



St Helena
Government

ST HELENA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SELECT COMMITTEE 1

ENVIRONMENT NATURAL RESOURCES & PLANNING
REPORT TO IMPLEMENT FISHERIES
RECOMMENDATIONS (6 MONTH PROGRESS AT
APRIL 2025)

LAI D IN HOUSE 27TH MAY 2025

Select Committee 1 Recommendations

ENRP Report to Implement Fisheries Recommendations

(6 Month Progress at April 2025)

1. Fisheries			
Recommendation	Update on Progress with Recommendation at August 2024	Update on Progress with Recommendation at April 2025	Rag Status
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.	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. 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.	Complaints are raised currently with the Marine Enforcement Officer or Head of Nature Conservation when required. This is escalated to the Chief Fisheries Officer if necessary.	Yellow

1. Fisheries

Recommendation	Update on Progress with Recommendation at August 2024	Update on Progress with Recommendation at April 2025	Rag Status
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.	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. 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.	ENRP awaits approval of the 2025 Regulations (proposed for May 2025) after the 2022 Regulations required additional provisions to be added and will be repealed following approval and commencement of the 2025 Regulations. The Chief Fisheries Officer, Fisheries Protection Officers and the Chief Environmental Officer are now proposed for appointment as officers able to issue FPN's. The Police Service, SS&HA Portfolio and ENRP proposed and ExCo agreed for a three month period for public briefing and education to take place before the implementation date of our areas of fixed penalty. This will enable to community to understand why each offence has been selected for this approach and the benefits that proper enforcement will bring. Bespoke publicity campaigns will be designed for each group of offences.	Yellow
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 action of how they will address the gaps in their portfolios ahead of the	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	We have identified areas of where we can better deliver on our responsibilities under the Fisheries Ordinance. These include through establishment of Regulations for some areas of the Ordinance and also through establishment of an Advisory Board (as mentioned already). Progress has been made on drafting instructions for these Regulations, however due to other	Yellow

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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.	post 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. This has been completed.	legislative prioritised by ENRP for the Portfolio for 2024-25, these Regs were not given priority 1 status for the last 6 months of the year. However, they have been included as priority 2 for this new year. Progress has been made on readiness for the establishment of the Advisory Board which we hope to have established by end of June 2025.	
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.			Green
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.	This recommendation required a change to the Fisheries Ordinance (FO). Work has started to reform the Fishing Licensing 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.	The Advisory Board has approved the recommended change to the closed season for spearfishing, but full implementation of the recommendation requires a change to the Fisheries Ordinance as mentioned already. However, this change will be included with the Fisheries Regs work and was not able to be completed for the spearfishing season for 2024-25.	Yellow

