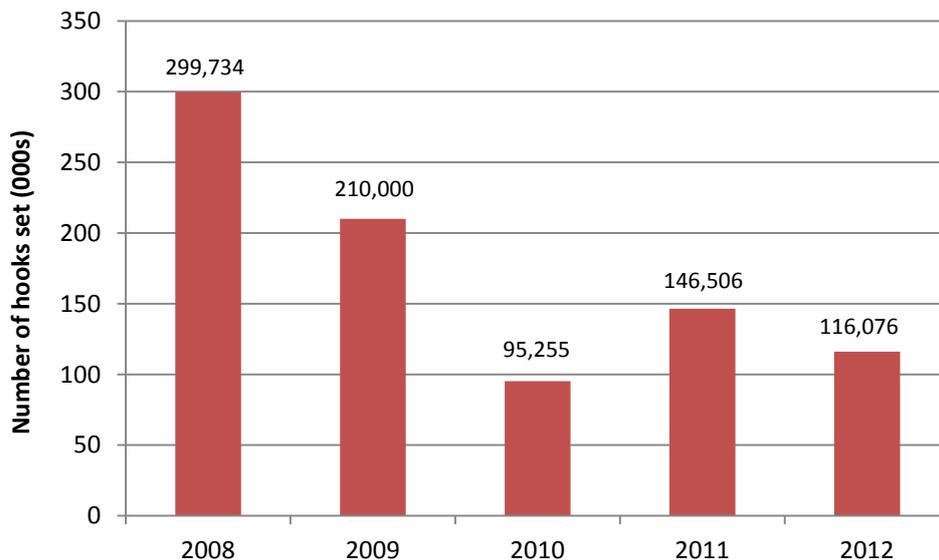


Chart 8: Longlining effort (hooks set) 2008 -2012.

Trawling (pelagic/pelagic pair/demersal)



Fig 9: Stern trawler La Coelacanth CH 878713, a regular visitor to the Bailiwick's 6-12nm limit

Chart 9 compares the number of days at sea the fleet spent trawling between 2008 and 2012. The chart depicts effort dropping after 2008 and then remaining at a relatively stable level. The number of GU boats fishing with a trawl declined after 2008 from 11 boats to 8 and has remained at this level since, with 7 boats using trawls in 2012.

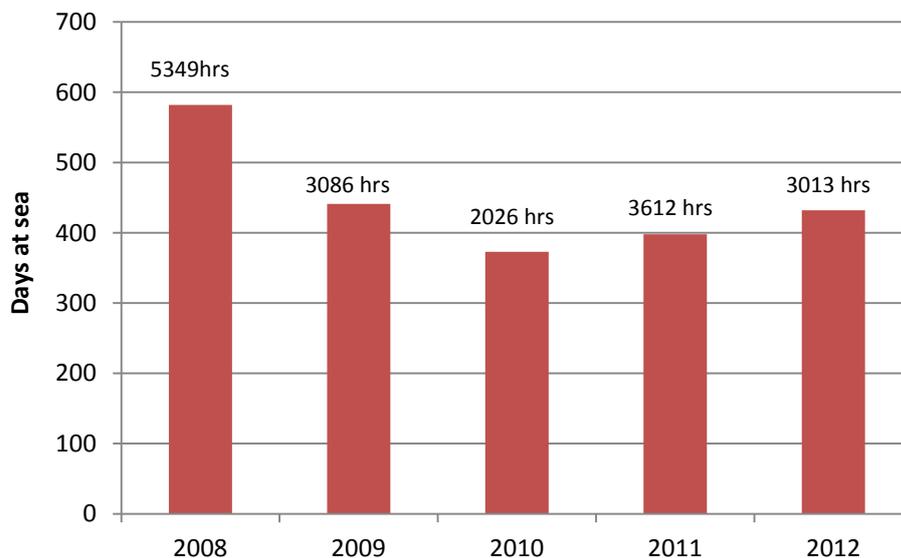


Chart 9: Trawling effort expressed as fishing days and towing hours 2008-2012. Tow time varies per day at sea depending on fishery targeted. Data does not include effort from one full time over ten metre day trawler targeting sandeels with short one hour trawls.

Beam Trawling



Fig 10: Dutch Beamer Z45 Stephanie during a boarding by the Sea Fisheries Section in 2012.

A relatively small number of local trawlers have rigged for beam trawling since 2008 to target certain seasonal fisheries. It is apparent from Chart 10 that this method of fishing has declined in popularity with only a handful of vessels currently operating in Bailiwick waters that are suitable to rig for this method. Visiting beam trawlers, such as the example in Figure 10, are now required to hold a Bailiwick fishing licence to fish within our waters, under the new Sea Fish Licensing Law 2012. This has acted as a deterrent to many of these larger vessels and the effort previously seen within the Bailiwick's 12nm limit has reduced considerably.

