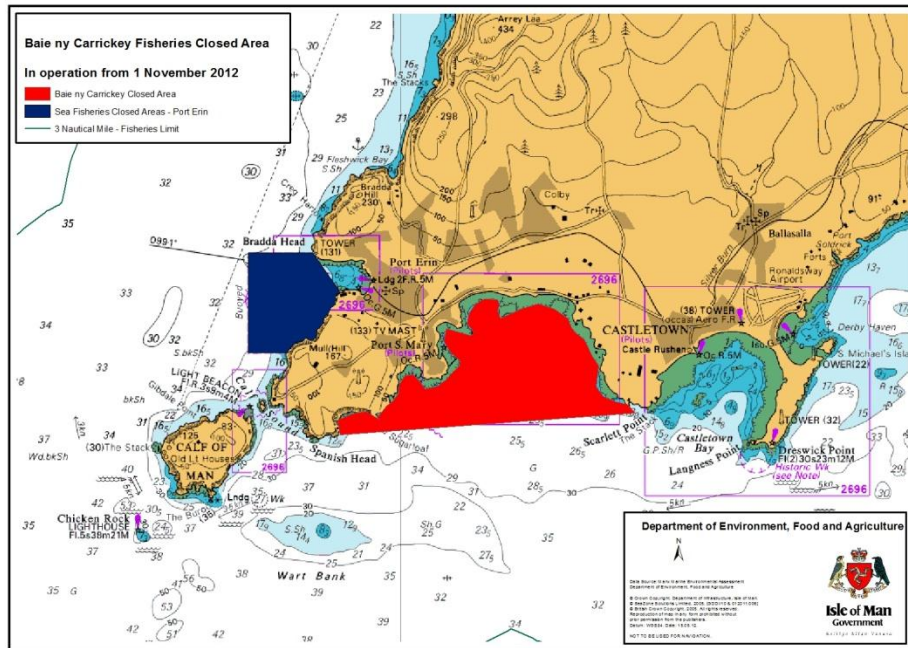




**Isle of Man
Government**

Reiltys Ellan Vannin

Future management options for Baie ny Carrickey



Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture

Rheynn Chymmiltaght, Bee as Eiriny

Consultation Paper

July 2013

1. Introduction

The work of the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture (DEFA) is guided by the core principles of environmental, economic and social sustainability. In seeking to apply these principles to the fisheries sector, the Department is keen to explore options for safeguarding the sustainability of the fisheries within the Isle of Man territorial sea. One of these options has been to develop a network of closed areas for various purposes, for example, to create protected spawning areas and this strategy has been pursued by the Department since 1989. Currently 6 closed areas are in operation, representing 123km² or 3% of the Manx Territorial Sea. This strategy is also appropriate under various international conventions, for example, the OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment to which the Isle of Man is a signatory.

Most recently, this approach has been trialled in Baie ny Carrickey. DEFA facilitated a public meeting for interested parties and convened the Baie ny Carrickey Advisory Committee in July 2012. Committee members were tasked with providing recommendations to DEFA on measures which would protect the vulnerable habitats which support fisheries in that area. The rocky habitat of the area is ideal for crabs and lobsters but susceptible to the damaging effects of dredge fishing for scallops. The Committee therefore recommended the closure of the area to fishing for scallops and queen scallops by any means. This was achieved via the Sea-Fisheries (Baie ny Carrickey Closed Area) bye-law 2012 which closed the area to fishing for queen scallops and scallops from 1st November 2012 to 31st October 2013. Discussions at the time included a commitment to further consultation and this is being actioned via this consultation process.

The Baie ny Carrickey Closed Area is defined as that part of the Irish Sea to the north of a line drawn between the point at Black Head in position 54° 03.39' North, longitude 04° 46.25' West and the point on Scarlett Stack in position 54° 03.66' North, longitude 04° 39.93' West, up to, and including, the shore of Baie ny Carrickey to the mean high water mark. A map of the area is shown on the front cover of this document.

Subsequent to the closure, local fishermen identified an opportunity to develop a local fisheries management plan for lobster and crab, in principle similar to the Fisheries Management Zone of the Ramsey Bay Marine Nature Reserve. Based on proposals from local crab and lobster fishermen, DEFA agreed to a trial period of local management in respect of crabs and lobsters. An amendment to the Sea-Fisheries (Baie ny Carrickey Closed Area) bye-laws 2012 closed the area to crab and lobster fishing except to members of the Baie ny Carrickey Crustacean Fishery Management Association and hobby fishermen as defined in the Sea-Fisheries (Lobster and Crab) (Hobby Licensing) Bye-Laws 2011.

