



SEA FISHERIES

A COMMERCE AND EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT



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Statistical Report

2007

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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. 2007 will be remembered for the very poor summer which restricted the days at sea for many vessels, particularly for the under ten metre boats. 2007 had the highest number of gale days recorded at the airport since 1984.



Fig 1: A severe gale on the 9th December 2007, many vessels were prevented from going to sea for the first ten days of the month. The summer months were also unseasonably windy.

The poor weather continued into 2008 which caused severe siltation of waters around the Bailiwick particularly hampering diving and lining fisheries well into the summer months. The potting fleet experienced another poor spider season in 2007 (see landings) although early indications suggest a much better spring 2008 fishery was encountered. The ever spiralling cost of marine diesel which peaked this summer (2008), has affected the operation of particularly fast vessels, some skippers opting to concentrate on grounds nearer to home. The winter bass fishery on the west coast offshore reefs continues and has helped maintain the profitability of the fleet during the leaner winter months. The tagging study completed in 2007 has suggested that this fishery is composed of bass that migrate between the southern north sea and the Western Channel. The results are currently being compiled by DEFRA for publication next year.

2. Landings & Value

Table 1: Landings and approximate value of principal commercial species taken by GU registered vessels 2003-2007

Species	Landings 2007 (tonnes)	Landings 2006 (tonnes)	Landings 2005 (tonnes)	Landings 2004 (tonnes)	Landings 2003 (tonnes)	Average value per tonne (£000,s)
Anglerfish	2	1.6	2.3	0.9	1.9	3 ⁽³⁾
Bass	142	162.4	173.0	127.8	49.2	5.5
Black Bream	212.5	161.7	158.8	49.9	131.3	1.1
Brill	8.7	12.7	13.8	9.8	9.4	6
Cod	1.9	0.9	0.5	1.0	3.0	2
Conger ⁽¹⁾	38.2	108	58.5	22.4	23.2	1.1
Crayfish	0.4	0.3	0.3	1.2	1.3	25
Cuttlefish	0.7	0.3	2.5	4.5	5	1
Dogfish	10.4	20.4	20.6	12.9	45	0.5
Edible Crab	933	751	810	899	885	1.2
Grey mullet	1.2	1.9	1.1	1	1.1	1
John Dory	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5	1.1	7
Lobster	71.5	58.9	59.8	60.5	49	10
Ling	4.1	3.6	1.8	1.1	No data	1.5
Mackerel	6.5	6.8	7.1	5.2	No data	0.5
Plaice	1.5	2	2.9	2.7	1.7	3
Pollack	47.9	42	44.4	35.9	21.4	1.5
Ray	72.8	117.1	144.6	117.4	163	2 ⁽³⁾
Red mullet	8.2	8.1	12.1	10.1	10.3	5
Sand Sole	1	0.9	2.0	1.1	1	3
Sandeel ⁽²⁾	60	39.2	45	43.2	37.9	- ⁽⁴⁾
King Scallop	108	123.4	101.3	107.6	89.2	3.5
Smoothound	23.1	16.8	18.8	11.3	No data	2
Sole	3.6	3.5	5.4	6.0	4.8	7
Spider	59	65	73.3	99	146	1
Squid	0.5	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.9	5
Turbot	3.2	5.9	8.1	7.0	4.3	8
Tope	24.7	10	38.0	26	No data	2
Wrasse ⁽¹⁾	4	7.1	4.7	5.5	No data	0.5
Total Weight (tonnes)	1851	1728	1819	1671	1688	
Total Value (£000,s)	3841	3767	3961	3583	3077	

1.Data not including majority of net and pot caught bycatch landed for pot-bait.

2.Not including seine net caught sandeels fish used for bait (provision for this in future statistics)

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

Chart 1 shows the crustacea landings (excluding crayfish) 2001-2007. The trend in falling crab landings was reversed in 2007 with the highest landings since 2001. However, first sale prices for edible crab are now consistently below £1 per kilo for small and medium crab, while expenses for bait fuel and gear continues to increase. This fishery has been a victim of product oversupply from expanding operations in the UK and Ireland landing to Continental markets.

