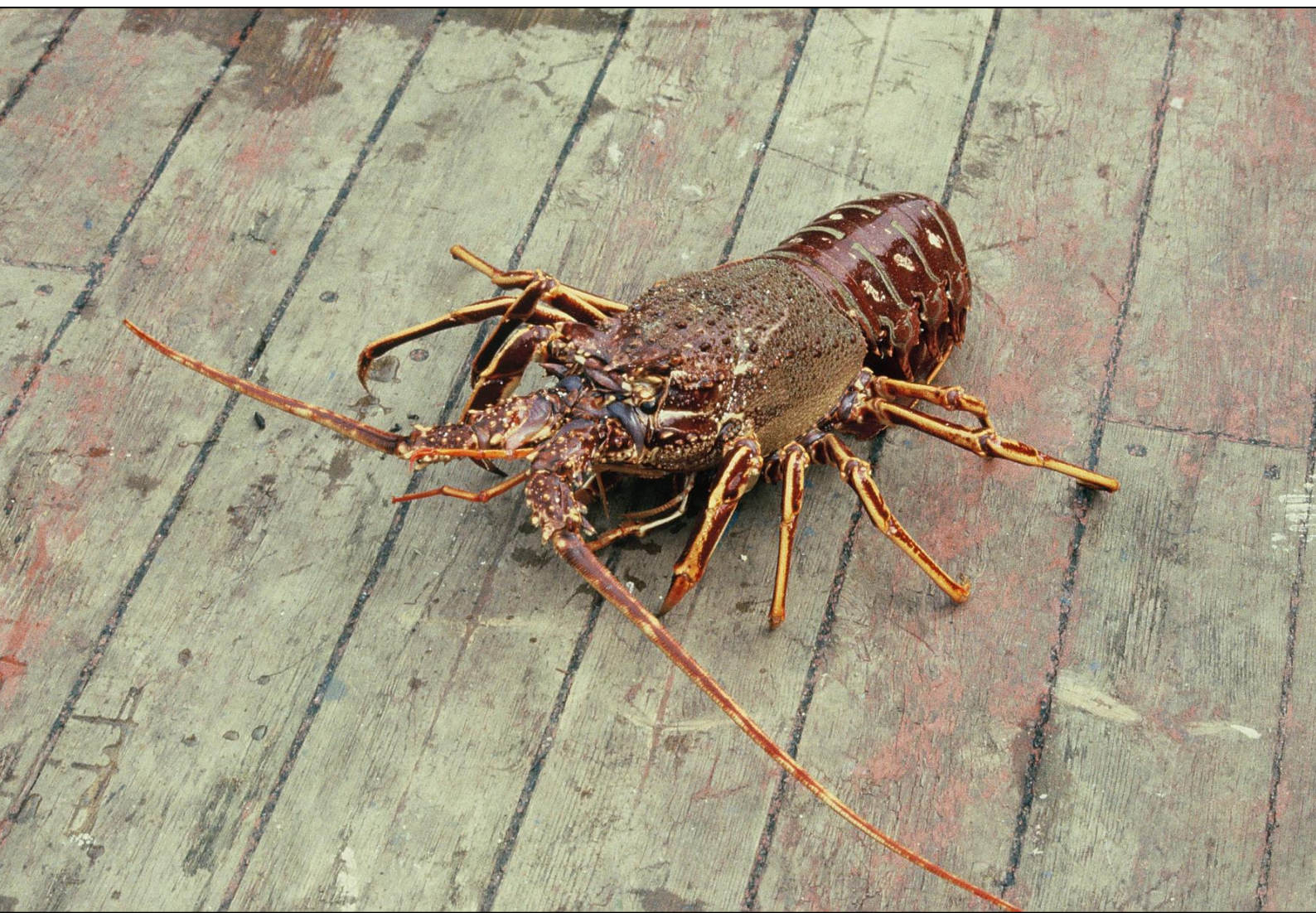




# COMMERCE AND EMPLOYMENT

A STATES OF GUERNSEY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT



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## Sea Fisheries Section

## Statistical Report

## 2011

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**Cover Picture:** Guernsey crabbers from the heyday of the offshore potting industry of the early **1980's**



1. **Landings & Value** (All landings data presented in this report were obtained from logsheets which are compulsory for all GU registered vessels)

