



COMMERCE AND EMPLOYMENT

A STATES OF GUERNSEY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT



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Sea Fisheries Section

Statistical Report

2009

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Cover Picture: Cefas staff tagging Ray aboard Nicola May GU57, August 2010.

1. Introduction

The colder than average winter of 2008/2009 seemed to affect the Bailiwicks important edible crab fishery, with reduced landings that persisted well into the summer of 2009. As a result, annual edible crab landings were much lower than usual (see chart 1). The winter bass fishery continued to provide a welcome income to local fishermen, as did the spring and summer Pollack fishing on the wrecks, although productive wrecks proved difficult to find at times. Since the demise of the local Co-operative more fishermen have had to land away from the Island, either operating individually or in small partnerships. Those fishermen able to land directly to French and UK markets received better prices overall for their catches and this is becoming increasingly more important to the profitability of local fishermen.



Fig 1: Unusually heavy snow on Feb 2nd 2009, Edible crab catches noticeably fell following the cold winter of 2008/2009

A prohibition on the landing of Undulate Ray came into effect during 2009 which caused unnecessary discarding of this species by local trawlers. It is hoped that this regulation will be reviewed in the near future, particularly given the low survival rates of this species following capture in trawls.

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

Table 1: Landings and average per kilo prices (first sale) for commercial species landed by GU registered vessels 2004-2009. 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.

Species	Landings 2009 (tonnes)	Landings 2008 (tonnes)	Landings 2007 (tonnes)	Landings 2006 (tonnes)	Landings 2005 (tonnes)	Landings 2004 (tonnes)	Typical average value per kilo (£) (2009)
Anglerfish	1.1 (whole)	3.3	2	1.6	2.3	0.9	7 (tails)
Bass	94.2	123.2	142	162.4	173.0	127.8	7
Black Bream	91.5	55	212.5	161.7	158.8	49.9	2
Brill	7.4	10.3	8.7	12.7	13.8	9.8	8
Cod	0.9	2.2	1.9	0.9	0.5	1.0	4
Conger ⁽¹⁾	31	38.6	38.2	108	58.5	22.4	1.5
Crayfish	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.3	1.2	25
Cuttlefish	0.4	2	0.7	0.3	2.5	4.5	2
Dogfish ^(1,2)	23.5	16	10.4	20.4	20.6	12.9	1
Edible Crab	622	802	933	751	810	899	1.3
Grey mullet	5.3	1.8	1.2	1.9	1.1	1	1
John Dory	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5	7
Lobster Number landed (by <10m vessels)	66.5 58'881	67.2 no data	71.5 no data	58.9 no data	59.8 no data	60.5 no data	12
Ling	1.8	1.6	4.1	3.6	1.8	1.1	3
Mackerel	9.7	6.5	6.5	6.8	7.1	5.2	1
Plaice	0.9	1.6	1.5	2	2.9	2.7	5
Pollack	68.2	52	47.9	42	44.4	35.9	4
Ray ⁽⁴⁾	105.8	149.8	72.8	117.1	144.6	117.4	4 (wings)
Red mullet	4.3	8.3	8.2	8.1	12.1	10.1	6
Sand Sole	1.4	1.5	1	0.9	2.0	1.1	4
Sandeel	51.7	46 ⁽³⁾	60 ⁽³⁾	39.2 ⁽³⁾	45 ⁽³⁾	43.2 ⁽³⁾	-
King Scallop	89.6	102	108	123.4	101.3	107.6	4 (in shell)
Smoothound	16.7	19.8	23.1	16.8	18.8	11.3	2.5
Sole	3.2	6.0	3.6	3.5	5.4	6.0	12
Spider Crab	77.8	86.3	59	65	73.3	99	1.2
Squid	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.3	0.4	5
Turbot	3.4	2.5	3.2	5.9	8.1	7.0	14
Tope	14	16.2	24.7	10	38.0	26	4
Wrasse ⁽¹⁾	8.5	5	4	7.1	4.7	5.5	1
Total Weight (tonnes)	1403	1636	1851	1728	1819	1671	
Value (£000's)	4014	3534	3877	3825	4033	3641	

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 for 2009 which were subject to a landing prohibition in that year.