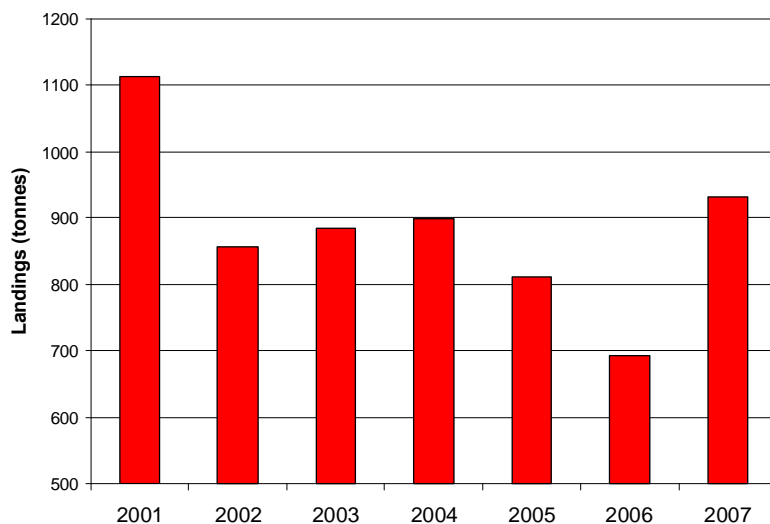


Chart 1: Edible crab landings 2001-2007

Chart 2 illustrates the decline in spider landings since 2001, with the very bad weather in May and June 2007 restricting access to set gear and therefore limiting overall landings. It can be seen that lobster landings have increased and exceeded spider landings in 2007 for probably the first time since potting operations were expanded in the nineteen seventies.

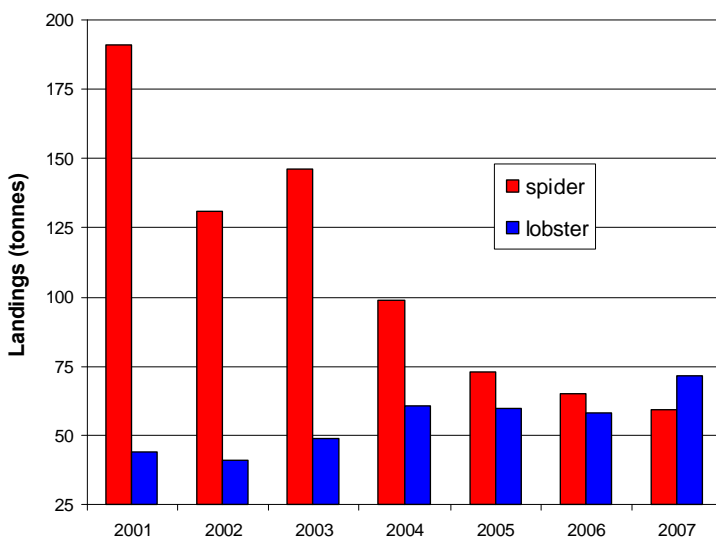


Chart 2: Spider crab and lobster landings 2001-2007

Monthly edible crab and lobster landings 2004-2007 are shown in Charts 3 and 4. These charts depict both the variation in fishing effort and catchability of the two species throughout the year, due to factors such as prevailing weather, environmental conditions, breeding cycles and moulting times (edible crab moult in spring so are either soft and/or have low meat yield). 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 generally encountered.

Edible Crab:

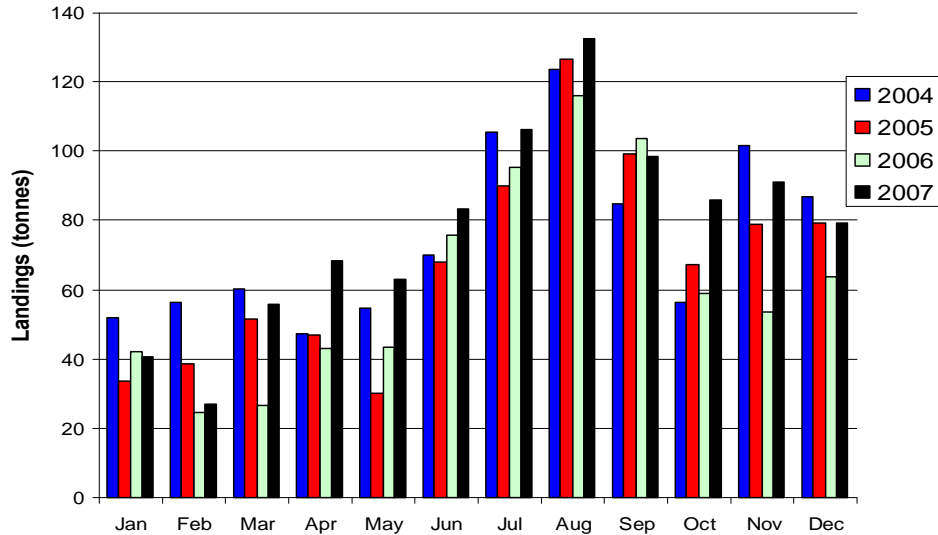


Chart 3: Edible Crab landings by month 2004-2007.

Lobster:

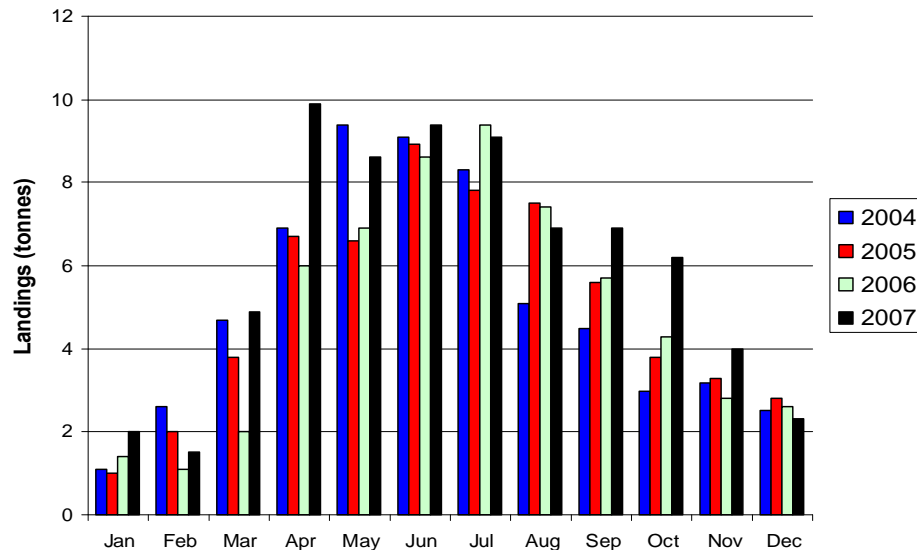


Chart 4: Monthly Lobster landings 2004-2007

Spider Crab:

Spider crab landings in 2007 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 species 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 below. It would appear that there was a resurgence in the abundance of this species in 2008 which should be reflected in the statistics for next year.

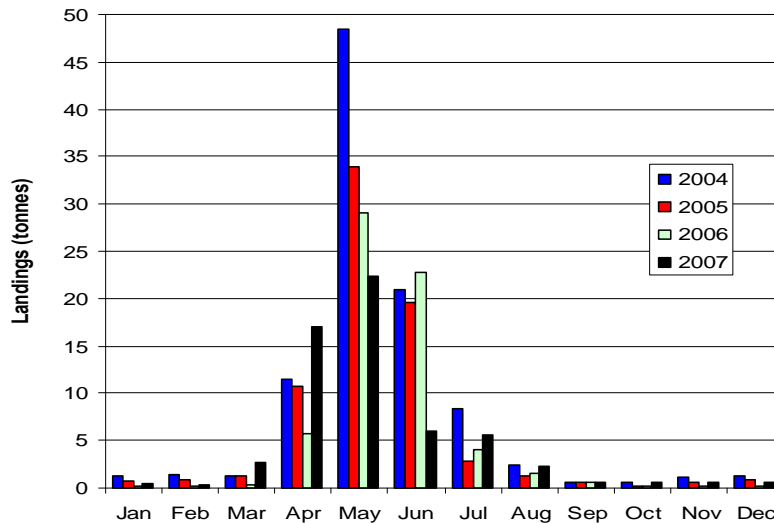


Chart 5: Monthly Spider Crab landings 2004-2007

5. The Fleet

Table 2 shows compares the Guernsey licenced fleet as it stood at the end of 2004 with the current position as at August 2008.

