

GUERNSEY SEA FISHERIES

Annual Report 2016



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1 Summary

1.1 Background

All licensed fishermen must submit details of their fishing effort and catches as a condition of their fishing vessel licence. Vessels less than 10m in length submit logsheets on a quarterly basis with vessels over 10m in length submitting logsheets after every fishing trip.

The catch and effort data contained in these logsheet returns is compiled and presented in this report to give an overview of the functionality of the GU fleet. By looking at effort and landings trends year-on-year, an assessment of stock levels and the sustainability of current landings can be made.

2 The Year in Brief

2.1 2016 in Pictures



Clockwise from top left: *Leopardess* returning to St. Peter Port on a tasking with Guernsey Police; Guard-boating for the Battle of Britain Air Display; *Innovator MR1* is a new Over 10m potting vessel which joined the fleet in 2016; *Leopardess* hauled out of the water at Marine & General for a pressure wash, *Puma* returning to *Leopardess* after an inshore patrol; Shellfish beds at Mielette Bay.

2.2 Offshore



Figure 1 A routine boarding of Dennis Z510, a Belgian beam-trawler transiting through Bailiwick waters.

Remote monitoring by satellite means that sea fisheries officers are able to see the location of all UK and French fishing vessels over 12m in length. This means that targeted patrols and boardings can be undertaken when these vessels enter Bailiwick waters. The most common boarding scenario is a routine inspection of Bailiwick licensed vessels, however occasionally a targeted boarding is required if a licence infringement is detected. The

2012 licensing laws covering the Bailiwick's 12nm limit are now firmly established and well-known within the UK fishing fleet which means that such infringements are rare.

Although commercial vessels are the primary targets of boardings and inspections, both leisure and charter vessels are also routinely monitored and boarded. The Schole Bank is particularly popular for charter boats from the South coast of the UK and these vessels are often based in Alderney for up to a week at a time during the summer months.

2.3 Coastal

Coastal patrols are conducted from the shore using the Sea Fisheries vehicle and at sea using the inshore patrol vessel *Puma*. Whereas remote monitoring can aid in the scheduling of offshore patrols, coastal patrols must be conducted on a more regular basis to check for any offences. Such offences range from incorrectly set static fishing gear to the sale of fish from unlicensed vessels.

3 Aquaculture

3.1 Ormers

The 2016 ormering tides were notably poor at the start of the season, with the lowest tide in January being just 1.2m. February saw a tide of 0.6m but it wasn't until March and April that a series of particularly good tides of 0.2m were seen. The poor start to the season didn't deter scores of people heading out for the first tide on the 10th January and catches seemed to be on a par with those experienced in recent years. There were fewer reports of juvenile ormers seen around Lihou causeway but the number of juveniles reported around Catiaroc and Perelle were encouraging. No offences were detected during the inspections carried out by Sea Fisheries officers.

3.2 Oysters



Figure 2 Empty oyster tables at Mielette Bay

Due to their location and orientation, certain sites are more susceptible to storm damage than others. Sea Fisheries officers endeavour to inspect the shellfish beds on the next available low tide after any stormy conditions to give the licence holder sufficient notice to perform remedial works before the next set of spring tides.

The public are reminded that the oyster beds are a working fishery and are advised to keep clear of the areas. If any member of the public has any concern over the condition of an aquaculture site, they are encouraged to contact Sea Fisheries on 234567.