3. Unusual Captures

During 2009 a number of more unusual species were captured by commercial and recreational anglers.



Fig 2: Bogue, (*Boops boops*), captured north of L'Ancrese on the 9 February 2009 by commercial fishermen Steve Fallaize. (Photo courtesy of R Lord).



Fig 3: Boarfish (*Capros amer*) caught by commercial fishermen David Downes while trawling for sandeels in the Little Russel, April 10th 2009. This was the second recorded capture from Guernsey waters. (Photo courtesy of R Lord)



Fig 4: White seabream *Diplodus sargus*, caught by local angler Andy Marquis at Belle Greve on Sunday 19 July 2009. This was the first positively identified specimen recorded from Guernsey waters. (Photo courtesy of R Lord)



Fig 5: Curled Octopus *Eledone cirrhosa* (photo of similar specimen) was caught by Shane Petit while trawling at the Longue bank on 7th February 2009. The same fishermen caught several specimens at different locations during 2009.



Fig 6: Asian shore crab found by Troy Watermen in a small bay near Vale pond Guernsey in April 2009. The carapace width was 35mm (claws not present on this specimen). These crabs are accidental introductions, probably through ballast water transfer from commercial shipping. The public are asked to report any sightings to the Sea Fisheries section. (Photo courtesy of R Lord)



Fig 7: White ormer *Haliotis tuberculata*, taken by a shoregatherer in February 2009. (Photo courtesy of R Lord)

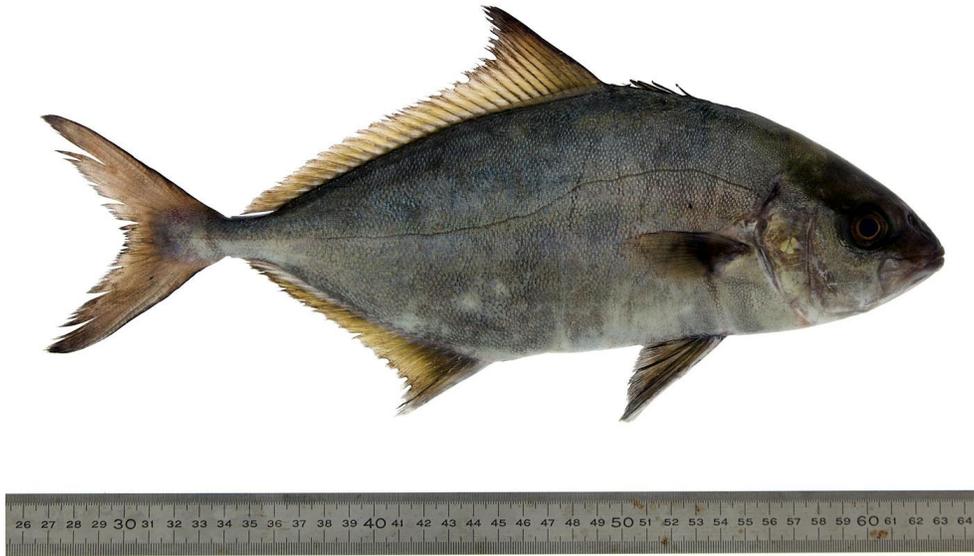


Fig 8: Greater Amberjack *Seriola dumerili*, caught by commercial fishermen Steve Fallaize on the 9th December 2009 off Rouse, Guernsey. This is the first record of this species from Guernsey waters. (Photo courtesy of R Lord)

4. Analysis of Shellfish Landings

Chart 1 below shows the edible crab landings 2001-2009. Many crab fishermen experienced poor landings throughout 2009 which seemed to co-incide with the colder than average winter of 2008/2009.