Table 2: The Guernsey licensed fleet 2004-2008.

Vessel Category	Number of vessels December 2004	Number of vessels August 2006	Number of vessels July 2007	Number of vessels August 2008
GU registered <10m (320ö)	158	164	175 ⁽²⁾	175 ⁽²⁾
GU registered >10m	16 ⁽¹⁾	13 ⁽¹⁾	13 ⁽¹⁾	12 ^(1,2)
Jersey registered >10m	9	9	9	9
Jersey Registered <10m	1	2	2	2
UK registered (all vessels)	84	86	89	64
Total	268	274	288	262

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

(2) Not including 1 vessel awaiting issue Of Guernsey Licence.

The under ten metre GU fleet has stabilised at 175 vessels, two over ten metre trawlers left the GU fleet in 2008 and one new over ten metre vivier crabber joined the GU registry. Although 64 Guernsey licences are currently issued to UK registered vessels as part of our reciprocal licensing agreement, only a small number actually fish in Bailiwick waters.



Fig 2: *Trawler Virtue (GU69) sold to new owners in Sweden in July 2008.*



Fig 4: *Trawler Copious sold to new owners in the UK in October 2008.*



Fig 3: *Vivier crabber Peadar Marie (GU199) joined the GU registry in August 2008.*

6. Fishing Effort

6.2 Pots In Use

Chart 8 overleaf compares the total number of all pot types (inkwell, creel, parlour e.t.c) in use by GU registered vessels 2004-2007. Pot numbers increased in 2007 reaching a peak of 19008 in July 2007, this increase being expansion by existing operators in creels and parlours set for lobster and edible crab.

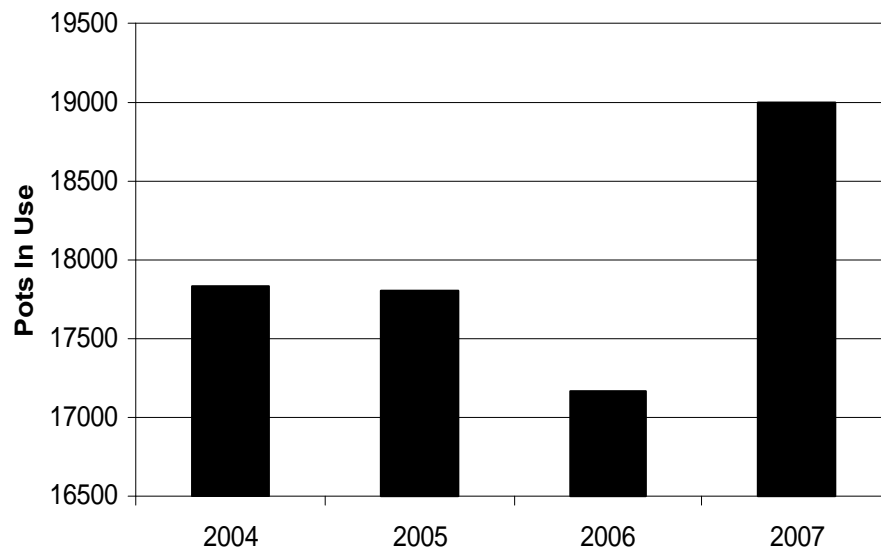


Chart 8: Pots in Use (All types) 2004-2007.

6.4 Pot lifts

Chart 9 compares the total number of pots lifted by month 2004 - 2007. It can be seen that there was a slight reduction in total potlifts in 2007, due in part to the poor spring and summer weather already highlighted in this report. Therefore, although pot numbers increased by around 10% in 2007 they were not turned over as much as in previous years.



Fig 5: Clearing spider pots aboard Fleur De Braye GU 79.

