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Jersey-French Fishing Terms¹

I. Introduction

Fishing in Jersey is a moribund industry; the vastly increased prosperity of agriculture has drawn men away from the sea. In any case, modern communications, by permitting the importation

¹ The material for the following article was collected mainly between 1948 and 1951 during a wider investigation of the Norman dialect spoken in Jersey. The medium of investigation was English, now firmly established as the standard language of the Channel Islands; a questionnaire was used, but the method of '*conversation dirigée*' was also used extensively with certain subjects.

The accompanying map indicates the areas from which my informants were drawn, together with their names and ages. It will be noted that all of them, except F. Bisson (J. 1) and J. Priaulx (0.1), were from the east of the Island. This is due mainly to the fact that the traditional fishing 'harbours', with the exception of Bonne Nuit Bay in the centre of the North coast, are in that part of the Island. Lexical, as distinct from phonetic, variations are not very numerous. Since this is primarily a lexical and ethnographical study, I have to some extent simplified and normalised the notation of the dialect, except where quoting words given by specific individuals. Roughly speaking, the more archaic form has been normalised: e.g., the diphthong *ay* deriving from Latin *al* + consonant, which is still heard in E. Jersey, has been assimilated to *oy* in W. Jersey. In general, however, secondary developments are found above all in E. Jersey. The following key will help in the interpretation of the normalised forms.

Normalised form	West Jersey form (abbrev. WJ; NWJ = N.W. Jersey)	East Jersey form (abbrev. EJ; SEJ = S. E. Jersey NEJ = N. E. Jersey)
\bar{a}	\bar{a}	\bar{a}
ℓ	ℓ	ℓ
ℓ	ℓ	ℓ

of fish from England, have made it almost impossible for the local man to compete with the trawler fleets of Lowestoft, Grimsby or Hull¹, except in a special field such as lobster-fishing. As early as 1913, the French geographer, C. Vallaux, speaking of the south-eastern and eastern coasts of the Island, wrote:

'C'est là, en particulier à Gorey, à La Rocque et au Hocq, qu'il faut chercher les rares pêcheurs qui existent aujourd'hui dans cette île ou les métiers de mer n'attirent plus personne².'

F. Bisson of St. John's, born in 1874, remembered the days when seventy men fished from Bonne Nuit Bay: now there are only five, of whom three are 'foreigners' – that is, Englishmen (or, to quote certain local fishermen – *dē būgr d āgyeī!*).

Normalised form	West Jersey form	East Jersey form
\tilde{e}	\tilde{e}	Rozel, Grouville \tilde{a} , with intermediate stage \tilde{e} in some other parts of E.J.
\tilde{e} (< Lat. -in-)	\tilde{e}	\tilde{e} , also \tilde{e} at Rozel, \tilde{e} and \tilde{e}_i at Grouville.
\tilde{o}	\tilde{o}, \tilde{o}^u	\tilde{o}, \tilde{o}^u
\tilde{o}	\tilde{o}	\tilde{o} , in final position usually \tilde{o}^u
\tilde{o}	\tilde{o}	a_i in most words, $\tilde{o}u$ where the free development of the diphthong is hindered by analogy, etc.
au (< Lat. -al)	ou	au
Vowel before retained final nasal		
a	a	\acute{a}
\tilde{e}	\tilde{e}	generally \tilde{e}
\tilde{a} (< long e + nasal)	\tilde{a}	generally \tilde{a}
i	i	i , NEJ e

I have not generally marked a as a front vowel, since it tends towards a velar articulation.

The accent has been noted only where it does not fall on the final syllable.

¹ In 1952, 898 tons of fish were imported into Jersey (*Statistics of exports and imports, Jersey, 1953*).

² *L'archipel de la Manche*, Rennes-Paris, 1913.

It is a far cry from the days when the Channel Islanders played an important part in the Newfoundland fisheries¹, or from the early decades of the nineteenth century, when the oyster fisheries in Grouville Bay gave employment to some 2,000 English and Island fishermen, as well as hundreds of other workers ashore². Overfishing of the beds led to a rapid decline in the industry, and it was practically extinct by the middle of the century. Sporadic efforts were made later to revive the beds, and F. Bisson remembers sailing with the oyster boats – decked craft of about 35 ft. known as *kotōr* ('cutters') – some sixty-five years ago.