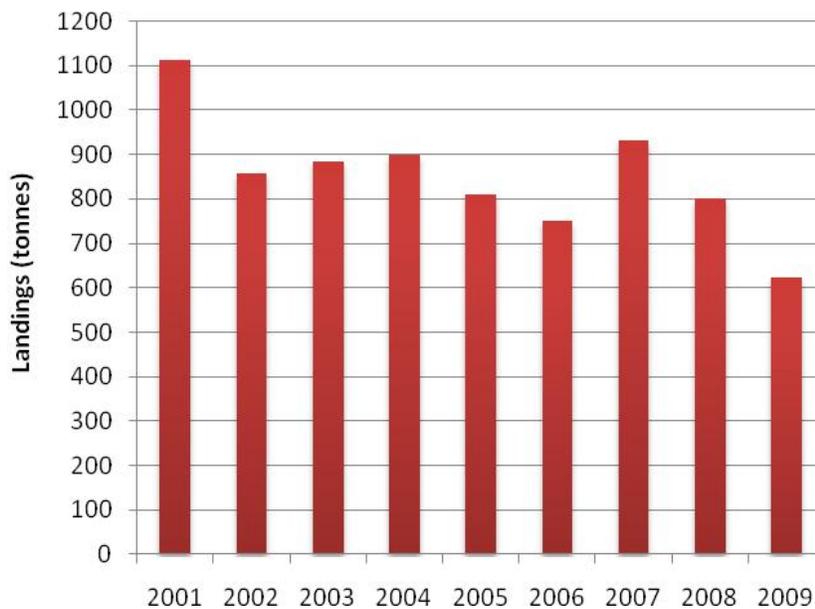


Chart 1: Edible crab landings 2001-2009

The 2009 spring and early summer spider crab season was considered average by those who participated in it. Overall it can be seen 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 have remained stable in the mid to high sixty tonnes helping to offset the reduction in profitability from both the edible crab and spider crab components of the local potting industry. Recruitment of young lobsters to the fishery remains good with many fishermen again reporting increases in undersize lobsters from most Bailiwick grounds during 2009.

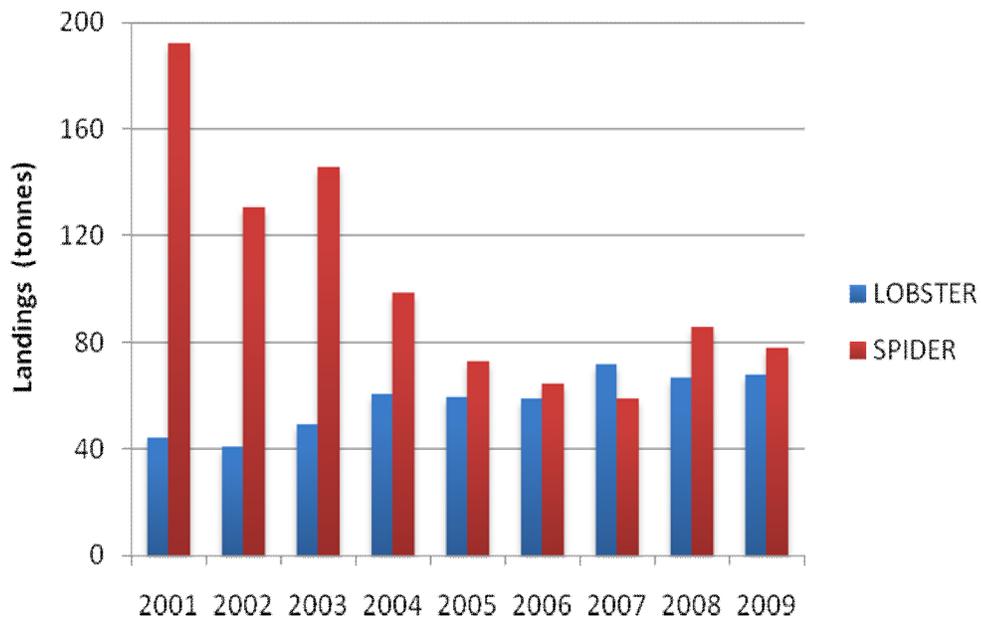


Chart 2: Spider crab and lobster landings 2001-2009

5. The Fleet

Table 2 shows the changes that have occurred within the Bailiwick licenced fleet between December 2004 and August 2010.

Table 2: The Bailiwick of Guernsey licensed fleet 2004-2010.