Species	Landings 2011 (tonnes)	Landings 2010 (tonnes)	Landings 2009 (tonnes)	Landings 2008 (tonnes)	Landings 2007 (tonnes)	Landings 2006 (tonnes)	Landings 2005 (tonnes)	Typical average value per kilo (£) (2010)
Anglerfish	1.1 whole	1.1 whole	1.1 whole	3.3	2	1.6	2.3	7 (tails)
Bass	74	120	94.2	123.2	142	162.4	173.0	7
Black Bream	13.9	34	91.5	55	212.5	161.7	158.8	2
Brill	10.2	7.4	7.4	10.3	8.7	12.7	13.8	8
Cod	3.4	2.7	0.9	2.2	1.9	0.9	0.5	4
Conger <sup>(1)</sup>	8.7	12	31	38.6	38.2	108	58.5	1.5
Crayfish	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.3	25
Cuttlefish	1.4	0.2	0.4	2	0.7	0.3	2.5	2
Dogfish <sup>(1,2)</sup>	18	9	23.5	16	10.4	20.4	20.6	1
Edible Crab	692.7	759	622	802	933	751	810	1.3
Grey mullet	5.5	4.9	5.3	1.8	1.2	1.9	1.1	1
John Dory	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	7
Lobster Number *	101.5 147,204	79 105,532	66.5 58,881	67.2 no data	71.5 no data	58.9 no data	59.8 no data	12
Ling	2.6	1.8	1.8	1.6	4.1	3.6	1.8	3
Mackerel	5.4	7.4	9.7	6.5	6.5	6.8	7.1	1
Plaice	1.8	1	0.9	1.6	1.5	2	2.9	5
Pollack	85.8	59.8	68.2	52	47.9	42	44.4	4
Ray <sup>(4)</sup>	158.8	112	105.8	149.8	72.8	117.1	144.6	4 (wings)
Red mullet	4.8	5.2	4.3	8.3	8.2	8.1	12.1	6
Sand Sole	1.1	0.9	1.4	1.5	1	0.9	2.0	4
Sandeel	48.3	56.8	51.7	46 <sup>(3)</sup>	60 <sup>(3)</sup>	39.2 <sup>(3)</sup>	45 <sup>(3)</sup>	-
King Scallop	108.2	118	89.6	102	108	123.4	101.3	4 (in shell)
Smoothhound	3.5	2	16.7	19.8	23.1	16.8	18.8	2.5
Sole	4.0	3.1	3.2	6.0	3.6	3.5	5.4	12
Spider Crab	40.1	69	77.8	86.3	59	65	73.3	1.2
Squid	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.3	5
Turbot	10.3	6.2	3.4	2.5	3.2	5.9	8.1	14
Tope	4.8	8.9	14	16.2	24.7	10	38.0	4
Wrasse <sup>(1)</sup>	8.1	8.2	8.5	5	4	7.1	4.7	1
<b>Total Weight (tonnes)</b>	<b>1426.3</b>	<b>1494.2</b>	<b>1403</b>	<b>1636</b>	<b>1851</b>	<b>1728</b>	<b>1819</b>	
<b>Value (£000's)</b>	<b>4214</b>	<b>4395</b>	<b>4014</b>	<b>3534</b>	<b>3877</b>	<b>3825</b>	<b>4033</b>	

**Table 1:** Landings and average per kilo prices (first sale) for commercial species landed by GU registered vessels 2004-2011. 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.

\* Number caught by under ten metre vessels only.

## 2. Unusual Captures

During 2011 some unusual species were captured by commercial and recreational anglers.



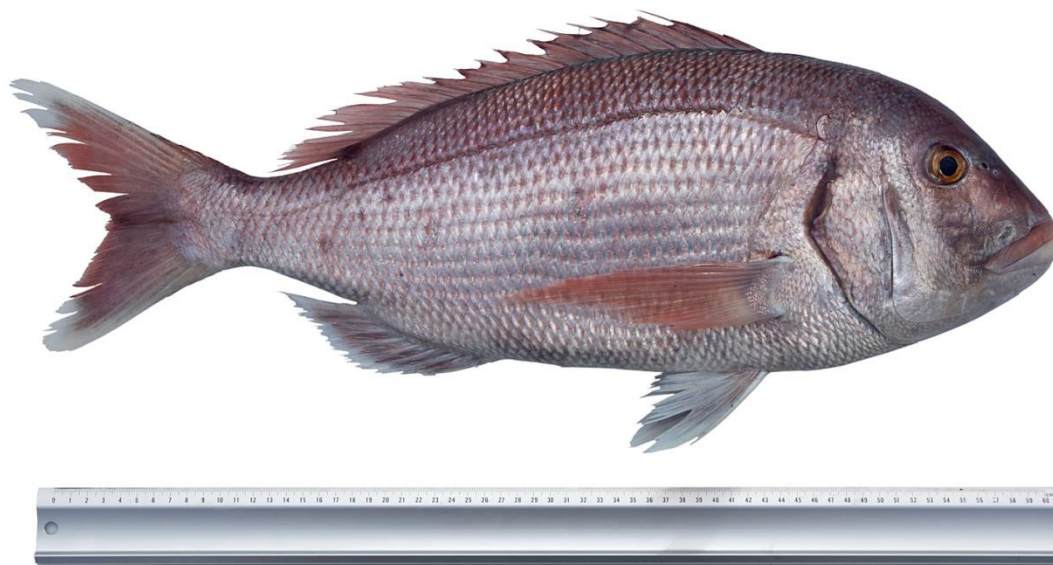
**Fig 1:** Megrim, *Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis*, a flatfish related to the turbot and brill. It was caught by recreational fisherman Mick le Sauvage whilst drifting off the western edge of the Godine Bank on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2011. This fish is the largest recorded recreationally-caught Megrim in the Channel Islands, weighing 767 grams with a total length of 50.4cm. *Photo courtesy of Richard Lord.*



**Fig 2:** Atlantic Saury, *Scomberesox saurus*, can be distinguished from the garfish *Belone belone*, by a series of finlets behind the dorsal and anal fins. It was caught by recreational angler Mark Platt whilst fly fishing on Banc au Nord, to the north-east of Sark, on 24 September 2011. The fish weighed 95 grams, with a total length 340mm. It was submitted as a Guernsey angling record. *Photo courtesy of Richard Lord.*



**Fig 3:** An unusual bream, probably a Two-banded Bream *Diplodus vulgaris*, was caught by commercial fisherman Nick Vinning, whilst netting off Ladies Bay on the north coast of Guernsey on 29 May 2011. It has close similarities to the White Bream, *Diplodus sargus*, but can be distinguished by the broad black band on the caudal peduncle that reaches the anal fin, and another band that runs from the nape to the axial of the pectoral fin. This fish weighed 428 grams and had a total length of 29.1cm. Photo courtesy of Richard Lord.

