

**QUESTION TO BE ASKED OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY 7th OCTOBER 2003, BY THE DEPUTY OF ST. JOHN**

**Question**

As the Guernsey fishing licensing scheme came into effect as from 1st October 2003, would the President advise members –

- (a) of the number of Jersey fishermen who have informed the Sea Fisheries Department that they have been unsuccessful in obtaining a licence to fish in Guernsey waters? and,
- (b) what action, if any, the Committee is taking to resolve the situation to the satisfaction of all the unsuccessful fishermen, if any, and whether any meetings between the Islands' authorities have been held in this respect since 9th September 2003?

**Answer**

- (a) The Department was advised by the Guernsey Sea Fisheries Committee following that Committee's meeting on 10th September 2003, that of the 76 Jersey applications for a Guernsey licence only 8 licences were granted; 27 applicants were asked to provide further information and 41 had their applications rejected. It has not been obligatory for individual fishermen to inform the Sea Fisheries officers of their failure to obtain Guernsey licences; however, close contact has been maintained with the industry.
- (b) On Monday 22nd September 2003, Senator Walker and I, accompanied by HM Attorney General and supporting staff met with Guernsey Deputies Laurence Morgan, Claire Le Pelley and Lyndon Trott at their offices in Guernsey. The outcome of the meeting was that the applications of Jersey Fishermen would be reviewed on 15th October 2003, and that they may continue fishing in the waters adjacent to Guernsey until 31st October. Each unsuccessful applicant would then have a further 28 days in which to lodge a formal appeal against that decision. Following the meeting, it is understood that all Jersey applicants received a letter from the President of the Guernsey Sea Fisheries Committee advising them of these arrangements.

Whilst the Jersey delegation was successful in obtaining a short term delay to the impact of the Guernsey licensing system on Jersey fishermen and in obtaining a more realistic appeals process, there is still real concern for the final outcome. However, in the mean time, the Jersey authorities are exploring how our licensing scheme may be changed to resolve the current problems.