Young men today do not feel that fishing (*peik* f.; *ōn bwōn peik* 'a good catch'; *peicī* v., *alē* v. *ou peisō* 'to fish, go fishing') is a worth-while occupation; they say that it is tedious and, above all, unprofitable. Everyone connected with the industry agreed that fish were much scarcer than formerly, ascribing this variously to pollution of the sea by waste fuel oil, to the disappearance of the fields of marine grass (*Zostera marina*) which formerly attracted many fish³, and to the inroads of French fishermen outside the coastal limit.

Judging by the local saying *meicī peicō̄, meicī pyēršō̄*⁴ ('fishing trade, lazy trade'), fishing has not for a long time been a very highly respected calling. The small boat (*bate*, pl. *bačay*; *bate* m. *d peik*, *bate* m. *peicō̄* 'fishing-boat') of the average fisherman (*peicō̄* m., pl. *peicō̄*; R. 2 also *peisunī* m., pl. *peisunyer*, generally

¹ Over a hundred ships sailed for Newfoundland from Jersey in 1646. About two centuries later, an official document about the Newfoundland trade showed that in 1835, 79 Jersey ships totalling 8,485 tons, with a complement of 1,275 men, were engaged in the fisheries, and a further 2,680 men employed in shore establishments owned by Jersey firms. Jersey ships continued to sail for the Banks, in gradually decreasing numbers until the 1880's (cf. P. DALIDO, *Jersey: île agricole anglonormande*, Vannes, 1951, p. 79).

² Vide G. R. BALLEINE, *History of Jersey*, London, 1950, p. 287.

³ *Zostera* beds off the American, British and French coasts were almost wiped out by a mysterious disease which made its appearance in 1931 (cf. L. R. BRIGHTWELL, *Sea-shore life of Britain*, London [1947], p. 70).

⁴ West Jersey form; the EJ equivalent of *ō̄* in most words is a secondary diphthong *ai* – hence EJ *peicai*, *pyēršai*, etc.

used with sense of 'fish-monger') could not venture far in unsettled weather, and there must have been long periods of inactivity during which he eked out a precarious living cultivating his small patch of land. Today's fishermen are, with rare exceptions, men of sixty and over, some of them veterans of the old wind-jammers. Most of them have land as well as their boats, which are normally laid up (*eišwē* v., *mētr a tēr*) during the winter, but they are still among the poorer members of the community.

The average fisherman has an intimate knowledge of the currents and rocks on his part of the coast, and of the various states of the tide, which in these waters falls as much as forty feet during the equinoxes. He seldom ventures more than a few miles from the coast, for this is sufficient for his purpose. His craft is an open boat, seldom more than eighteen feet long, powered by a small engine or outboard motor; sail went out of general use in the 1920's. He concentrates on the setting of lobster- and crab-pots and stationary nets and lines, working sometimes with a partner, but alone if needs be. Some fishing is done with 'flow-lines' trailed from a moving boat, and there is some trawling in the Bay of Grouville, but the Jersey fisherman is generally content to wait for fish to enter his traps, and then collect them at his leisure.

II. 'Low-Water Fishing'

During the big equinoctial tides, particularly large areas of sands and rock-masses, interspersed with pools and gullies, are uncovered by the sea. At some points on the south coast the sea goes out nearly two miles. The rocks and pools are rich in shell-fish, and harbour some lobsters, spider-crabs and an occasional conger eel, offering a variety of enterprises to the 'low-water fisherman' (*alē* v. *a la bās yaŷ*, *bāslē* v., WJ *bāsyōtē* v. 'to go low-water fishing': *bāslō* m. 'low-water fisherman'), who is generally an amateur out for an afternoon's entertainment.

For centuries, Jerseymen have been making up parties to go 'sandeeling' (*alē* v. *oŷ lāšō* m., *lāšyņē* v.) by day or night. The eels lie buried in the sand near the low-water mark, and are generally impaled on the long teeth of special rakes (*rātē* m. *a lāšō*) which

are dragged through the sand by men wading in the shallow water. As they are caught, the eels are transferred to long, narrow boxes (*bweît* f. *a lâšō*) slung waist-high in front of the fishermen. Alternatively, the eels can be scraped out of the sand above the low-water mark with the aid of a sickle-like hool (*krōčĕ* m. *ă lâšō*).