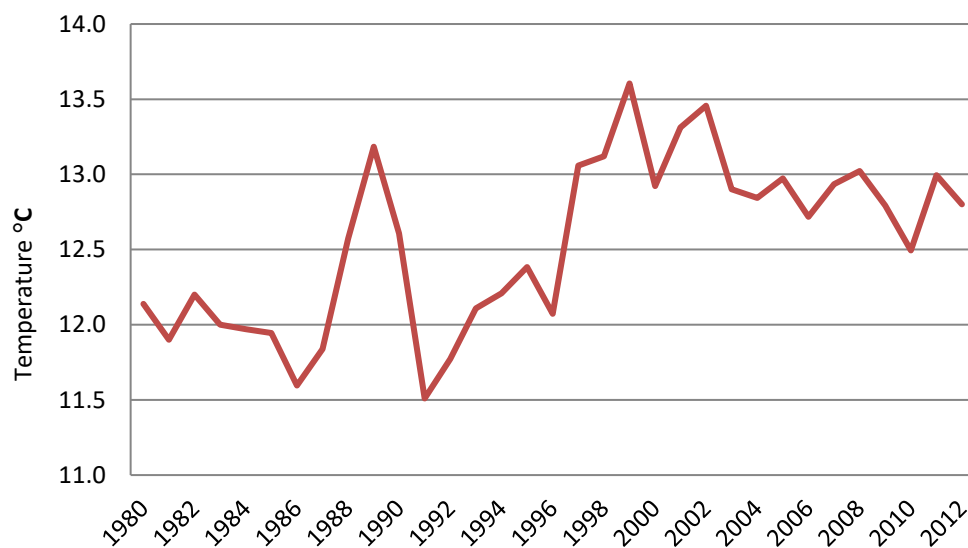


**Fig 4:** Couch's Sea Bream, *Pagrus pagrus*, are now a commonly caught species in Guernsey waters, with maximum sizes caught increasing steadily since the first capture in 1996, weighing over 2lbs. This fish was caught by angler Richard Le Prevost on 9 September 2011, several miles off the west coast of Guernsey. It weighed 4205 grams, beating the 2007 record of 2991 grams. Couch's Sea Bream live at least 18 years but most are caught before they reach old age. The largest recorded was 7.7kgs and 91cm long. Photo courtesy of Richard Lord.



**Fig 5:** Spotted Bass, *Dicentrarchus punctatus*, caught by Jersey fisherman Lee Allen off the west coast of Jersey on 8 June 2011. The Spotted Bass has spots on its flank. The European Seabass *Dicentrarchus labrax*, can also have spots on the flank when juvenile, but adult Seabass never have spots. It appeared to be a new British angling record so the fish was sent to the UK relevant authority for confirmation of its identity.

### 3. Sea Temperature



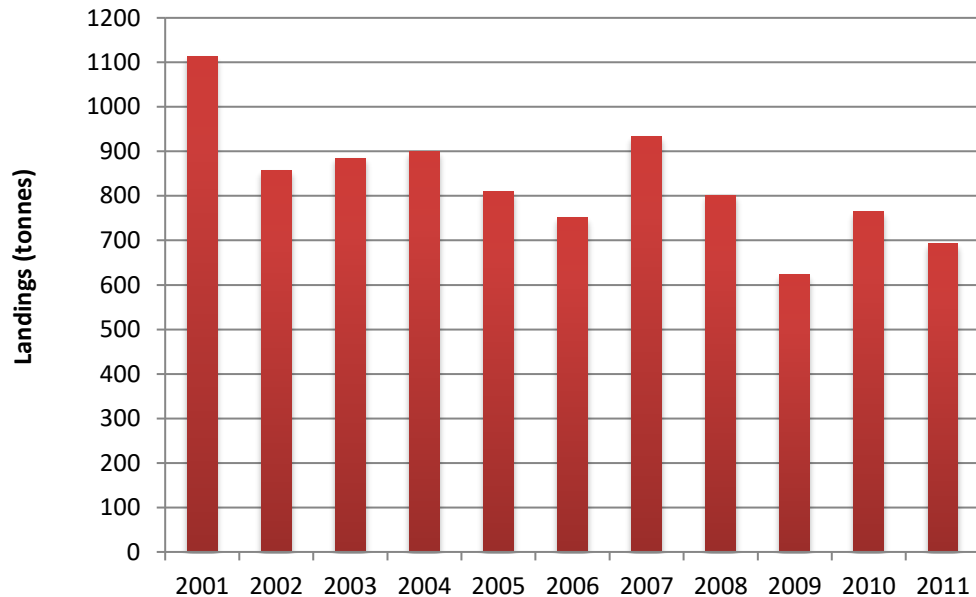
**Chart 1:** Annual average sea surface temperature °C 1980 -2012.  
(Temperatures taken weekly at St Peter Port Harbour)

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 has begun to reverse in recent years due to colder winters and generally cooler summers. The effect of sea-temperature on fish populations is difficult to predict or quantify.