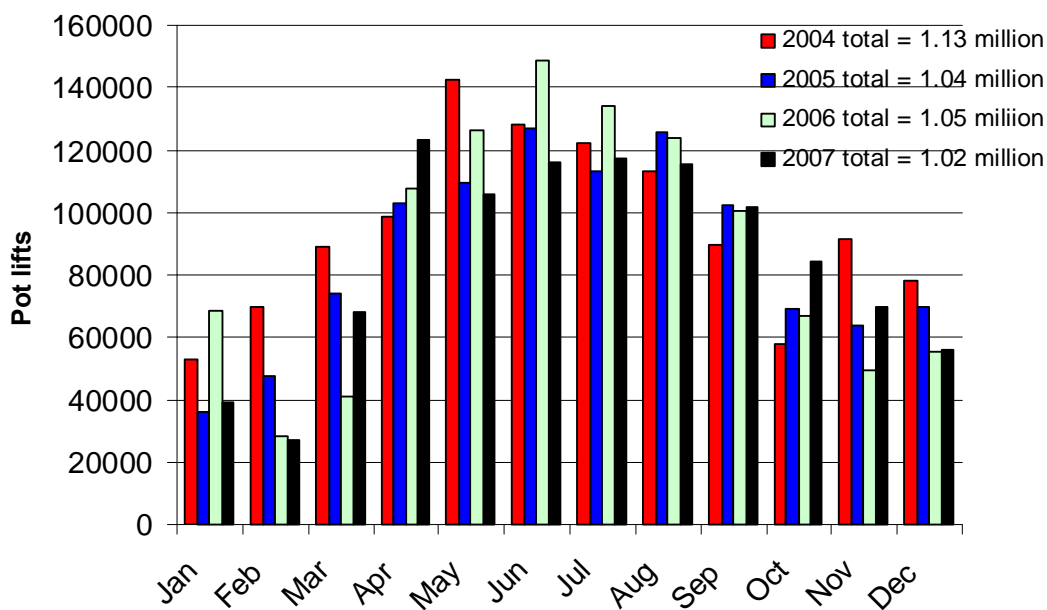


Chart 9: Monthly Pot lifts 2004-2007.

6.5 Effort on Finfish and Molluscs

Set Nets:

Chart 10 overleaf compares the total amount of set nets deployed by the licenced fleet 2004-2007. Nets, mainly of monofilament construction and of various mesh sizes are set for a variety of species including ray, bass, and sole, with an autumn and winter increase evident from chart 10 as the red mullet netting season takes place. Netting effort has declined year on year since the first data was available in 2004, although in that year there was relatively high levels of bass netting during the winter months. In addition, some of the prominent net fishermen have found alternative employment ashore and the bass line fishery has diverted effort away from netting in winter.



Fig 6: Spider netting aboard French netter Scirrocco (SM640683) in the Sark Box April 2008, a method not widely practiced by Guernsey fishermen.

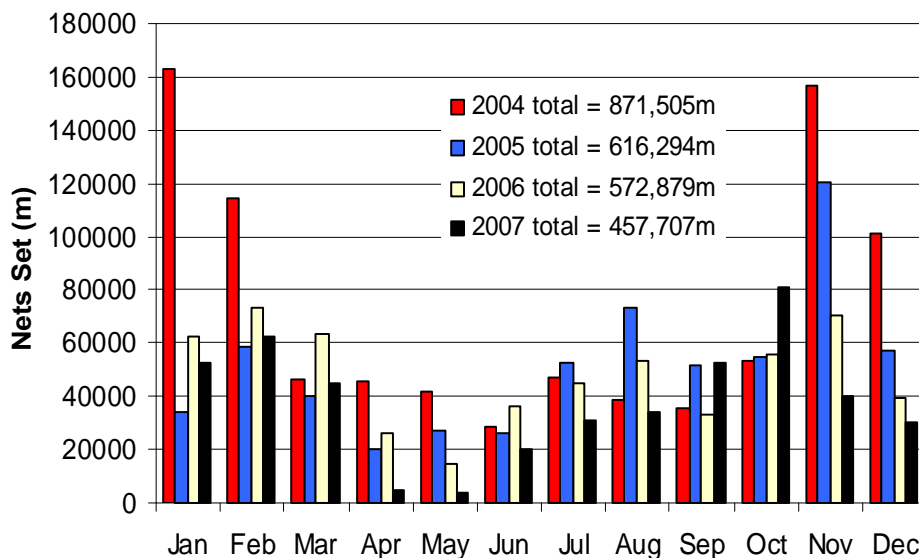


Chart 10: Monthly netting effort (metres deployed) 2004-2007.
Nets set from the shore not included

Angling :

Angling effort in 2007 was also affected by the poor spring / early summer weather, with a noticeable rise in effort occurring for October/November reflecting the targeting of bass aggregations on various marks including an early start to the west coast winter fishery. The availability of sandeels (bait) and the high price of fuel are limiting factors on the profitability of our angling boats. Line caught fish are becoming increasingly sought after and this generally lifts the price at market. A number of our under ten metre boats land directly to France when the weather allows consistently achieving higher prices than available locally.



