



St Helena  
Government

ST HELENA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SELECT COMMITTEE 1

ENVIRONMENT NATURAL RESOURCES & PLANNING  
PROGRESS REPORT TO IMPLEMENT FISHERIES  
RECOMMENDATIONS (PROGRESS AT SEPTEMBER 2024)

AND

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE PROGRESS REPORT TO  
IMPLEMENT FISHERIES RECOMMENDATIONS  
(PROGRESS AT SEPTEMBER 2024)

Laid on the Table 5th Dec 2024

**Select Committee 1 Recommendations**

**ENRP Progress Report to Implement *Fisheries*  
Recommendations (Progress at September 2024)**

<b>1. Fisheries</b>		
<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Update on Progress with Recommendation at August 2024</b>	<b>Rag Status</b>
<p>1. Ministers should ensure that the Environment, Natural Resources and Planning and Health and Social Care portfolios run a public awareness campaign, so everyone is confident of what practices are compliant with the local and export policies when developed. We also recommend that the complaints policy is reviewed alongside this so the public know how to raise concerns over a non-compliance issue.</p>	<p>ENRP have been making fishermen aware of the Marine Enforcement Section's roles and Public Health roles through our Marine Enforcement Section (MES). An updated info-graphic to assist awareness raising has just been developed to be shared with fishermen to support verbal and written awareness raising activities.</p> <p>SHG complaints procedure (part 1) is current and suitable for raising issues of non-compliance. However, the issue of which non-compliance area (fishing issues / fish sales issues) should be reported to MES has been the issue. Marine Enforcement has been working with fishermen to help to ensure increased awareness of the non-compliance issues that should be addressed to MES.</p>	Yellow
<p>2. We recommend that the implementation of fixed penalty notices (FPNs) for marine offences is introduced as planned, along with the public information campaign by the end of 2023.</p>	<p>ENRP has completed its part for the use of FPNs through having a schedule of offences for FPNs included in the current version of FPN Regulations already approved by ExCo, and have developed a Policy Guideline for the use of FPN's for ENRP's requirements.</p> <p>The current impediment to this progress for SHG is that the Regs should state how officers, other than police officers, are appointed to be empowered to administer FPN's. SHG is currently awaiting a change to the FPN Regulations to be undertaken by AG Chambers before ExCo approval for FPN's to be given green light for implementation.</p>	Yellow
<p>4. We recommend that the Ministers for Environment, Natural Resources and Planning and Health and Social Care instruct their portfolios to investigate and identify where they are unable to deliver on their responsibilities under the Fish and Fish Products and the Fisheries Ordinances. We ask that the Ministers write to the Select Committee with their plan of</p>	<p>The key gap has been that a suitable person has not been able to be recruited to the Head of Nature Conservation role which has oversight and responsibility for marine and fisheries conservation and science. The FO has provision for a Fisheries Science Advisory Board which has not been established so far. However, the above post</p>	Red

<p>action of how they will address the gaps in their portfolios ahead of the next budget cycle. We wish to note that the lack of an individual post should not be allowed to impact on the establishment of a statutory advisory board.</p>	<p>has now been filled since 1 September 2024 and the post-holder will be establishing the fisheries science needs to be discussed by the Board as well as the formation of the Board itself in the next few months, providing interest exists to enable suitable persons to be appointed to the Board by the Governor. An update will be provided in the first quarter of 2025 on progress.</p>	
<p>5. We recommend that the licence condition for yacht moorings is changed to reflect the reality that the moorings are less than 100m apart, prior to commencement of this year's yachting season.</p>	<p>This has been completed.</p>	<p>Green</p>
<p>6. We recommend that the Minister for Environment, Natural Resources and Planning explore the ways in which pelagic species can be removed from the closed season for spear fishing. We recommend this is completed ahead of the next closed season – January 2024. This could boost tourism on the island and in turn help to grow our economy.</p>	<p>This recommendation required a change to the Fisheries Ordinance (FO). Work has started to reform the Fishing Licencing Policy which includes a recommendation to remove the close season for pelagic species. A paper will be presented to the ENRP Advisory Board shortly to recommend a change to the closed season requirements to enable this change through policy and to propose a change to the FO to enable this for the new Jan – March closed season.</p>	<p>Yellow</p>

## Select Committee 1 Recommendations

### H&SC Progress Report to Implement *Fisheries* Recommendations (Progress at September 2024)

<b>1. Fish and Fish Processing</b>		
<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Update on Progress with Recommendation at August 2024</b>	<b>Rag Status</b>
<p>1. There must be clarity over whether there should be separate arrangements for local and international sales of fish products.</p>	<p>Policy options paper complete in readiness for Exco to decide if there is a requirement for separate arrangements for local and international sales of fish products.</p>	RED
<p>2. The committee recommend that the interim arrangement is formally brought to an end and replaced by two policies;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One for selling fish and fish products in the local market</li> <li>• Another for the export market.</li> </ul>	<p>This will be subject to the outcome of the policy options paper.</p>	RED
<p>3. Select committee 1, suggested that Ministers should consult the public and the fish and fish processing industries to inform these policies to ensure they are fit for purpose both now and in the future.</p> <p>This should be undertaken taking account of known developments that are in progress, namely the development of a fish canning facility. The policies should be in place by September 2024.</p>	<p>Public consultation can only be undertaken once the policy direction is agreed by Exco.</p> <p>The deadline of September 2024 will not be achieved.</p>	RED