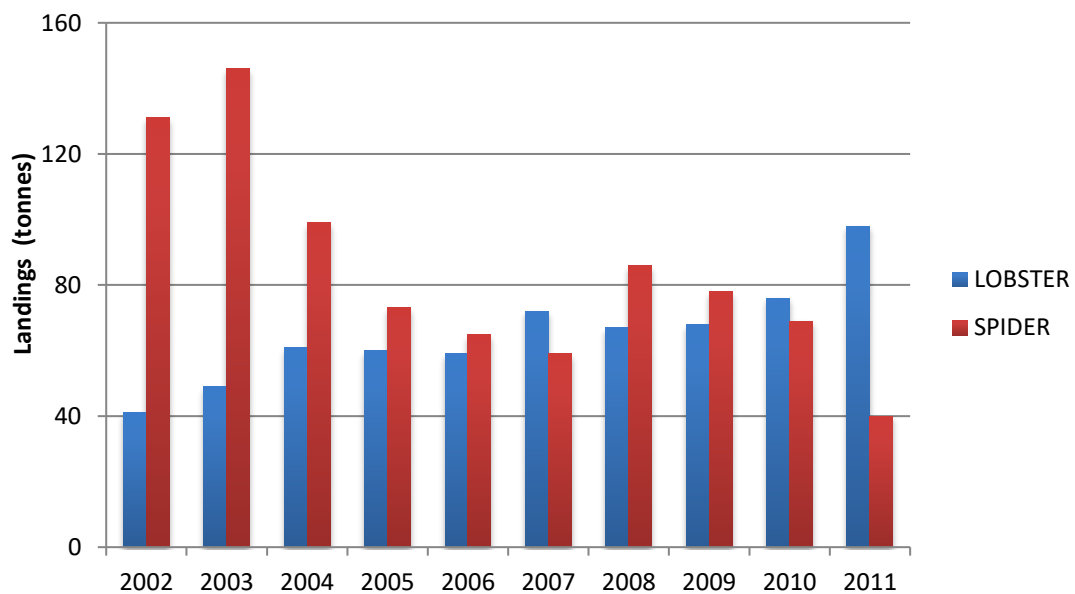


## 4. Analysis of Shellfish Landings

Chart 2 below shows the edible crab landings 2001-2011. Many crab fishermen continue to struggle with the difficult economic problems caused by oversupply of product and increasing production costs.



**Chart 2:** Edible crab landings 2001-2011



**Chart 3:** Spider crab and lobster landings 2001-2011

The 2010 spring and early summer spider crab season was unremarkable, which is reflected in the overall reduced landings from this fishery in 2010. Overall it can be seen from chart 3 that spider crab landings have fallen off considerably since 2001, due both to lower abundances and lower fishing effort. It can be seen that lobster landings increased again in 2010, a continuation of the trend seen over recent years. It is unknown why there has been an increase in the abundance of lobsters across many local potting grounds.

## 5. The Fleet

Table 2 shows the changes that have occurred within the Bailiwick licensed fleet between December 2004 and August 2011.

**Table 2:** The Bailiwick of Guernsey licensed fleet 2004-2011.

Vessel Category	Number of vessels December 2004	Number of vessels August 2006	Number of vessels August 2007	Number of vessels August 2008	Number of vessels August 2009	Number of vessels August 2010	Number of vessels August 2011
GU registered <10m (32'9")	158	164	175 <sup>(2)</sup>	175 <sup>(2)</sup>	175	171 <sup>(3)</sup>	160
GU registered >10m	16 <sup>(1)</sup>	13 <sup>(1)</sup>	13 <sup>(1)</sup>	12 <sup>(1,2)</sup>	11 <sup>(1)</sup>	8	8
Jersey registered >10m	9	9	9	9	9	7	5
Jersey registered <10m	1	2	2	2	2	1	1
UK registered (all vessels)	84	86	89	64	57	51	50

(1) Includes L'Etoile Du Nord, GU45 (non active.)

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

(3) Not including 2 vessels awaiting issue Of Bailiwick Licence.