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
GU registered <10m (32'9")	158	164	175 ⁽²⁾	175 ⁽²⁾	175	171 ⁽³⁾
GU registered >10m	16 ⁽¹⁾	13 ⁽¹⁾	13 ⁽¹⁾	12 ^(1,2)	11 ⁽¹⁾	8
Jersey registered >10m	9	9	9	9	9	7
Jersey registered <10m	1	2	2	2	2	1
UK registered (all vessels)	84	86	89	64	57	51

(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 171 vessels, having been at this level now for about 4 years. 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. 51 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 3 overleaf compares the total number of all pot types (inkwell, creel, and parlour) in use by GU registered vessels 2004-2009. The total number of pots actually in use varies seasonally, chart 3 showing the peak number at a single point in time each year. Although a small decline is evident from the 2009 figures, overall pots on the ground have not changed significantly over the time period shown.

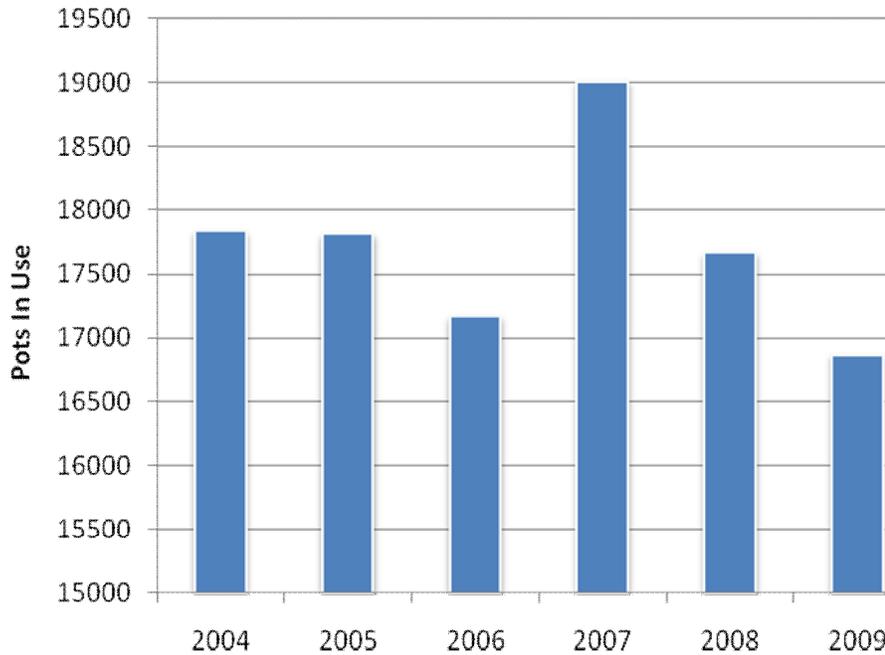


Chart 3: Pots in Use (All types) 2004-2009. A pot in use is one which is being baited and cleared at regular intervals.

Pot lifts

Chart 4 compares the total number of pots lifted 2004 - 2009. It can be seen that potlifts have reduced over the time period shown, largely due to diversification into other fishing methods such as seasonal line fishing and netting for bass and other prime demersal species.



Fig 9: Sarah P (GU399) returning to St Peter Port after a days potting off the South coast of Guernsey.