4 Landings

	Annual Landings (tonnes)							Price/ kg (2016 average)
	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	
Anglerfish	0.5	0.4	0.9	1.9	1.3	1.1	1.1	£4.22
Bass	15.8	18.5	30.5	27.6	44.4	74.0	120.0	£13.10
Black Bream	12.2	10.4	21.3	13.7	12.7	13.9	34.0	£3.00
Brill	4.0	5.4	8.7	6.8	7.9	10.2	7.4	£7.74
Cod	4.6	3.9	3.0	1.7	3.0	3.4	2.7	£4.77
Conger	7.6	6.4	7.7	8.8	10.1	8.7	12.0	£1.14
Crayfish	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.4	£32.49
Cuttlefish	1.7	3.4	2.6	1.6	1.7	1.4	0.2	£2.82
Dogfish	12.8	9.2	12.5	16.2	15.3	18.0	9.0	£0.61
Edible Crab	809.9	708.9	878.2	784.2	785.6	692.7	759.0	£1.90
Grey Mullet	2.7	1.3	1.6	1.7	2.6	5.5	4.9	£0.67
John Dory	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	£9.62
Lobster	101.6	117.2	128.2	98.6	102.3	101.5	79.0	£17.31
(number)	143,571	164,143	168,645	139,654	146,429	147,204	105,532	NA
Ling	0.3	0.7	0.9	2.0	2.0	2.6	1.8	£2.95
Mackerel	2.9	4.4	6.5	9.3	5.3	5.4	7.4	£1.24
Plaice	1.2	1.2	1.7	1.4	1.3	1.8	1.0	£1.51
Pollack	53.6	53.5	68.1	64.5	82.4	85.8	59.8	£4.84
Ray	98.0	144.7	153.3	110.2	136.5	158.8	112.0	£2.59
Red Mullet	14.9	4.8	5.0	4.7	6.0	4.8	5.2	£5.69
Sand Sole	0.2	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.4	1.1	0.9	£5.80
Sandeel	19.0	21.2	28.1	26.4	55.6	48.3	56.8	£2.84
King Scallop ¹	79.8	105.2	101.2	102.6	95.7	108.2	118.0	£3.81
Smoothound	3.5	4.6	5.6	6.6	4.4	3.5	2.0	£1.47
Sole	2.0	2.4	5.1	4.0	2.3	4.0	3.1	£11.10
Spider Crab	55.0	57.6	34.2	34.9	40.7	40.1	69.0	£1.45
Squid	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	£7.60
Turbot	5.6	9.2	6.0	7.8	10.2	10.3	6.2	£11.73
Tope	0.7	0.1	3.3	5.7	3.2	4.8	8.9	£1.84
Wrasse ²	3.4	4.7	5.6	4.0	7.9	8.1	8.2	£0.77
Total (wetfish)	265.9	308	376.4	325.9	414.9	474.2	464.6	
Total (shellfish)	1,048.4	993.1	1145.3	1022.8	1026.4	944.4	1025.8	
Total (all)	1,314.3	1301.1	1521.7	1348.7	1441.3	1418.6	1490.4	
Value (£000's)	4,767	5,089	5,832	4,960	5,438	5,704	5,863	

Table 3 Landings of key commercial species by Bailiwick vessels in 2016. This table contains landings made by GU-registered vessels only, it does not include landings or catches made by non-GU vessels when fishing in Bailiwick waters. To reflect the fact that more of the fleet are now landing into Diélette and Cherbourg, the 2016 price has been weighted heavily towards the prices paid at the Cherbourg Criée. This was calculated using an average of the daily Cherbourg criée prices to which the average 2016 Euro exchange rate was applied.

5 Effort

5.1 Angling

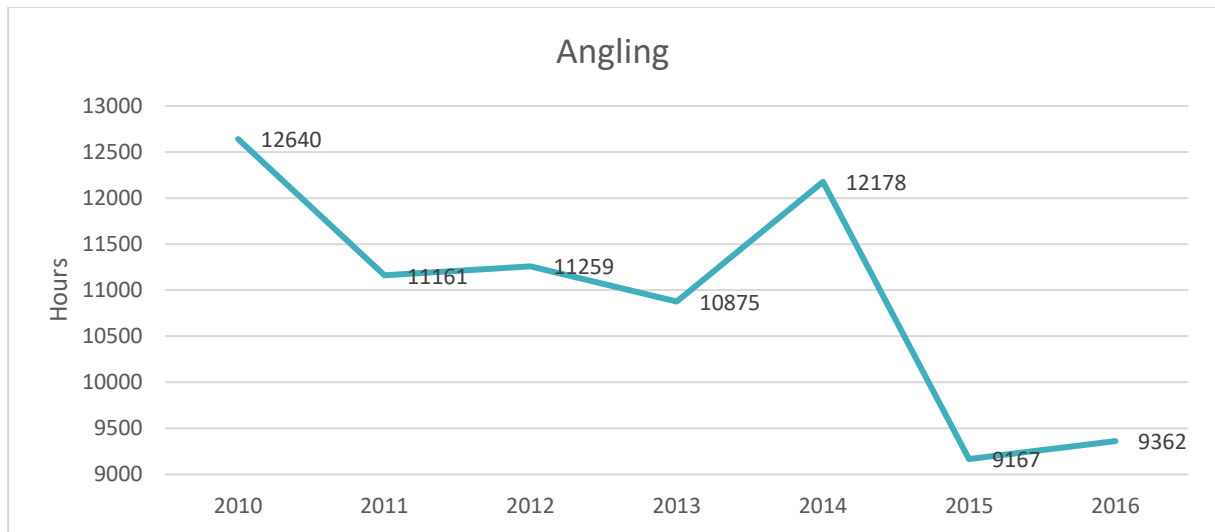


Figure 3 Angling effort 2010-2016

After a sharp decline from 2014 angling effort has remained broadly similar in 2015 and 2016, fluctuating by less than 2%.