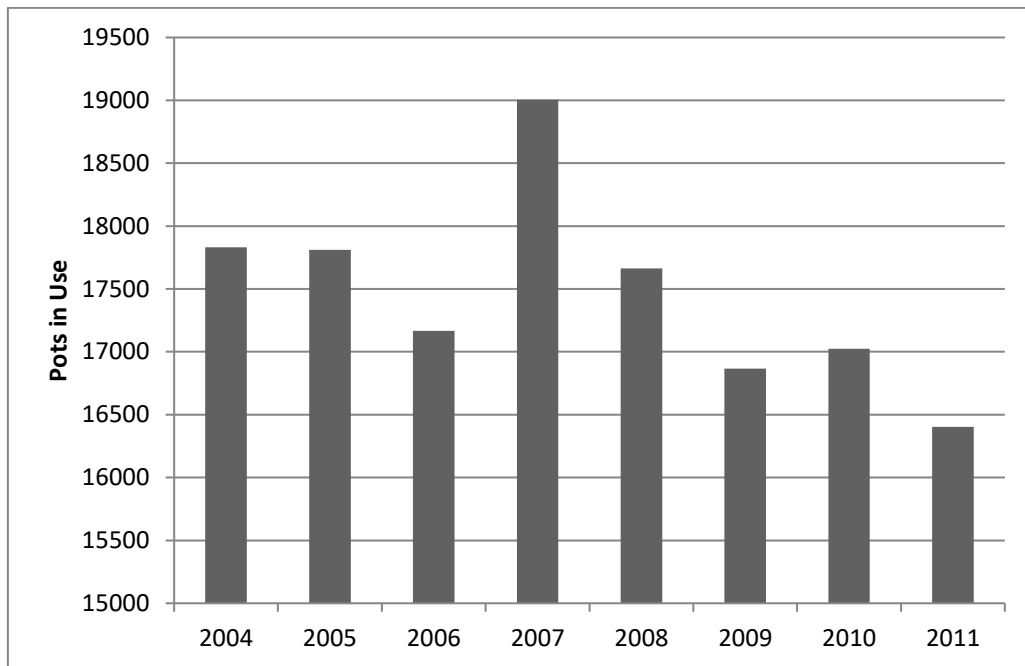
The under ten metre GU registered fleet currently stands at 160 vessels, having reduced in the last 12 months. This reduction is for the most part due to increased regulation for under ten metre vessel owners as the Codes Of Practice for fishing vessels has come into force locally. There are now only 8 over ten metre vessels remaining in the Bailiwick fleet (5 trawlers and three potters), half the number there were in December 2004. 50 Bailiwick licences are currently issued to UK registered vessels as part of our reciprocal licensing agreement, however the majority of these vessels do not fish within 12 miles of the Islands.



## 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 2004-2011. 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.



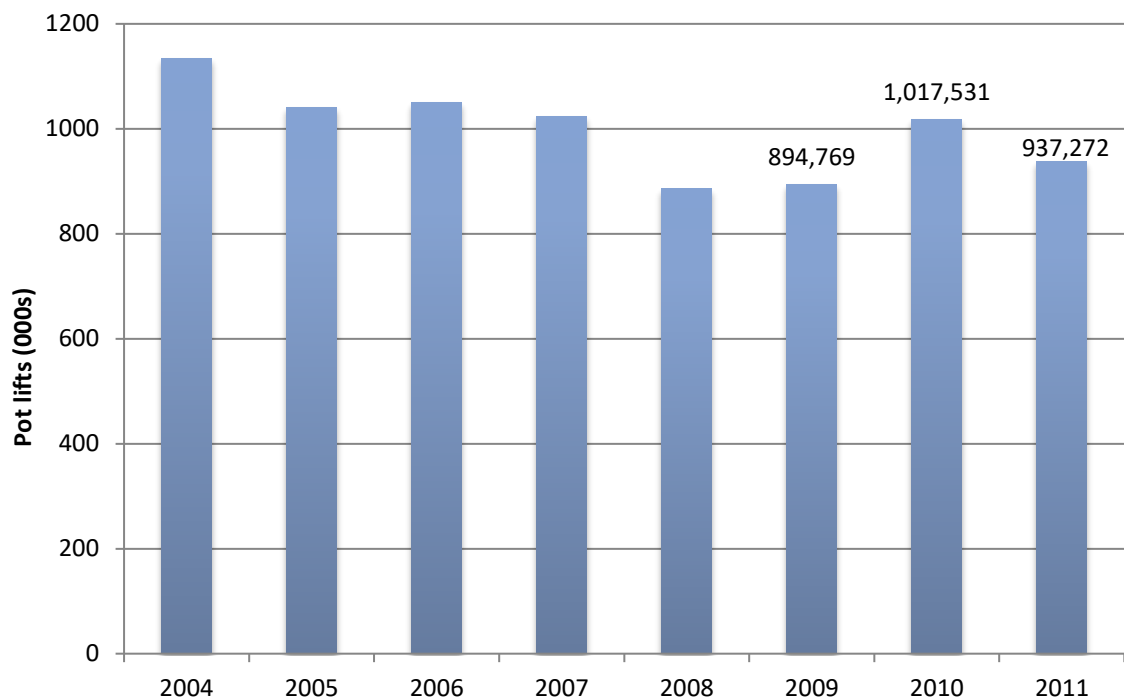
**Chart 4:** Pots in Use (All types) 2004-2011. A pot in use is one which is being baited and cleared at regular intervals.

### *Pot Lifts*

Chart 5 compares the total number of pots lifted 2004 - 2011. Pot lifts increased slightly in 2010 having seen a falling trend since 2004.