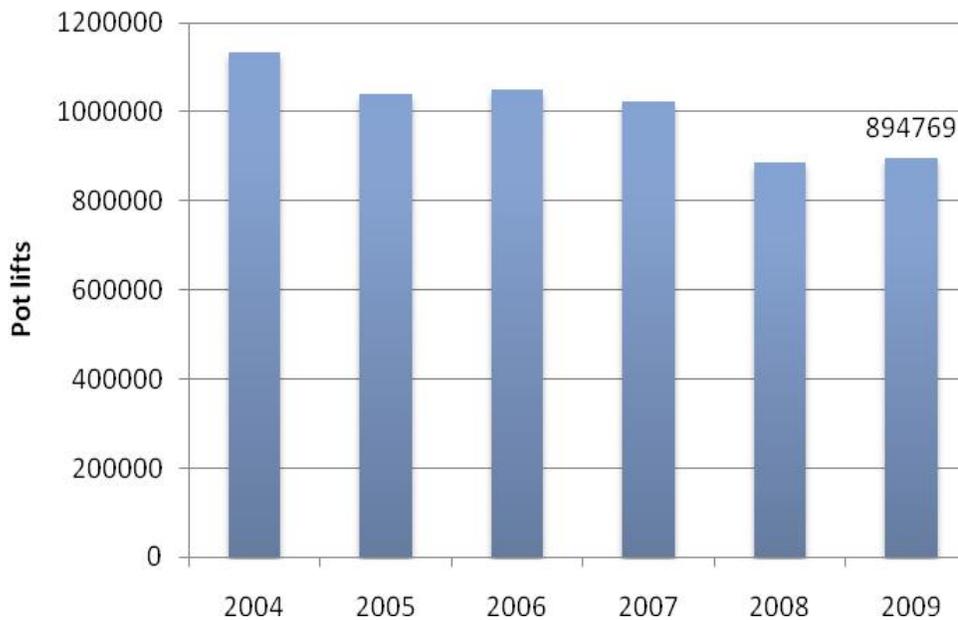


Chart 4: Pot lifts 2004-2009.

Effort on Finfish and Molluscs

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

Chart 5 overleaf compares the total amount of set nets deployed by the licenced fleet 2004-2009. 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 increased in 2009 mainly due to increased activity in the winter gill net fisheries for bass off Guernsey and Alderney. While the total amount of nets has no doubt increased, it is this same quantity of nets being worked more often that is the main contributor to the increased effort in 2009.



Fig 10: Mayfair (GU362) the only full time inshore netter in the Guernsey fleet.

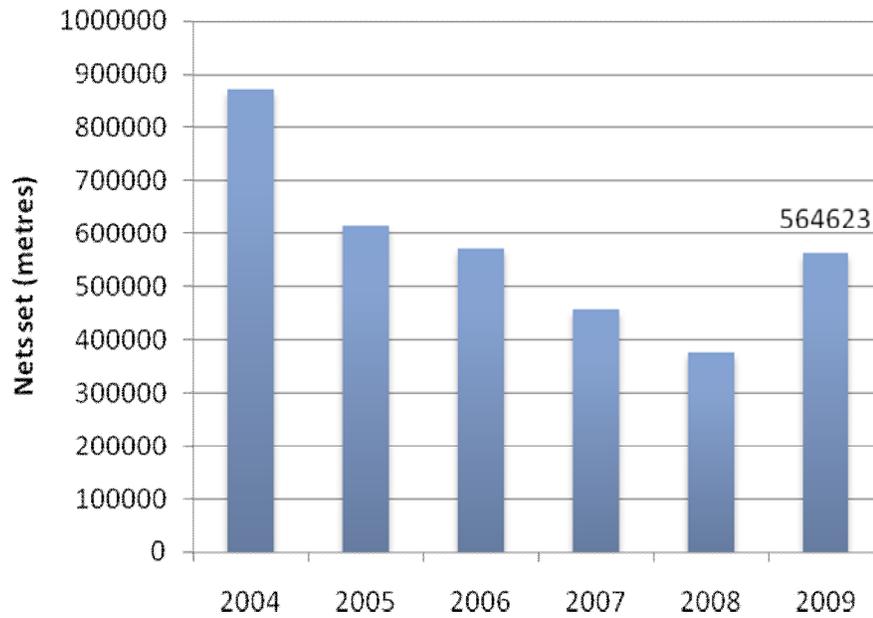


Chart 5: Netting effort 2004-2009 (metres worked = net length x number of days net lifted and re-deployed) (Nets set from the shore not included).

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



Fig 11: Three J'S (GU46) 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 here does not include effort from recreational anglers which far exceeds that of the commercial fleet.