The low-water fisherman can also attempt to spear (*herpō* m., *dîgĕ* m. 'fishing spear or trident'; *herpune* v. 'to spear': *alĕ* v. *ou dîgĕ* 'to go fishing with a spear') plaice and other flatfish, or go shrimping in the open sea or in the rock pools (*hav* f. 'shrimping net')¹.

In the pools (*mað* f.)², conger eels and lobsters are sometimes found lurking in crevices and holes (known as *hul* f.³; *hulĕ* v. 'to probe for lobsters and eels in these holes'), from which they are dislodged with the aid of a tool known as a *hās* f.⁴, consisting of a short pole to which is lashed an outsize fishing hook (*ĕ* m.). Lobsters and crayfish were also sought in the gaps and hollows which occurred in the fields of marine grass (*la plîz*⁵ 'Zostera marina': *ōn ĕrbĭ* m., pl. *ĕrbyĕr* – 'field of marine grass', C. 1. *kaŭddōl*, J. 1. *koŭgdōl* f.⁶ 'hollow in field of marine grass', C. 1.

¹ Back-formation from masc. *havenet* attested in Guernsey and Alderney as well as in Normandy: cf. *FEW* XIV, 112, Old Norse *HAFR-NET*.

² Equivalent of Fr. *mare*: *ð* in the dialect derives in all cases from intervocalic *r* (or in some cases *rr*). Assibilation > *z* and assimilation to consonant in contact also take place under certain conditions – cf. N 6.

³ Similar forms in West French (*vide REW* 4166 – Anglo-Saxon *HOL*).

⁴ *Vide FEW* IV, *HASTA*. The sense of the Norman *hanse* is generally that of 'scythe handle'.

⁵ From Lat. *PILOSA*, with change of suffix.

⁶ This word was also applied by some informants to fruit which has fallen before reaching maturity. In the latter sense it was closely related to the verb *ĕkaude* '(of plants, fruit) to fail to reach maturity' (cf. Middle Fr. *echauder*, 'avorter (fruits, plantes)'; a form **kaudĕrōl* would become *kaŭddōl* in the dialect through the 'accommodation' of *r* to preceding consonant (cf. *lettĭ* f. 'dairy', *il âtâdda* 'he will wait', etc.), but the resulting group *dd* seems to have dissimilated to *gd* in this word and probably in the word

εδαν f.¹ 'small hollow, bare patch in field of marine grass'). Holes formed at the edges of the hollows, among the matted roots of the grass, and it was in these that the lobsters sought refuge. This type of lair was called not a *hul* f., but a *veiz* f.², and the verb *veize* (R. 1., C. 1) was applied to its exploration.

A shellfish which is far more sought after than the common winkles, whelks or cockles (for the names of the shellfish of the Island *vide infra* pp. 21–2), is the 'ormer' or haliotis (*auris marina*), an ear-shaped shell found only on extremely low tides, wedged in narrow rock-crevices. The only implement required for 'ormering' is a short iron hook flattened at one end (*krø* m. a *ormer*) used to prise the shellfish off their rocks.

III. Boats (*bate* m., pl. *baçay*)

The boats in service are a mixture of English-, French- and Island-built craft. The latter are probably now in the minority; when one of them is withdrawn from service, it is replaced, if it is replaced at all, by an imported boat. The Jersey boat is an open craft varying in length from about twelve to twenty feet (for some reason fishermen frequently call it a *trezpi* or 'thirteen-footer', regardless of its exact length); decked craft of about 30–35 feet (*kotör* m. – 'cutter') used to be found at Gorey where they were used for trawling (*trāle* v. 'to trawl') and oyster-dredging (*draği* v. *pur dz itr* 'to dredge for oysters'). The smaller boat is a sturdily-built craft with a very broad beam (*leiz* f.)³ and deep draught for

sāgdō 'lugworm' (*vide* N 3, p. 208). In the sense 'hollow in field of marine grass', *kaıddol/kaıgdol* probably first had the sense of 'patch where the grass has withered'.

