

**Consultation Summary Report:  
Future management options for Baie ny Carrickey  
Pot Fishery**



**Isle of Man  
Government**

*Reiltys Ellan Vannin*

**Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture**

*Rheynn Chymmhtaght, Bee as Eirinys*

**Consultation Summary**

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## **Part 1 Introduction**

Following concerns about fishing impacts 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 was 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 1<sup>st</sup> November 2012 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2013. After further consultation in 2013, the Bay was closed long term to king and queen scallop fishing.

Subsequent to the closure of the bay to fishing for king and queen scallops, 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 expired on 31 October 2013. It required members to comply with a range of measures set out in the licence and the associated fisheries management plan. Following public consultation in 2013 this trial was extended for a further 3 years. The bye-law amendment and the licence cease to have effect from 1 November 2016, in line with the Baie ny Carrickey Closed Area bye-law.

The Department consulted on future fisheries management options for Baie ny Carrickey in respect of crabs and lobsters, from 1 November 2016.

## **Part 2 The consultation process**

Initial discussions were held with current users of the Baie ny Carrickey area and the Baie ny Carrickey Management Advisory Committee. The results of the scientific trial so far were presented to a meeting of the Baie ny Carrickey Management Advisory Committee (a group made up of users of Baie ny Carrickey including fishermen and boat operators, a representative of the Manx Wildlife Trust, an independent scientist, Bangor scientists and DEFA officers). The BNCMAC advised an extension of the trial for three years. Following this advice, a meeting was held for the members of the Baie ny Carrickey Crustacean Fishery Management Association. They were also presented with the results so far. The members of the BNCCFMA were asked to indicate in writing their support or otherwise for the proposal for a 3 year extension of the trial. All members wrote to DEFA to confirm that they supported the extension of the trial.

DEFA produced a public consultation document and a scientific report was also prepared by Bangor University scientists. A public consultation process was undertaken between 25 July and 5 September 2016 to obtain views on the future management of Baie ny Carrickey.

The consultation document and a Word version of the response form was posted on the Government website, distributed via email to all those listed in Appendix 1 (including all registered fishing vessel owners and hobby potters in the Port St Mary area).

DEFA produced a press release to coincide with the launch of the consultation, and the consultation process was covered by 3FM, Isle of Man Newspapers and other media.

At the close of the consultation, a total of 13 responses had been received, with 4 additional responses with no comment on the proposal.

### **Part 3 Responses**

Respondents were asked to indicate their organisation and interest group where appropriate.

Of the 13 responses received, the sectors represented, or identified with were as follows;

<b>RESPONSES</b>	<b>SECTOR</b>
3	Fishing Industry (catching, processing, related)
3	Conservation/ Environmental Protection
1	Recreational Fishing
2	Private individual
1	Tourism/Recreation/Leisure
3	Local government/Political/Government Dept.

#### **Response to questions**

**Question 1 – Do you support extending the closure of Baie ny Carrickey to fishing with static gear for a further 3 year period, until 31 October 2019, in order to evaluate the effect of management measures and complete the scientific trial?**

**Access would continue to be restricted to fishermen who are members of the Baie ny Carrickey Crustacean Fishery Management Association and licenced hobby fishermen who live in Port St Mary or Gansey.**

**Yes – 12 (92%)    No – 1 (8%)**

#### **Responses**

Of the 13 respondents to the consultation, 12 out of 13 (92%) supported extending the closure of Baie ny Carrickey to fishing with static gear for a further 3 year period. Only one respondent did not support this proposal.

Common themes that emerged from responses to this question included:

- Further data collection is needed to inform long term management.
- Environmental benefits of the trial.
- Benefits to sustainable fisheries.
- The trial provides evidence to assist in the future management of static gear only areas.

## **Question 2 - Do you support the re-opening of Baie ny Carrickey to unrestricted pot fishing effort?**

**Yes - 1 (8%)**

**No – 12 (92%)**

### **Responses**

Of the 13 respondents to the consultation, 12 out of 13 (92%) did not support the re-opening of Baie ny Carrickey to unrestricted pot fishing effort.

Common themes that emerged from responses to this question included:

- Risk of losing long term benefits for a small short term gain.
- The role of this trial to enable similar approaches in fisheries elsewhere in Manx waters.

### **Other comments and suggestions**

Whilst most of the comments we received in this consultation were positive, there were also suggestions to improve the scheme including:

- Ensuring there is a mechanism for new fishermen to enter the fishery to protect the future of the fishery – the need for a succession plan.
- Consideration of different pot allocation for fishermen who fish inside and outside the Baie ny Carrickey area compared to those who only fish within the area.
- The need for continuing good enforcement of regulations and scientific data collection.
- A query about recreational collection of lobsters by hand and how this is managed.
- Concerns about unregulated pot fishing and a suggestion to limit the total number of hobby pots.
- The trial needs sufficient resources to investigate spillover/wider impacts on lobster and crab populations and fisheries outside the BNC area.

## **Part 4 Summary**

This consultation started with discussions with those directly involved in the trial and the management committee who have a knowledge of the science and management of the area. This informed the options presented in the public consultation. The consultation was then made widely available to those identified as key stakeholders (fishing industry, recreational users and environmental interests). A press release was also used to notify the wider public.

A relatively small number of responses were received but they represent those most directly affected (fishing industry representatives, hobby fishermen, recreational users and environmental interests). Overall, there is clear support for the extension of the trial for a further 3 years, providing it is possible to ensure good data collection to inform science-based decision making for future management of the area. A key consideration going forward will be ensuring a fair system to allow new entrants to the fishery that is compatible with the scientific trial and will also ensure the future of the fishery.

DEFA would like to thank all those who responded for the useful input.

## **Appendix 1 Consultation Stakeholder List**

### **Individual owners of:**

Isle of Man registered commercial fishing vessels

### **Fishermen's organisations:**

Manx Fish Producers Organisation Ltd

Baie ny Carrickey Crustacean Fisheries Management Association

### **Seafood processors and related:**

IOM Scallop Processors Association

Devereaux

Island Seafare

Isle of Man Seafood Products Ltd

C B Horne and Co.

Robinsons

Carrick Bay Seafoods

Hobby pot licence holders living in Port St Mary area

### **Environmental groups:**

Manx Wildlife Trust

Manx Basking Shark Watch

Manx Whale & Dolphin Watch

Manx Society for Marine Conservation

SeaSearch Isle of Man

Friends of the Earth (IoM)

Manx Conservation Forum

Manx National Heritage

Society for the Preservation of Manx Countryside & the Environment

Isle of Man Natural History and Antiquarian Society

### **Marine-related businesses and recreational organisations**

Anglers Forum

Isle of Man Angling Federation

Ramsey, Peel, Mannin Angling Clubs

Isle of Man Charter Skippers Association

Adventurous Experiences

7th Wave

Gemini Charter Angling

Discover Diving

Isle of Man Sub Aqua Club

Isle of Man Aquaholics

### **Other:**

All Members of Tynwald

Attorney General's Office

Local Authorities

Isle of Man Government Departments, Chief Officers

Law Society

DEFRA