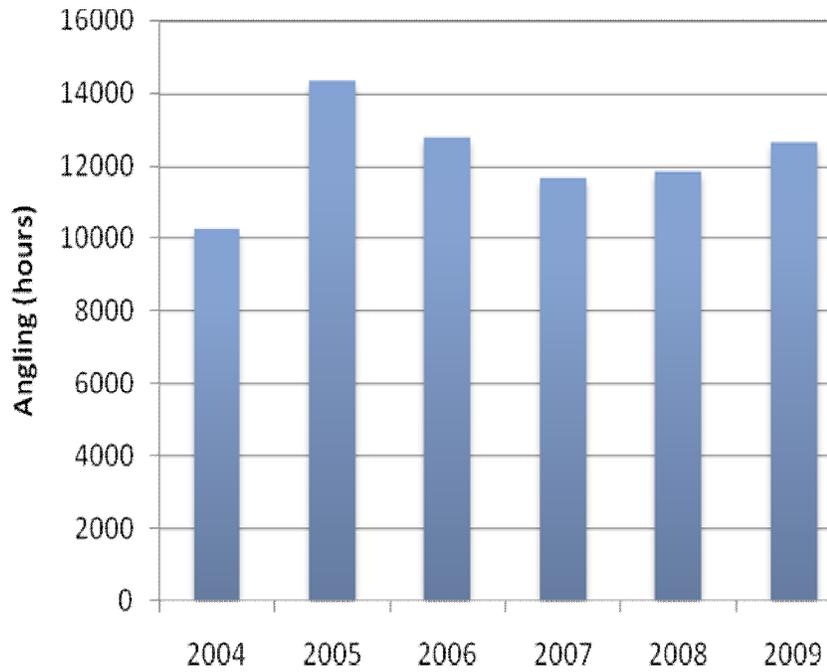


Chart 6: Angling effort (hours fishing) 2004-2009

Longlining: (*mono trotting*)

Chart 7 compares the number of hooks set by the GU fleet 2004-2009. 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.



Fig 12: Shooting longlines off Nicola May (GU57)

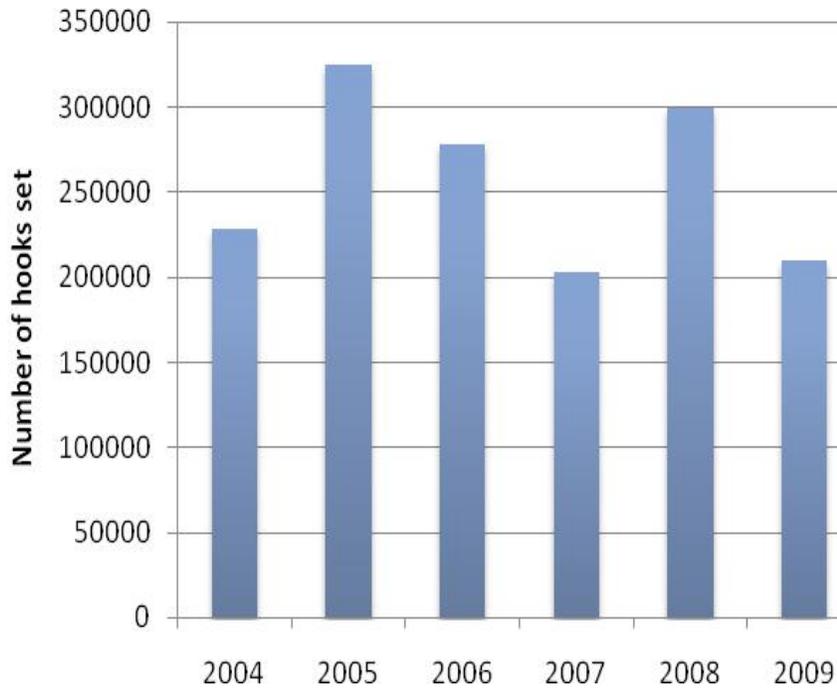


Chart 7: Longlining effort (hooks set) 2004 -2009.

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

Chart 13 compares the number of days at sea the fleet spent trawling 2004-2009. Pelagic pair trawling and single boat pelagic trawling were much reduced during 2009 with the former a prohibited fishing method within the 3 mile limit since December 2009. Trawling effort in 2009 was lower than 2008, due in main to one vessel being tied up for most of the year.