5.2 Diving

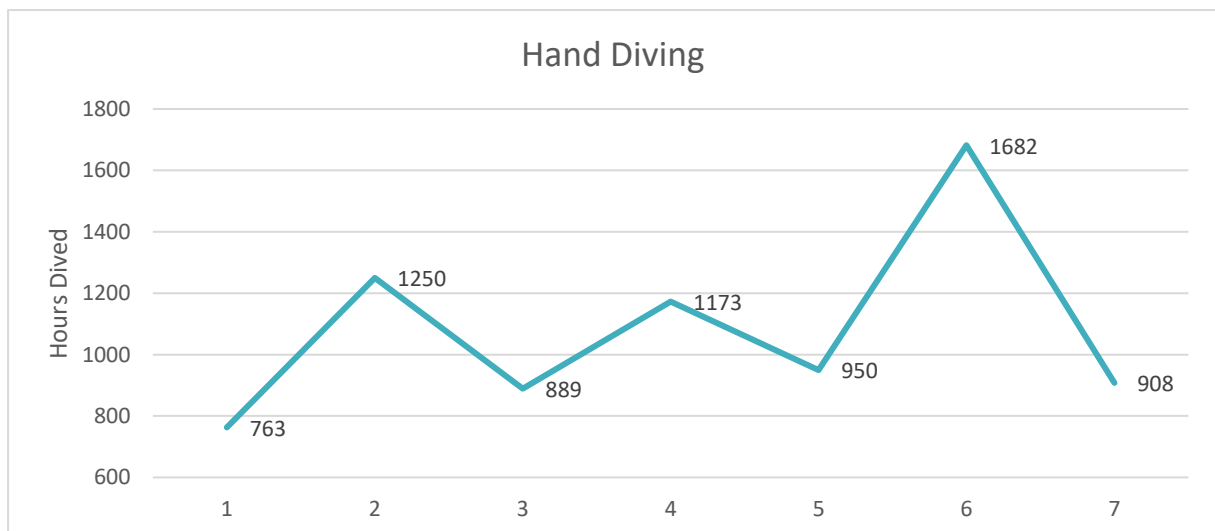


Figure 4 Hand Diving effort 2010-2016

After a strong peak in hand diving effort experience in 2015, in part due to the unseasonably warm sea temperatures experienced towards the latter end of the year, we see that effort has returned back to a level similar to that of 2014.