Fig 7: Boy William (GU43) winter bass fishing off Guernsey's west coast, an important commercial fishery to the under ten metre fleet.

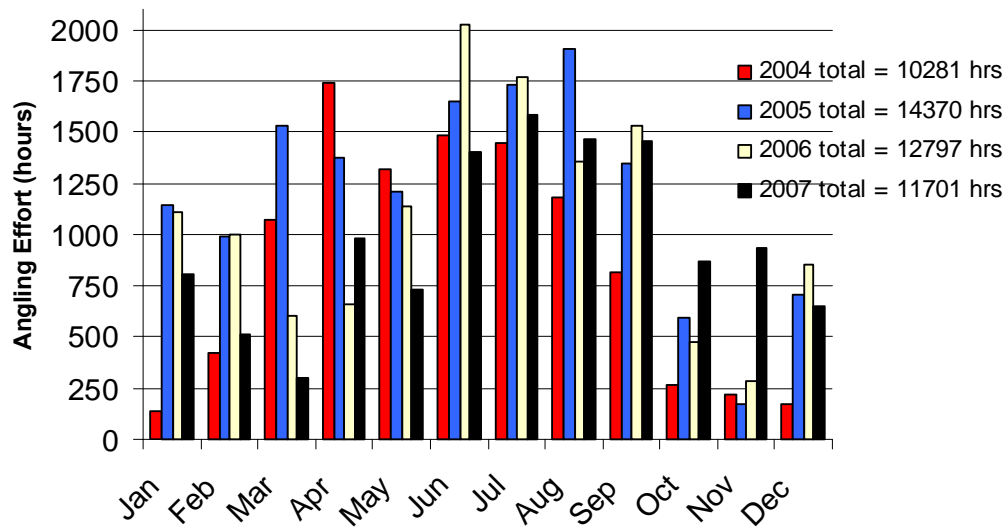


Chart 11: Monthly angling effort (hours fishing) 2004-2006

Longlining (mono trotting):

Chart 12 compares the number of hooks set by the GU fleet 2004-2007. Longlines are set for a variety of species, mainly bass, ray, Pollack, and more recently conger eel and smoothounds/ tope. Effort declined in 2007 due mainly to one over ten longliner refitting (pictured) for several months in 2007. L



Fig 8: Nicola May GU57 after refit.

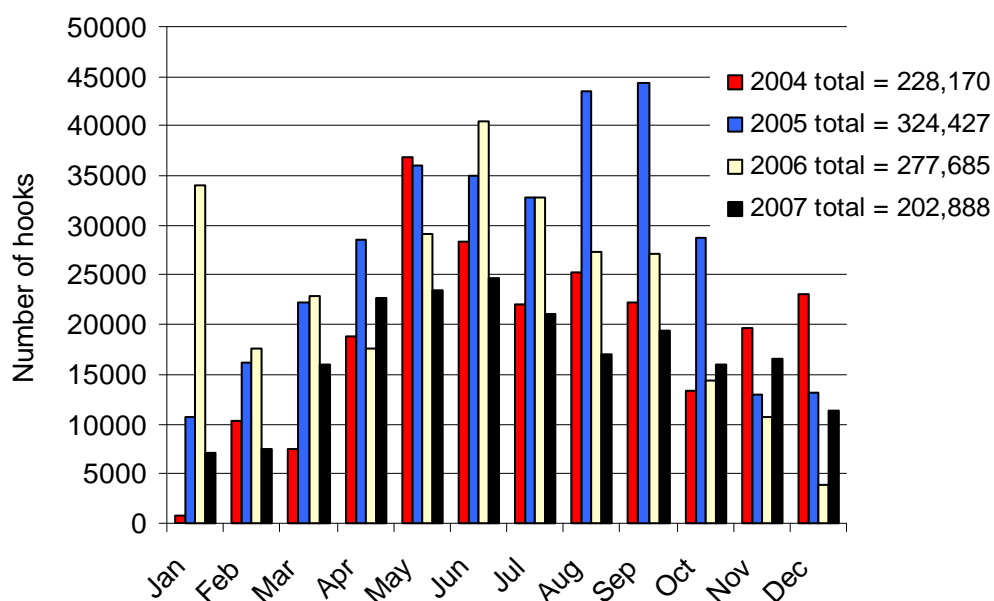


Chart 12: Monthly longlining effort (hooks set) 2004-2007.

