

Government of Jersey
Union Street | St Helier | Jersey | JE2 3DN

Deputy Hilary Jeune
Chair, Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Panel

BY EMAIL

24th October 2025

Dear Chair,

Re: Quarterly Hearing (8th October 2025) Follow-up – Seafood Exports to France

Thank you for your letter dated 17th October 2025, following the Quarterly Public Hearing.

I appreciate the opportunity to clarify the comments I made during the hearing regarding seafood exports to France. My intention was to illustrate the evolving regulatory landscape and operational challenges faced by Jersey exporters since Brexit, particularly at the St Malo Border Control Post.

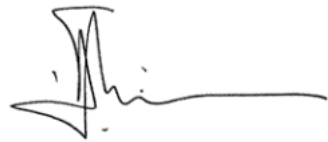
To clarify, the issue I referred to involved live scallops, not lobsters as I mistakenly stated during the hearing. Earlier this year, the Chief Veterinary Officer of the St Malo Border Control Post advised that ice should not be used in the transport of live bivalve molluscs, such as scallops. This is because meltwater from ice could be absorbed by the shellfish, potentially posing a risk to human health. The guidance was based on EU Regulation (EC) No 853/2004, Section VII, Annex III.

This was a professional and friendly officer-to-officer communication, and no consignment was refused on this basis. The business involved, Aquamar, had already been informed by their import agent and agreed to cease using ice in scallop exports. The guidance did not apply to lobsters or other crustaceans, for which ice remains necessary and appropriate.

I also referenced a separate incident involving a consignment of oysters that was returned to Jersey due to a typographical error in the export paperwork. The oysters were not destroyed, as incorrectly reported in the media, but relaid in local waters for future harvesting and export.

I regret any confusion caused by my remarks and welcome the opportunity to provide this clarification. My officers continue to work closely with French counterparts to ensure compliance and maintain the positive and professional relationship that supports Jersey seafood exports.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Luce', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Deputy Steve Luce
Minister for the Environment