5.3 Netting

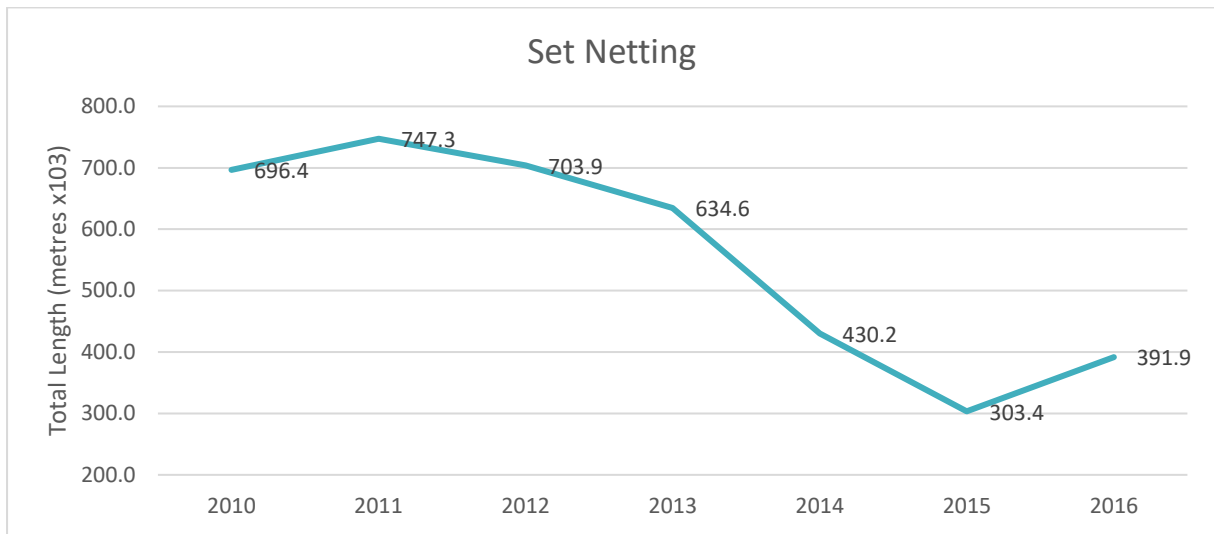


Figure 5 Netting effort 2010-2016

2016 marks the first rise in netting effort since 2011, with the total length of nets set being in the region of 25% greater than was set in 2015. Despite this substantial rise, the netting effort for 2016 was still just under 100km less than the seven-year average.

5.4 Potting

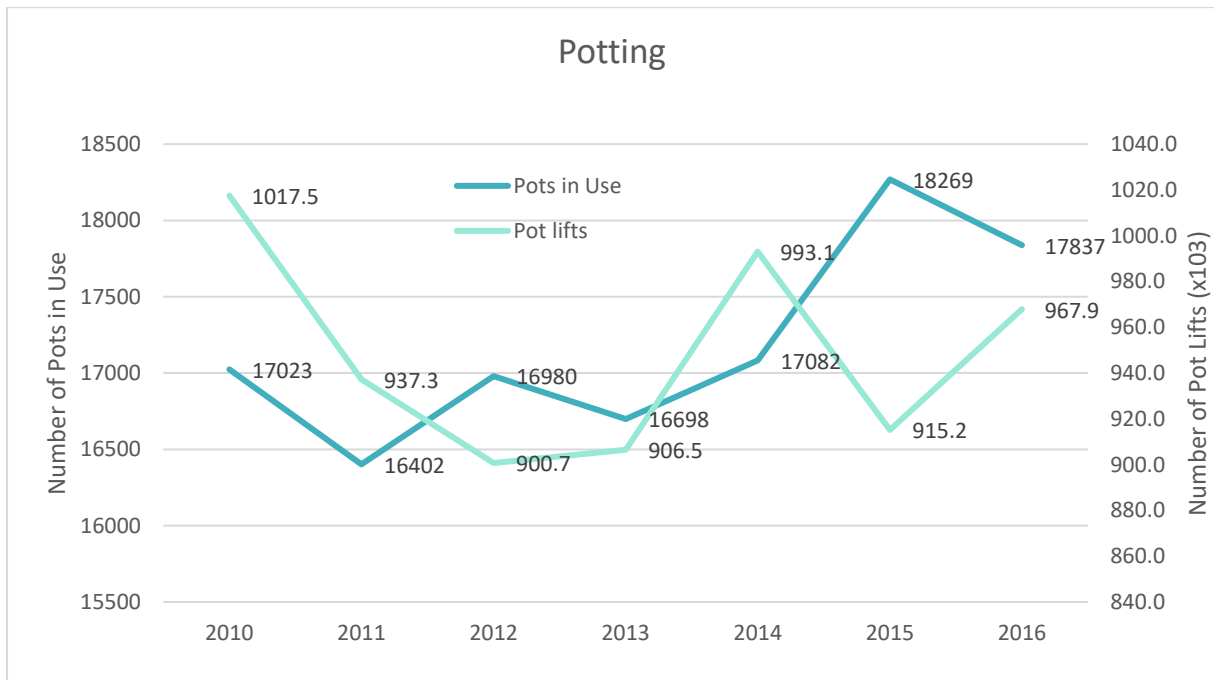


Figure 6 Potting effort 2010-2016

Although there was a slight fall in the number of pots in use from 2015 to 2016, there was an increase in the number of pot lifts. This means that each pot was lifted, on average, 54 times over the course of the year compared to 50 times in 2015.