Trawling (pelagic pair/demersal):

Chart 13 compares the number of days at sea the fleet spent trawling 2004-2007. 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. During 2008, two over ten metre vessels left the GU fleet (see 5 above), leaving a total of 4 full time over ten whitefish trawlers based in Guernsey.



Fig 9: Rachael B GU358, one of 4 over ten metre trawlers in the Guernsey fleet.

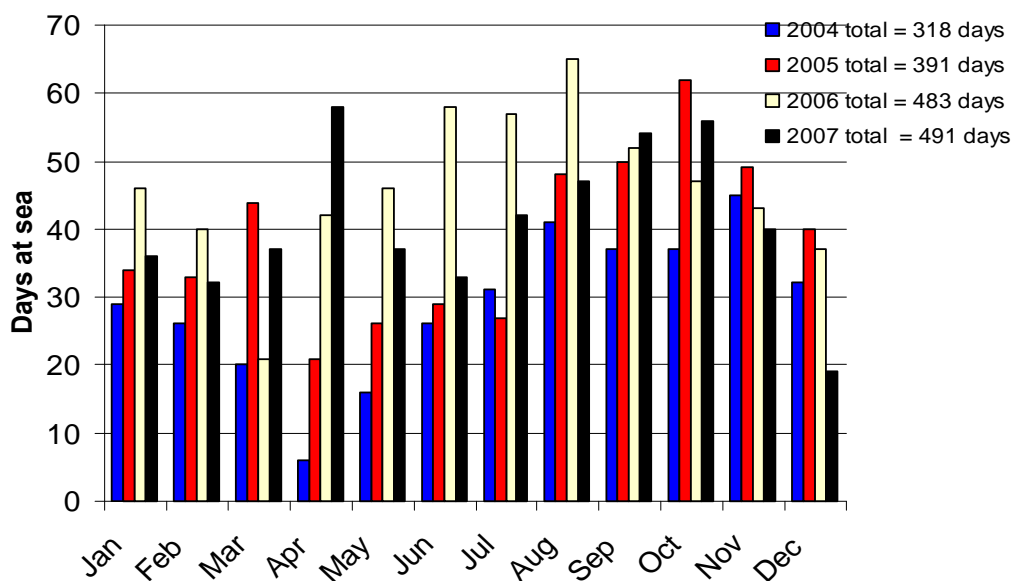


Chart 13: Trawl fishing effort expressed as fishing days 2004-2007.
 Tow time varied per day at sea depending on fishery.
 Comprehensive data on actual tow time is not available.
 Data does not include effort from 1 full time over ten sandeel trawler

****Beam Trawling** ó There were 2 vessels that rigged for beam trawling in 2007. Between June and September 2007, effort was 49 days at sea with tow time of 242 hours.

Diving:

Chart 14 compares the dive effort 2004-2007 expressed as days at sea.. 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. In 2007 there was approximately 714 hours of bottom time recorded. As mentioned previously, severe siltation and thus poor visibility of Bailiwick waters in 2008 hampered diving operations for the first six months of the year.



Fig 10: Richard Keen preparing for another scallop dive in the Little Russel Guernsey.