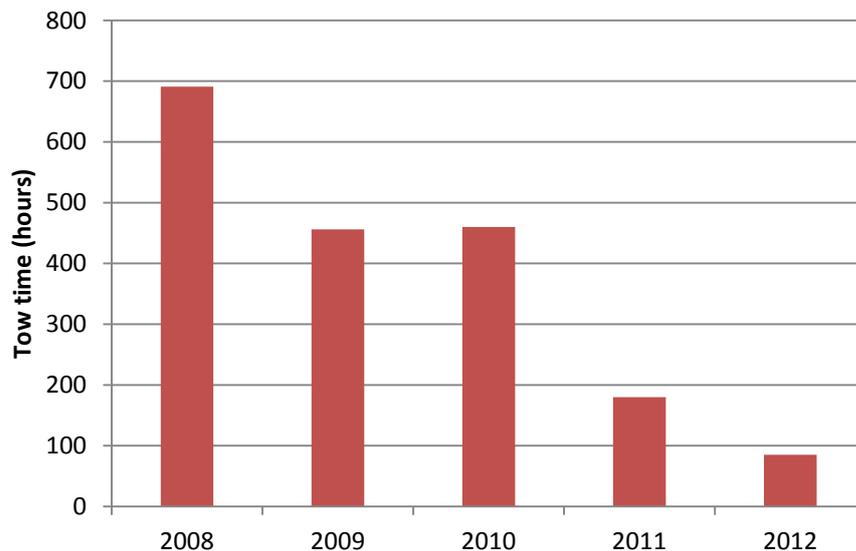


Chart 10: Beam trawl effort 2008 – 2012

Scuba Diving



Fig 11: Diving operations aboard a locally based fishing vessel.

Chart 11 compares the dive effort 2008 – 2012 expressed as days at sea (hours bottom time 2008 –2012). Most dive voyages (80% by bottom time) were for scalloping where a working day would involve around 2 hours bottom time per man for a typical two man operation. Around 20% of total dive effort was directed at flatfish, mainly sole, plaice, and brill. Dive effort has been broadly similar over recent years with only a handful of regular divers engaged in the scallop fishery.

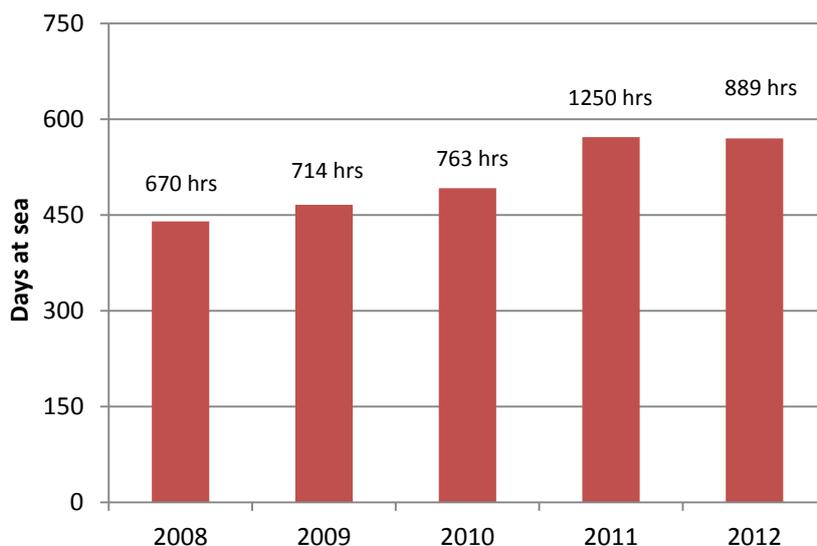


Chart 11: Dive effort (number of diving days) 2008-2012. Bottom time shown in hours, daily variation depends on fishery targeted.

Scallop Dredging



Fig 12: Local scalloper Olivia J GU 203 alongside at the Fishermen's Quay

Chart 12 compares the scallop dredge effort 2008 – 2012. The local scallop fleet is comprised of two full time under ten metre vessels. These vessels work daily from St Peter Port, often undertaking short trips depending on the market demand for scallops. Scalloping effort has remained largely stable over the time series shown.

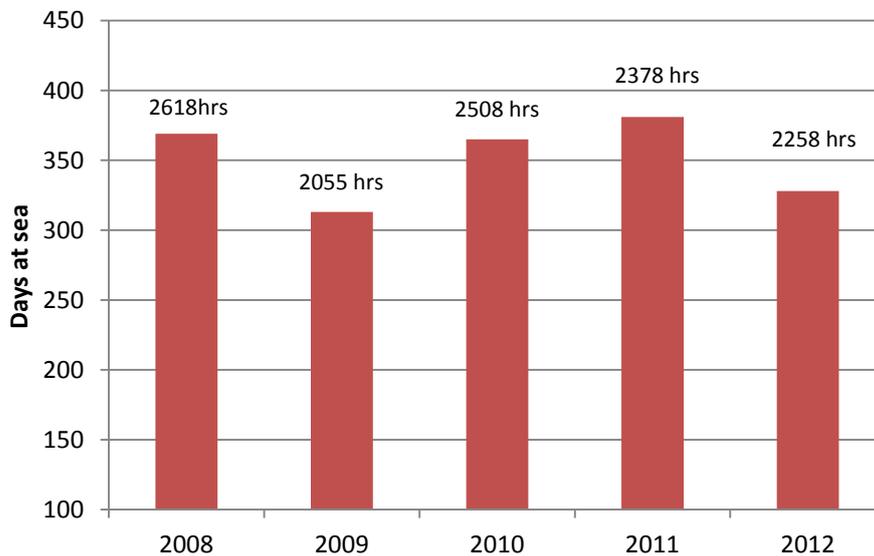


Chart 12: Scallop dredge fishing effort (days at sea and towing hours) 2008-2012.