5.5 Trawling

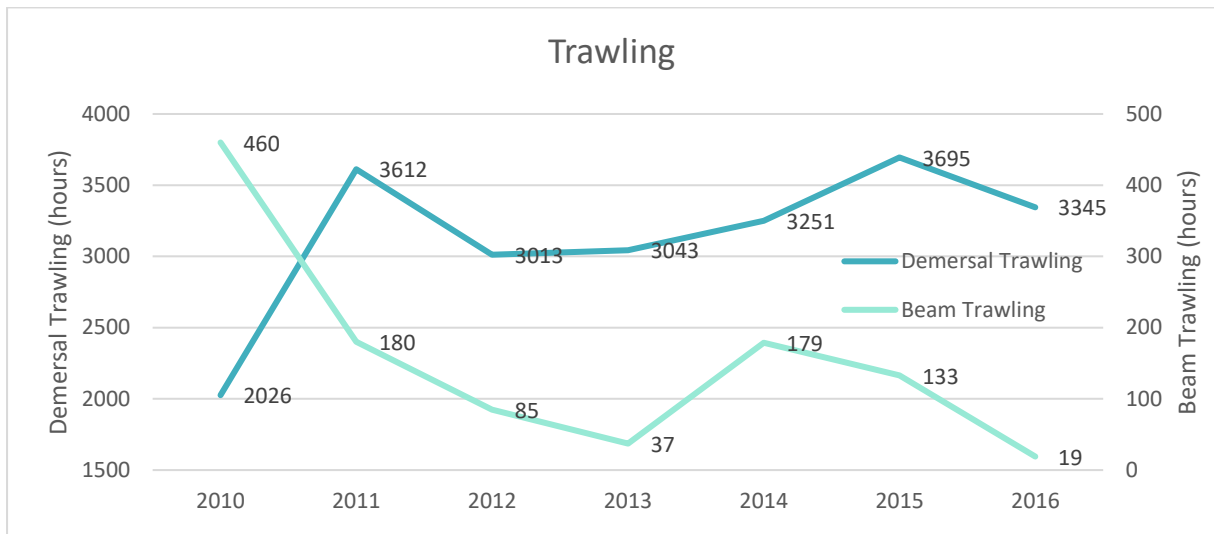


Figure 7 Trawling effort 2010-2016

5.6 Long Lining

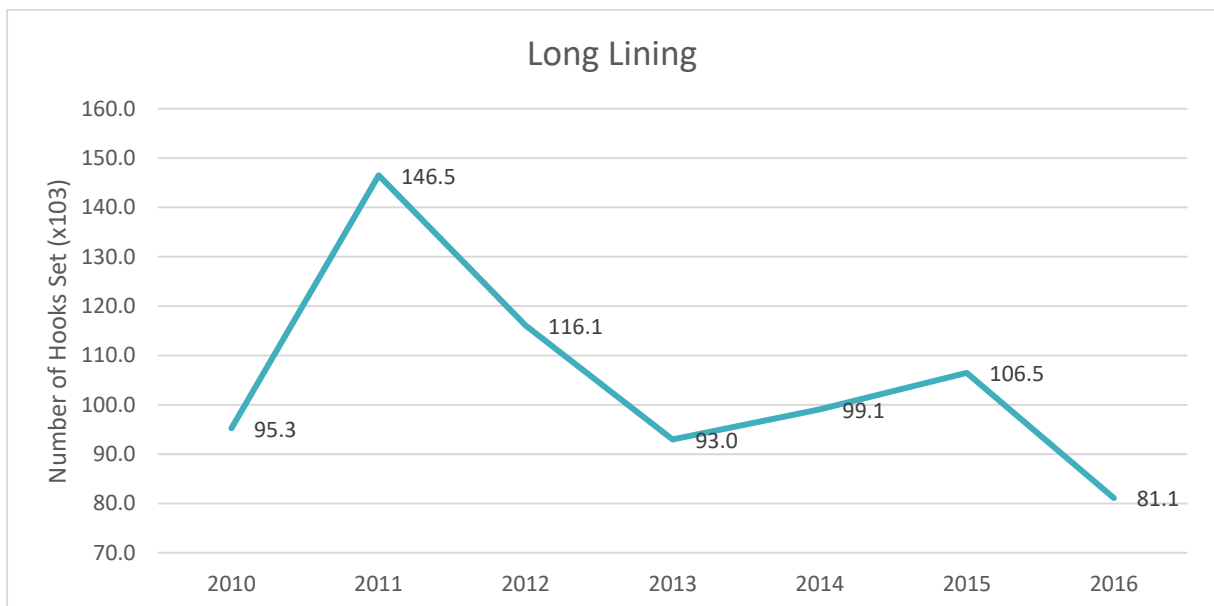


Figure 8 Long Lining effort 2010-2016

After a two year period where long lining effort was starting to show an increase, 2016 saw a sharp drop in effort. Long lining is a labour intensive method of fishing and very few vessels remain that practice this method. Anecdotally, long lining from the shore also saw an increase in 2016 but effort statistics are not collected from recreational fishermen.