To enable fishing by members of the Association, the Department granted a licence to the Association which expires on 31 October 2013. It requires members to comply with a range of measures set out in the licence and the associated fisheries management plan. Both the bye-law amendment and the licence cease to have effect from 1 November 2013, in line with the original Baie ny Carrickey Closed Area bye-law.

The Isle of Man Government is a signatory to the OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Convention on Biological Diversity was extended to the Isle of Man in 2012. A Biodiversity Strategy is in preparation and will go out to public consultation very shortly. It will reflect commitments already required of the Government (under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)), including extending the percentage of the marine environment covered by protected areas from 3% currently to a target of 10% by 2020, as well as providing protection for specific habitat areas, for example, horse mussel reefs.

To fulfil its role in these commitments, the Department will continue to develop opportunities for further Marine Protected Areas which, in some cases, may also include local fishery management schemes.

The Department now wishes to consult on future fisheries management options for Baie ny Carrickey in respect of:

- Scallops and queen scallops
- crabs and lobsters

It also wishes to obtain views on the best approach to be taken when considering further inshore Marine Protected Areas and local fisheries management arrangements.

2. Objectives

This consultation has the following objectives:

2.1 To consider views on fisheries management for scallops, queen scallops, crabs and lobsters in Baie ny Carrickey from 1 November 2013. These views will help to guide and inform DEFA as to the best actions to take, to secure sustainable and environmentally beneficial fishing activity in this area.

2.2 To consider views on the approach to be taken by the Department in considering potential local fisheries management options elsewhere within the Manx territorial seas.

The consultation form is set out in three sections as follows:

Section 1. Scallops and queen scallops

The decision to close Baie ny Carrickey to fishing for scallops and queen scallops was taken on the basis of habitat protection and the recognition that the use of dredge gear is particularly damaging to the important types of rocky seabed found in the area. The Department believes that it would be beneficial to extend closure to fishing with mobile gear in Baie ny Carrickey for a lengthy period of time. The evidence from the Port Erin Closed Area and elsewhere is that many years are required to ensure habitat recovery and the consequential beneficial effects on biodiversity and fisheries (see reference list in Appendix 2 for further information).

The Department envisages that, during this time, it may consider alternative, low impact fisheries, for example, diving for scallops. These would be assessed on the basis of science-based trials.

Section 2. Crabs and lobsters

The decision to close Baie ny Carrickey to fishing for crabs and lobsters except to members of the Baie ny Carrickey Crustacean Fishery Management Association and hobby fishermen was taken to provide an opportunity to trial the effect of capping fishing effort on this fishery. This, alongside the introduction of new, more conservative fishing methods, such as an increased minimum landing size for lobsters, is being carefully monitored with the aim of developing a more sustainable fishery. Expected benefits of such a trial could include:

- Increased overall numbers of crab and lobster (stock size)
- Higher numbers of larger lobsters
- Increased reproduction and settlement of juveniles

These outcomes could lead to greater stability of catches, reduced likelihood of overfishing and fishery benefits external to the management area.

The current closure coincides with the overall closure of the bay to mobile fishing gear, however more time is needed to fully evaluate the impact of the new management arrangements on the fishery.

Therefore, to enable a full scientific evaluation of the trial, the Department proposes that fishing with static gear in Baie ny Carrickey should be closed to the commercial fishery for a further 3 years, until 31st October 2016, except to members of the Association. This will give sufficient time for the necessary data to be collected and analysed, after which a further decision will be taken in respect of this fishery and the overall value of local fishery management arrangements. As a necessary element of the trial, some proposed changes to access to the area by hobby fishermen are discussed below.

In order to cap effort, membership of the Association was restricted to fishermen with several years of recent and current history of fishing activity in the area, and who were also owners of a fishing vessel and licence. It is proposed that the same principles would be applied over the next 3 years, with details set out in the statutory licence which the Department would grant to the Association, together with a Fisheries Management Plan which all members would be bound by and which would require members to contribute scientific data. The management plan will be revised as required by a Management Advisory Committee made up of representatives from the Association, DEFA, fisheries scientists and others as deemed appropriate.

With regard to hobby fishermen, the current legislation means that there are no restrictions as to where they can fish. Since the objective of the trial in Baie ny Carrickey is to test the impact of a reduced effort regime, the Department proposes that there should be equivalent changes to the access given to hobby fishermen to fish in the area. This will reduce the impact of a potentially key variable in the trial.