Fig 13: Trawling off the west coast of Guernsey.

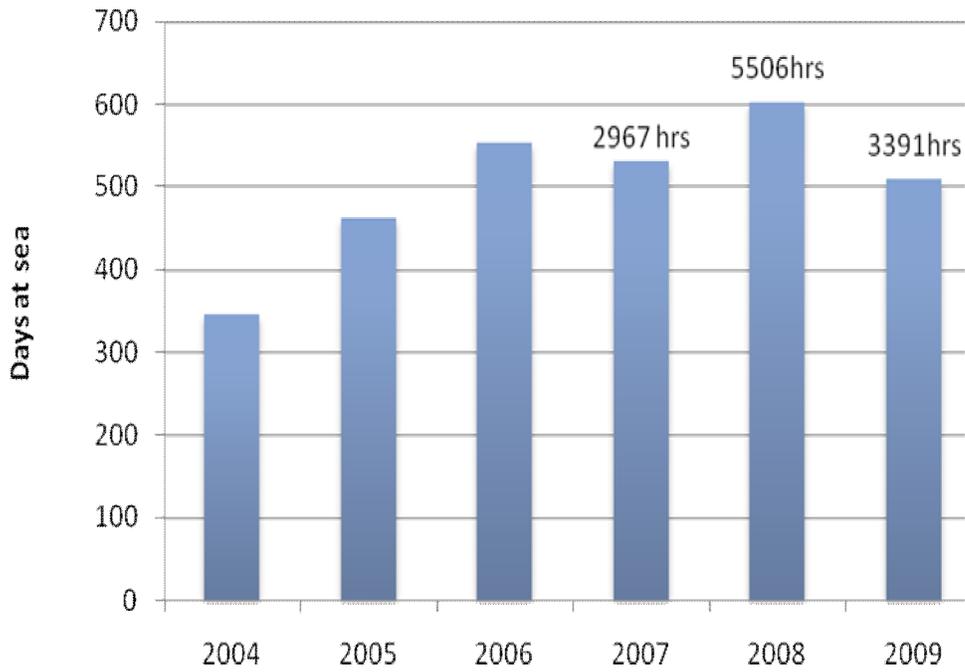


Chart 8: Trawling effort expressed as fishing days 2004-2009, towing hours shown 2007-2009. Tow time varied per day at sea depending on fishery. Data does not include effort from 1 full time over ten metre sandeel trawler working short trips daily during spring and summer.

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

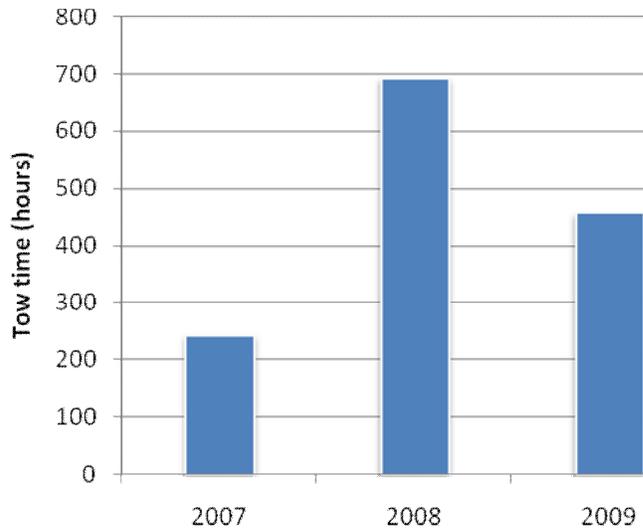


Chart 9: – Beam trawl effort 2007-2009

Scuba Diving:

Chart 10 compares the dive effort 2004-2009 expressed as days at sea (hours bottom time 2007-2009). Dive effort has been broadly similar over recent years with only a handful of regular divers engaged in the scallop fishery. 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.



Fig 14: Preparing to descend, scallop diving grounds Guernsey east coast.