**Fig 6:** Pulling pots aboard Fleur De Braye (GU 79) off the East coast of Guernsey.



**Chart 5:** Pot lifts 2004-2011.

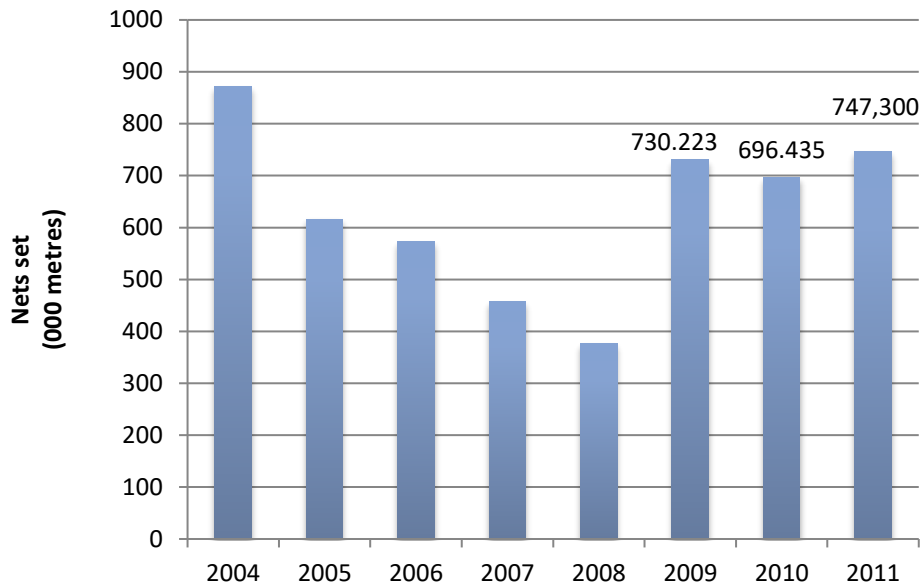
### **Set Nets:** (*gillnets, trammel nets, tangle nets*)

Chart 6 compares the total amount of set nets deployed by the licensed fleet 2004-2011. Nets, mainly of monofilament construction and of various mesh sizes are set for ray, bass, sole, and red mullet depending on the season. Bycatches of species such as pout, dogfish, and wrasse are landed for use as bait by crab fishermen.

Effort decreased marginally over that recorded for 2009, the winter gill net fisheries for bass responsible for the increased effort seen since 2008.



**Fig 7:** Mayfair (GU362) the only full time inshore netter in the Guernsey fleet.



**Chart 6:** Netting effort 2004-2011 (metres worked = net length x number of days net lifted and re-deployed) (Nets set from the shore not included).

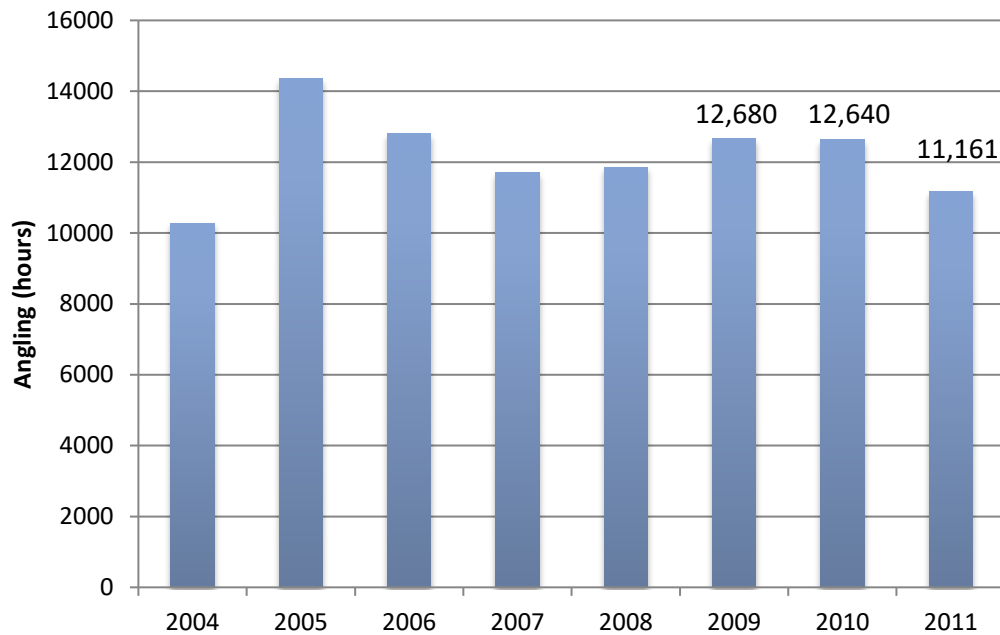
**Angling:** (*handlines, jigging machines, rod and line, trolling*)



**Fig 8:** Red Dragon (GU351) rod and line fishing for bass off the west coast of Guernsey.

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.





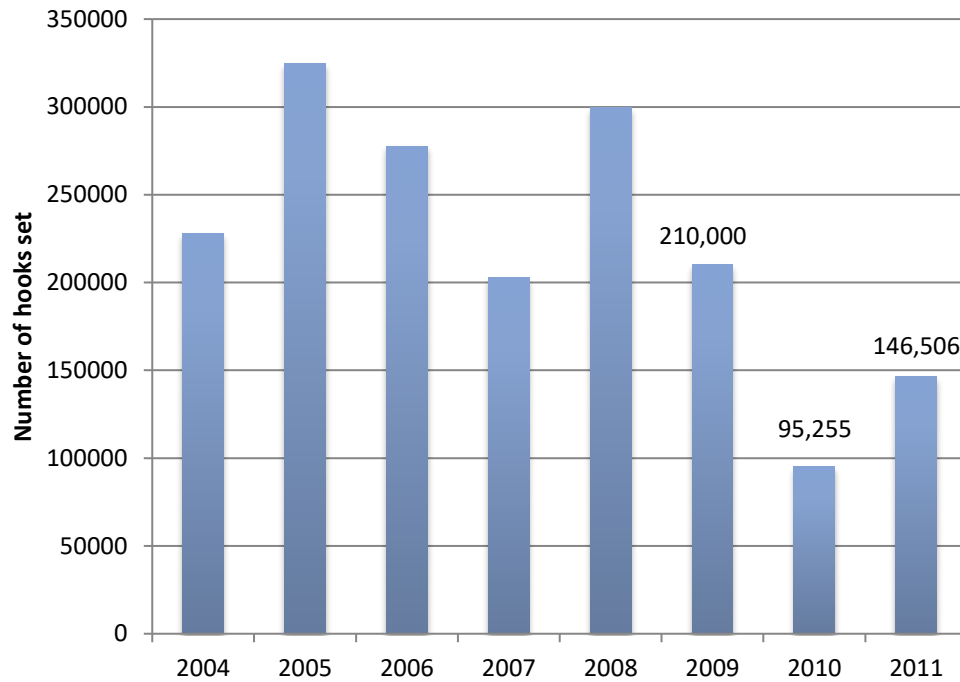
**Chart 7:** Angling effort (hours fishing) 2004-2011