¹ The West Jersey form would be **εδεν*. The word could derive from Lat. *ARENA*, as there are a number of examples of the closure of *a* > *ε* before intervocalic *-r-* (cf. *εδάνı* f. (WJ) 'spider's web', (EJ) 'spider, spider's web', *heđā* m. 'herring', *εδε* = Fr. 'aurai', etc.), but the *FEW* does not mention any cognate forms in the Norman dialects.

² From Franconian **WASO*, the oblique case of which has developed to *gazon* in French?

³ Cf. Old Fr. *laisé* < L. *LATIA*. The beam is usually a third or

stability and safe handling. The bow is straight-stemmed, the stern of the transom type. Most local boats are carvel-built (*bate a rōd kwōtūð* 'carvel-built boat' – lit. 'round-seam boat': a clinker-built boat = *ō bate a rkyē* – cf. Fr. *reclin*); the older boats are remarkable for the small number of planks used. A feature made necessary by the big tidal fall are the 'legs' (*legz* f.) – one on each side – which prevent a craft from falling over on to its side when it is left dry at its moorings. These legs are stowed (*šipe*¹ v. *le legz*) when the boat is under weigh.

All boats are now equipped with motors (*āžē* m.)²; few ever use sail. Formerly they were cutter-rigged, with gaff and boom, or sprit and boom, or simply with a sprit.

Many men have a small dinghy (*pti bate* – literally 'small boat', *dini* m., *pēt* m.) or flat-bottomed boat (*pya fō* m., *flat* m.)³ for pulling to and from their moorings.

An unseaworthy dilapidated boat is called a *nyēðol* f. (a derivative of the verb *nyē* 'to drown' > L. *NECARE*) or a *berk* f. (which is also the name given to a barque).

Parts of boat:

(i) The hull.

çel f. 'keel', *çerlēg* f. 'keelson'⁴, *faus çel* f. 'false keel' (not found on older boats), *talō* m. 'heel (of keel)', *eitān* f.⁵ 'stem, stempost', *koyi* m. (cf. Fr. *collier*) *d la bayprē* 'ring through which bowsprit is passed', *mābr* m. pl. 'ribs, timbers' (usually of elm, sweated into

over of the length – a boat I measured had a beam of five feet six inches, and a length of fifteen feet ten inches.

¹ Adaptation of English verb *to ship* in sense 'to take or draw into ship or boat'.

² Semantic calque of English *engine*?

³ *dini*, *pēt* and *flat* are pure anglicisms, although the use of the term *pēt* with reference to a dinghy is not normal in standard English.

⁴ Cf. Fr. *carlingue*. C. 1 also mentioned the term *šučē* m. (literally 'block of wood') 'block into which mast fitted'.

⁵ Local development of Norse *STAFN*, with assimilation of prae-consonantal *f* to *n*.

shape), *vrāg* f. (cf. Fr. *varanque*) (R. 1, R. 2) 'ribs of boat', (J. 1) 'lower part of ribs', *bordāl* f. 'planking, sheathing (of boat)' (usually of imported pine), *pyātšōrm* f. 'bottom-boards (literally 'platform')', *maršōpi* m. 'narrower bottom-boards fitted at bows and stern', *aymāð* f.¹ 'locker used for storing tackle, cuddy', (R. 1) *ursā* m. 'bilge-channel' (cf. Fr. *loussec, lousseau*), *nāby* m. 'plug' (cf. Fr. *nable*), *pōp* f. 'pump', *bay* m. 'bows' (0.1 *le žoy* f. pl. – literally = 'the cheeks'), *drīēð* m., *čū* m. 'stern' (literally = Fr. *derrière, cul*), (C. 1, LR. 1) *lā grā rō*² 'the wide part of the boat', *bā* m. 'thwart', *tōleĭ*, LR. 1, J. 1 *tuleĭ* m. pl. 'thole-pins' (cf. Fr. *tolets*), *tōlcēð*, LR. 1, J. 1 *tulcēð* f. pl. 'holes for thole-pins' (now replaced by swivel rowlocks – *roulik*, R. 1 *rōlik*, C. 1 *rōliks*, 0.1 *rouliks*, J. 1 *rālik* m. pl.); (R. 2, C. 1) *skōr* f.³ 'rounded groove cut in transom for single oar when sculling', *bār* f. 'tiller', *guvernā* m. 'rudder', *lēgz* f. pl., R. 1 *bēčīl* f. pl.⁴ 'wooden supports (literally 'legs') fitted on either side of boat to prevent it from falling on its side when it is left high and dry by the fall of the tide'.