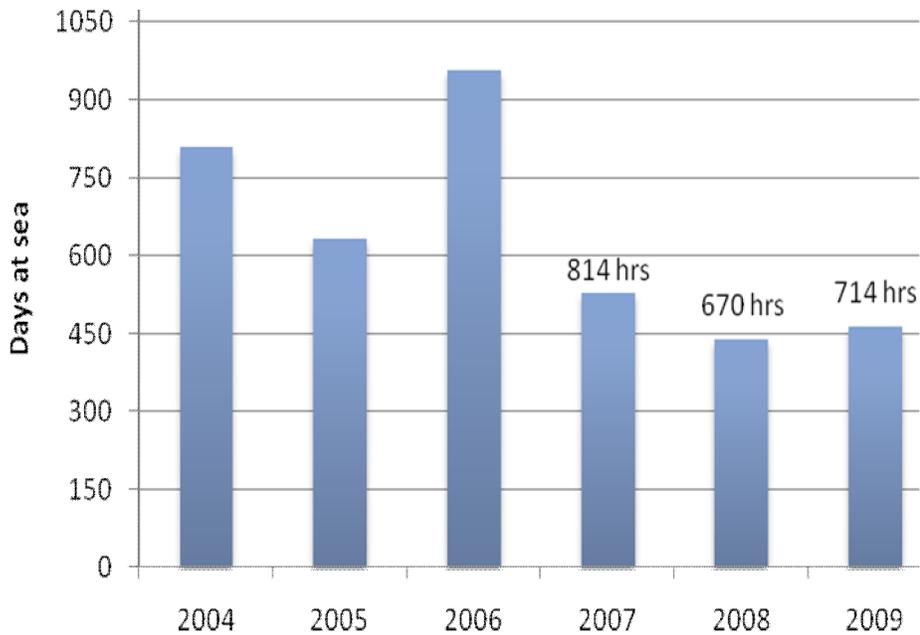


Chart 10: Dive effort (number of diving days) 2004-2009.
Bottom time shown for 2007-2009, daily variation depending on fishery.

Scallop Dredging :

Chart 11 compares the scallop dredge effort 2004-2009. 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. Scalping effort fell in 2009 due to maintenance periods for the vessels involved.



Fig 15: Nomadic UK scalloper working the 6-12 mile grounds west of Guernsey

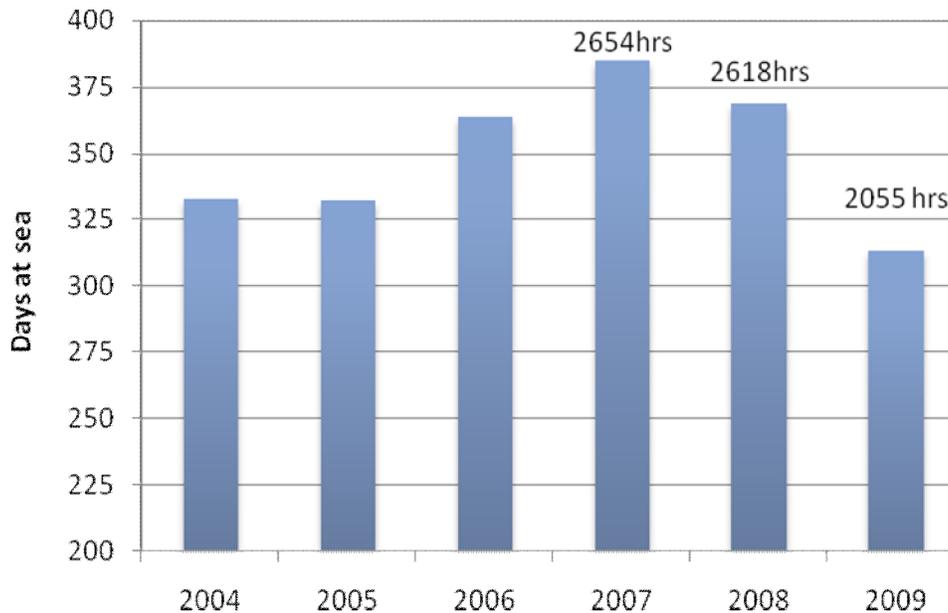


Chart 11: Scallop dredge fishing effort (days at sea, towing hours) 2004-2009.