



States Greffe

Senator Mary Le Hegarat
Minister for the Environment

14th October 2026

Dear Minister,

Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel

As you will be aware, the Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Panel's [2024 Review of the Marine Spatial Plan](#) examined the balance between environmental protection, commercial fishing activity, recreational maritime use and the long-term management of Jersey's marine environment. The Review also considered the proposed Marine Protected Area network, implementation arrangements and the mechanisms required to ensure effective delivery of marine management measures.

The Panel's Review identified several themes which may be relevant to the Assembly's consideration of the [Draft Sea Fisheries \(Les Écréhous\) \(Jersey\) Amendment Regulations 202-](#) (P.66/2026) ahead of its debate on 10th November 2026.

Accordingly, the Panel would be grateful if the Minister could respond to the following questions as set out below:-

1. How does the proposed expansion of the no parlour pot zone at Les Écréhous contribute to the objectives of the Jersey Marine Spatial Plan, particularly its aims of restoring biodiversity and supporting sustainable and profitable fisheries?
2. The proposition notes concerns regarding declining lobster stocks. What scientific evidence demonstrates that expanding the protected area will result in a meaningful recovery of lobster populations?
3. What evidence has been gathered from the existing protected area established under the Sea Fisheries (Les Écréhous) (Jersey) Regulations 2018, and what does that evidence indicate about the effectiveness of the current and proposed restrictions?
4. What evidence has been gathered about the existing use of the proposed protected areas for parlour pot fishing?
5. How were the proposed boundaries selected, and what evidence supports those particular boundaries rather than a smaller or larger protected area or even the introduction of a no take zone?

6. The Marine Spatial Plan highlights the importance of protecting nursery and spawning habitats and promoting sustainable fisheries. Were any alternative management measures considered, such as changes to minimum landing sizes, catch controls or seasonal restrictions, and why was spatial protection considered the preferred option?
7. The proposition states that there are no additional financial or staffing implications. Given the remoteness of Les Écréhous and the range of existing responsibilities undertaken by Marine Resources, how can the Department ensure effective enforcement of the expanded restrictions within current resources?
8. Les Écréhous is not only an important fishing area but also a Ramsar site, a Marine Protected Area and a popular recreational destination. How has the Department balanced the interests of conservation, fishing and recreation when developing this proposal?
9. What consultation has been undertaken with Jersey fishers, French licence holders and other marine stakeholders, and what concerns were raised during that process?
10. What measures will be used to determine whether the expanded protected area has been successful, and over what period does the Department expect any ecological or fisheries benefits to become apparent?
11. If monitoring demonstrates that lobster stocks continue to decline following implementation of these Regulations, what further fisheries management measures would the Department be prepared to consider?
12. The proposed amendment expands a no parlour pot zone rather than establishing a no-take zone. What assessment has been undertaken of whether the current approach provides sufficient protection to achieve the desired recovery of lobster stocks, and why was a more comprehensive no-take designation not considered necessary?

We would be grateful to receive an initial written update no later than **21st October**.

Please note it is our usual practice to publish all correspondence online on the States Assembly website. However, should there be any updates which are deemed Freedom of Information exempt, please do make this known in your response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hilary Jeune', followed by a long horizontal line.

Deputy Hilary Jeune
Chair, Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Panel