To achieve this, mechanisms are needed to:

- restrict fishing by hobby fishermen in Baie ny Carrickey
- ensure that hobby fishermen comply with the Fishery Management Plan
- require hobby fishermen to participate in data collection

Accordingly, the Department suggests that hobby pot fishing within Baie ny Carrickey is limited to those hobby fishermen whose home address is in Port St Mary and Gansey and who have obtained the relevant annual licence. These hobby fishermen would be required to comply with the conditions of the Fishery Management Plan, including the completion of catch data sheets.

Section 3. Process for local fisheries management schemes

The concept of local fishery management areas is increasingly being implemented globally and the Department wishes to continue the assessment trial in Baie ny Carrickey. Based on the experience of setting up this first trial, the Department wishes to develop a model for how it might trial local fishery management options elsewhere within the territorial sea.

The final section of this consultation is therefore designed to gain feedback on the process which might be undertaken to consider future local fishery management schemes. On the response form, a suggested process is set out as a 5-step model. The Department is interested to hear your views on whether the 5-step model is appropriate or whether you have alternative views on any process which should be undertaken in future.

Appendix 1 Glossary of Terms as used in the context of this document

Static gear means fishing gear which is deployed onto the seabed, often baited, and which remains in position until retrieved by the fishing vessel. Typically used in reference to pots or creels used to capture lobster and crab.

Mobile gear means fishing gear which is actively towed by the fishing vessel during capture operations. Typically used in reference to dredges or trawls used to catch queen and king scallops.

Unincorporated Association is an organisation where two or more people come together for a particular purpose but decide not to use a formal structure such as a company. It is advisable for such a body to have a written constitution (including its rules) not least because all members are collectively responsible for the actions of the association.

Appendix 2 Additional sources of Information

B.D. Beukers-Stewart & J. S. Beukers-Stewart (2009). Principles for the Management of Inshore Scallop Fisheries around the UK. University of York 57pp.

http://arrancoast.com/website_pdf/beukers_stewart_scallop_proposed_management_inuk.pdf

L.M. Howarth, H.L. Wood, A.P. Turner & B.D. Beukers-Stewart (2011). Complex habitat boosts scallop recruitment in a fully protected marine reserve. *Marine Biology*, vol 158, no. 8, pp. 1767-1780.

[http://arrancoast.com/website_pdf/Howarth_etal_\(2011\)_Complex_habitat_boosts_scallop_recruitment.pdf](http://arrancoast.com/website_pdf/Howarth_etal_(2011)_Complex_habitat_boosts_scallop_recruitment.pdf)

B.D. Beukers-Stewart, B.J. Vause, M.W.J. Mosley, L. Rossetti, A.R. Brand (2005). Benefits of closed area protection for a population of scallops. *Marine Ecology Progress Series*, vol 298, no. 1, pp. 189-204.

<http://www.int-res.com/abstracts/meps/v298/p189-204/>

Appendix 3 Consultation Stakeholder List

Individual owners of:

Isle of Man registered fishing vessels
UK registered fishing vessels with scallop entitlement, holding Isle of Man licences

Fishermen's Organisations:

Manx Fish Producers Organisation Ltd
Anglo-North Irish Fish Producers Organisation Ltd
Northern Ireland Fish Producers Organisation Ltd
South Western Fish Producers Organisation Ltd
Scottish Fishermen's Organisation Ltd
Scottish Fishermen's Federation
National Federation Fishermen's Organisations
Clyde Fishermen's Association
Welsh Federation of Fishermen's Organisations
Maryport & Solway Fishing Co-op Ltd
Mallaig & North West Fishermen's Association
Welsh Federation of Fishermen's Associations

Processors & their organisations:

UK Scallop Association
IOM Scallop Processors Association
Gourmet Foods
Devereaus
West Coast Sea Products Ltd
Island Seafare
Isle of Man Seafood Products Ltd
C B Horne and Co
AM Seafoods
Robinsons
Falfish
Macduff Shellfish

Environmental Groups:

Manx Wildlife Trust
Manx Basking Shark Watch
Manx Whale & Dolphin Watch
Sea Search
Friends of the Earth
Manx Conservation Forum
Manx National Heritage
Society for the Preservation of Manx Countryside & the Environment
Marine Conservation Society

Other:

All Members of Tynwald
Isle of Man Government Departments
Bangor University
University of York
Herriot Watt University
Queens University Belfast
Dr A Brand
Marine Stewardship Council Assessment Team
Fishing News
DEFRA
DARD
Marine Scotland
Welsh Assembly Government
Hobby fishermen who made catch returns in 2012 plus those with licences in 2013