### **Longlining: (*mono trotting*)**

Chart 8 compares the number of hooks set by the GU fleet 2004-2010. There are two distinct longline fisheries operating from Bailiwick ports. These are offshore operations focusing on dogfish, smoothounds, tope and conger, and inshore mono trotting targeting bass, ray and Pollack. There was a notable reduction in fishing effort during 2010, largely as a result of less effort directed on the offshore operations outlined above.



**Fig 9:** L'Albatros (CH775901)hauling longlines North of Alderney.



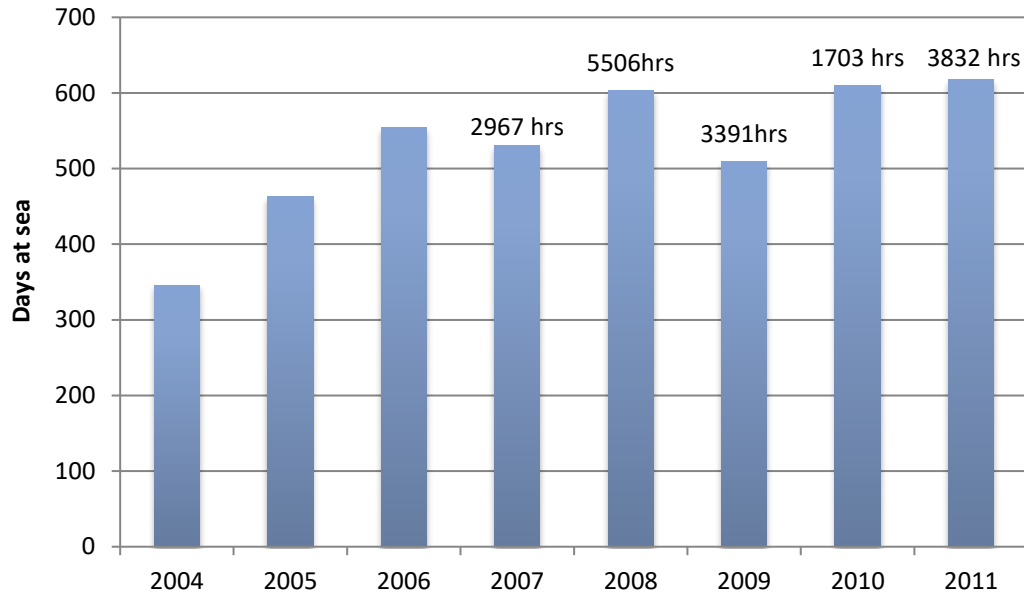
**Chart 8:** Longlining effort (hooks set) 2004 -2011.

### **Trawling:** (*pelagic/pelagic pair/demersal*)

Chart 9 compares the number of days at sea the fleet spent trawling 2004-2010. Effort declined in 2010, due largely to a reduction in effort in the pelagic trawling sectors and 1 over ten metre trawler remaining tied up for much of the year.

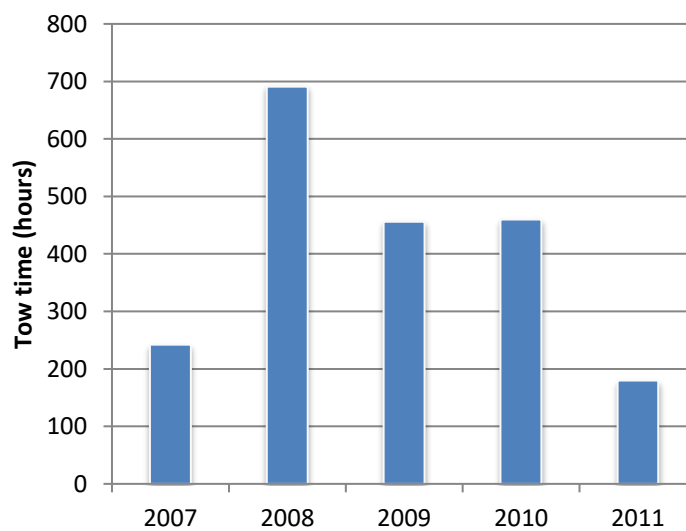


**Fig 10:** Victor Constant CN 652468



**Chart 9:** Trawling effort expressed as fishing days 2004-2011, towing hours shown 2007-2011.  
 Tow time varied per day at sea depending on fishery.  
 Data does not include effort from 1 full time over ten metre sandeel trawler working short trips daily during spring and summer.

