

FISHING LICENCES

NORMANDIE AND LE DEPARTEMENT OF LA MANCHE CLOSE THEIR OFFICE IN JERSEY

In order to demonstrate their incomprehension and dissatisfaction, Hervé Morin, President of the Normandy Region, Marc Lefèvre, President of the County Council of La Manche and Jean-Marc Julienne, President of Maison de la Normandie et de la Manche, decided yesterday to close their representation in the Channel Islands.

Since Brexit and the end of the Granville Bay Treaty on December 31, 2020, Presidents Morin and Lefèvre have endeavoured to maintain a sustained and constructive dialogue with Jersey's External Relations Minister so that fishermen from La Manche can continue to operate under the same conditions, although it is now Jersey's responsibility to issue fishing licences.

A first crucial deadline was reached on Friday 30 April when the first licenses were issued, for boats over 12 metres able to demonstrate a track record of having fished, in Jersey waters, for at least 10 days over a period of twelve months in the last three years.

In an official statement, Jersey published a first list of 41 boats which received their license by email. In the licence document, Jersey imposed, against all expectations, inexplicable conditions: number of fishing days (from 7 to 170 days per year depending on the boat), restriction of fishing gear and closure of fishing areas.

"At no time, during the numerous exchanges we were able to have with Ian Gorst, Jersey's Minister of External Relations, was there any question of additional criteria attaching to the issue of licences", explain Marc Lefèvre and Hervé Morin. "We ask the French Government to intervene with the European Commission so that the terms provided for in the trade and cooperation agreement are respected and applied".

In 1995, the then Lower Normandy Regional Council and La Manche Departement Council opened La Maison de la Normandie et de la Manche in Saint-Hélier. This initiative, managed by a French public entity, received the approval of Mr. Alain Juppé, the then French Minister of Foreign Affairs. Presidents Morin, Lefèvre and Julienne decided yesterday to close this representation, which has also provided accommodation for the Agence Consulaire de France in Jersey.