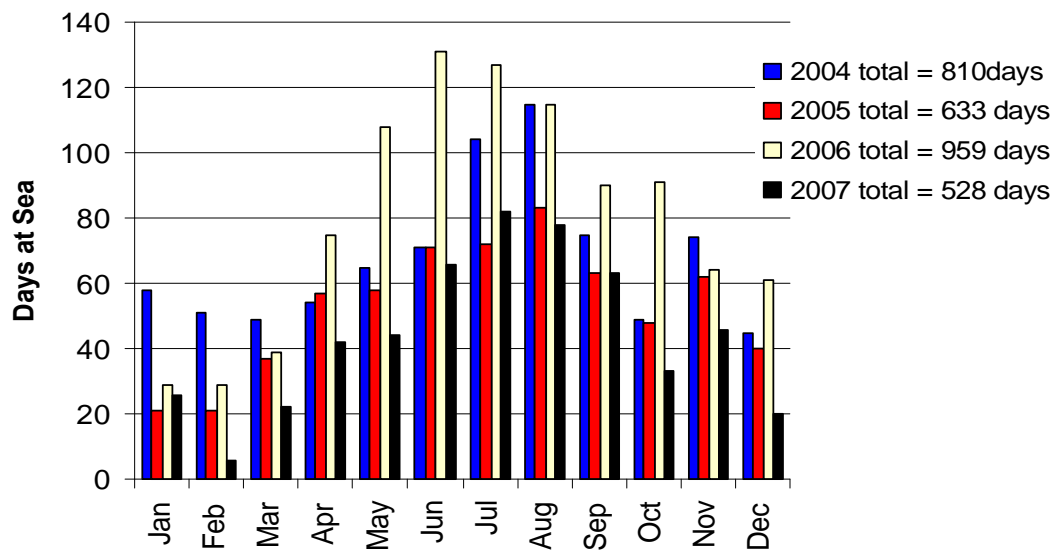


Chart 14: Dive effort (number of diving days) 2004-2007.
Bottom time varied depending on fishery.

Scallop Dredging :

Chart 16 overleaf compares the scallop dredge effort expressed as number of fishing days 2004-2007. The local scallop fleet is comprised of two full time under ten metre vessels. There has been a slight increase in daily effort since 2004 but actual tow time has remained broadly similar.



Fig 10: Albaross 11 (GU 472), one of two full time under ten metre scallopers working from St Peter Port.

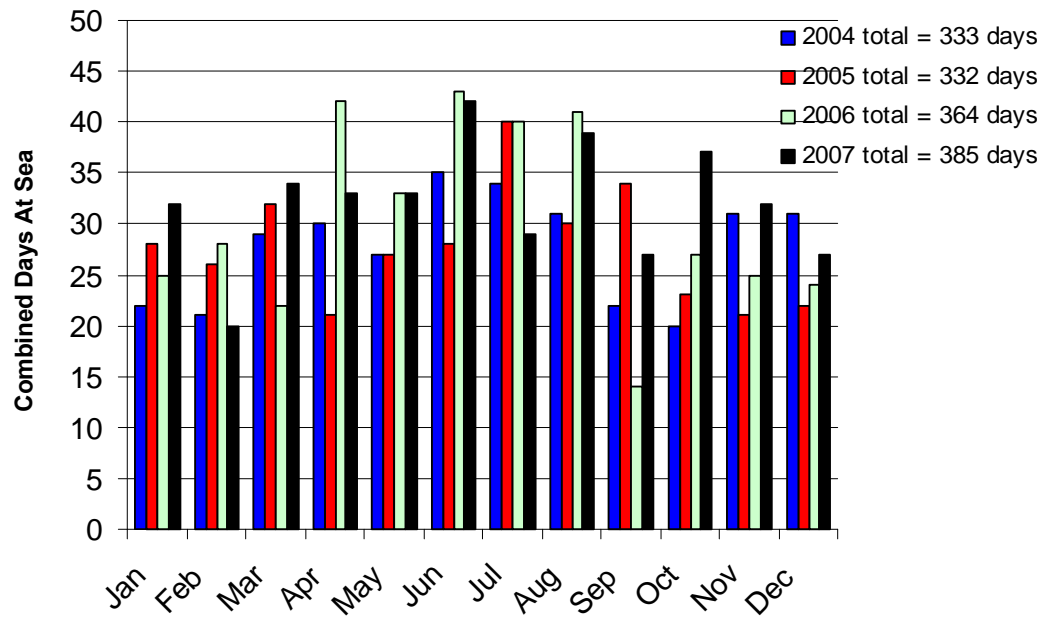


Chart 16: Monthly Scallop dredge fishing effort (days at sea) 2004-2007.