**\*Beam Trawling\*** – A number of local trawlers have rigged for beam trawling since 2007.



**Chart 10:** – Beam trawl effort 2007-2011

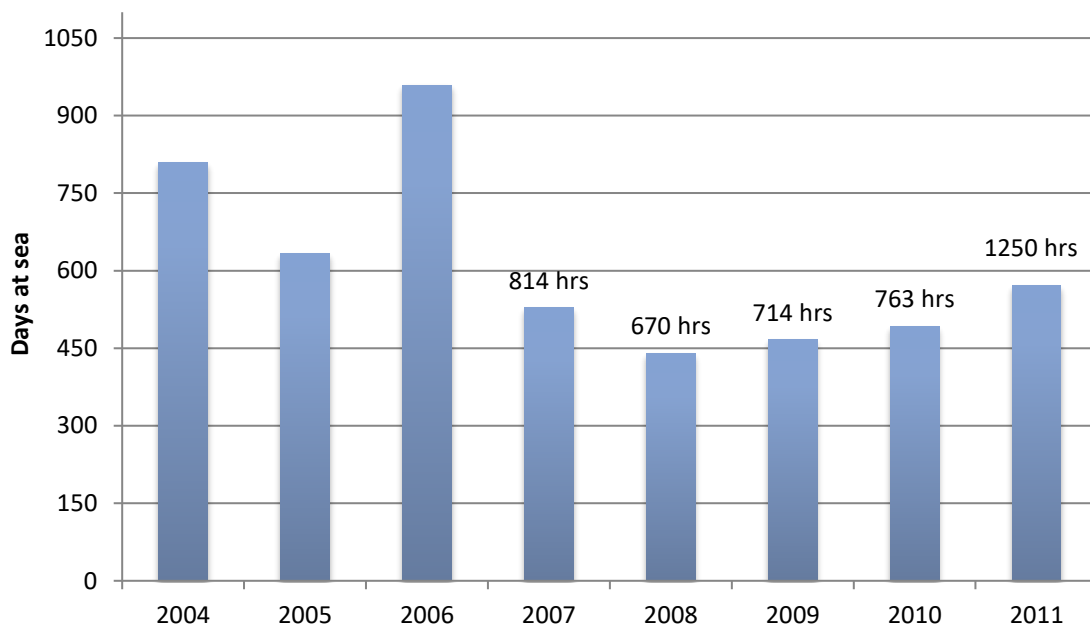


## Scuba Diving:

Chart 11 compares the dive effort 2004-2011 expressed as days at sea (hours bottom time 2007-2011). 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



**Fig 11:** A diving operation in the Little Russel from the early 1980's. Equipment used has not changed significantly in the scallop dive fishery since that time.



**Chart 11:** Dive effort (number of diving days) 2004-2011.

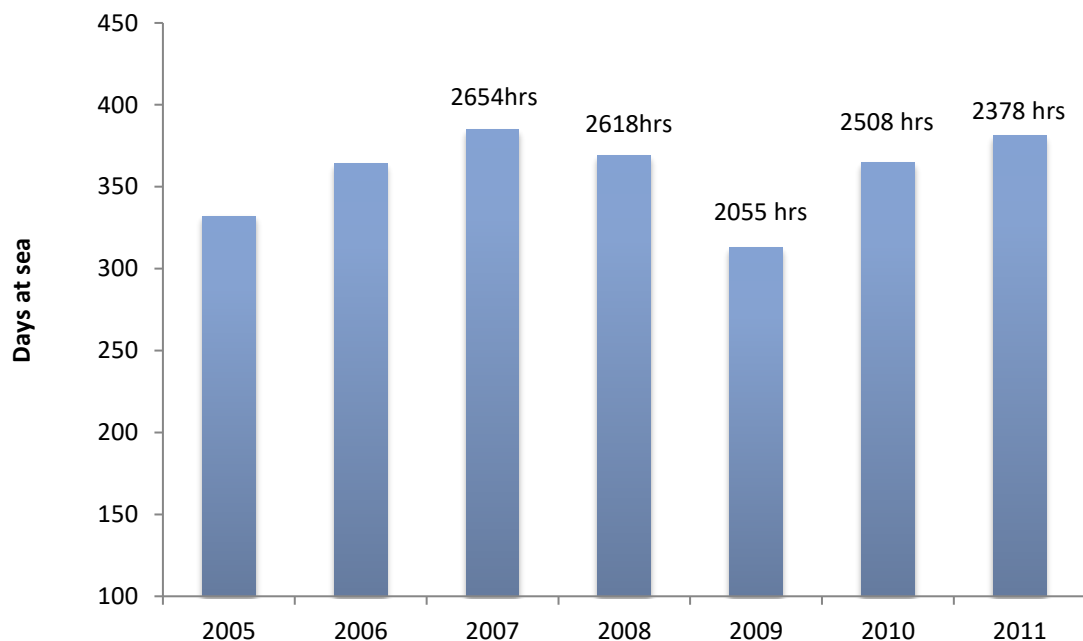
Bottom time shown for 2007-2010, daily variation depending on fishery.

## Scallop Dredging :

Chart 12 compares the scallop dredge effort 2005-2011. 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. Scallop effort returned to normal levels in 2010 following maintenance periods for the vessels involved in 2009.



**Fig 12:** Nomadic UK scalloper working the 6-12 mile grounds west of Guernsey



**Chart 12:** Scallop dredge fishing effort (days at sea, towing hours) 2005-2011.