(ii) Masts and rigging⁵.

Boats were cutter-rigged, with either topsail and gaff, or spritsail, the latter being particularly favoured because it was easier to lower when the boat was fishing at anchor. The mast (*mā* m.) fitted into a hole in the keelson, and was held to one of the thwarts by an iron clamp (R. 1 *krāp*, R. 2 *kljamp* f.). Other spars (*spēr* f.)⁶ were the bowsprit (*bayprē* f.), the boom (R. 2, G. 1 *bōb*

¹ Vide *FEW* I, ARMARIUM. The word is applied only to the locker or 'cuddy' of a boat. In the ordinary sense of 'cupboard' it has been replaced by the form *armweð*.

² The word is used in the dialect with the sense of 'room to move' – cf. phrase *y a tu pyē dā rō* 'there is plenty of room'. Cf. Old Fr. *run* 'espace', Franconian RUM, *REW* 7435.

³ Borrowing from English *score* in the sense of 'notch'.

⁴ Borrowing from Fr. *béquilles*? It is only used in this sense: the dialect word for 'crutch' is *eĭkaš* f.

⁵ Almost universally replaced by petrol engines.

⁶ The terms *mātōz*, EJ *mātqiz* f. 'masts and spars (Fr. *mature*)' and *veřg* f. pl. 'yards' are hardly applicable to small boats of this type.

f., R. 1, R. 4, C. 1, 0.1 *būm* m.)¹ the gaff (*gǫf* m.), and, on spritsail-rigged boats, the sprit (*sprēd* f.)².

The sails (*vēl* f.) were the following: – *grā vēl* f. 'mainsail', *vēl* f. *d'avā* 'foresail (or stay foresail)', *ġīb* f. (C. 1 m.) 'jib' (or 'storm-jib' = *sakfō* m.)³, and on a few boats, *topsel* m. 'topsail'.

Also connected with the sails and rigging (*rīgaž* m.): – *pīk* m. (*d la vēl*) 'peak (of sail)', *gōrž* f. (*d la vēl*) 'throat (of sail)', *pī* m.⁴ (*d la vēl*) 'clew (of sail)', *rālēg* f. 'leech, bolt-rope of sail', *lōf* m. 'luff (of sail)', *deīlō* m. 'cringle'⁵, *īyē* m.⁶ 'eyelet (in sail)', *pwēt* f. *a rīzi* 'reefing point', *amað* f., *amaðaž* m. 'lashings (securing sail to boom etc.)', *eīkut* f. 'sheets (of sail)', *sērky* m. 'mast-hoop', *īsā* m. pl. 'halliards', *mīnawē* m.⁷ 'loop holding lower end of sprit against mast', *puyī* f. '(block and) pulley', *dubyō puyī* f. 'double blocks'.

Accessories, repair materials: –

aviðō m. 'oar' (*la pēl dō l* ~ 'the blade of the oar'), *gaf* f. 'boat hook', *deīfās* f. 'fender', *ġišō* m.⁸ 'bailer' (G. 1 *pūšāi* m.)⁹.

pāñi m. *a dou* 'fisherman's wicker basket (Fr. *panier à dos*)', *wīleī* m. pl. 'oilskins', *kōrse* m. *d'ōvr* 'jersey (usually blue) worn by fishermen'.

¹ Early adaptation of English 'boom'? The form *bōb* was also applied by certain dialect-speakers to the bung of a cask. If this is an adaptation of dialectal English *bum* 'bung', as I believe, there appears to have been a tendency to render lengthened English *m* by an articulatory effort leading to closure and plosion of the last element.

² The term *spread* is used for 'sprit' in local English, and is the source of the dialect word.

³ < ? I have not found any cognate forms for this term.

⁴ Literally = 'foot'.

⁵ Brass ring sewn into corner of sail. For dialect form *vide FEW* III, DIGITALE, in particular p. 76, N 4.

⁶ Vide *FEW* VI, OCLUS.

⁷ Cf. nautical French *minahouet* 'appareil pour raidir un cordage' (Willaumez), a variant of Fr. *minot* 'pièce de la proue du navire portant une poulie où passe l'amure de la voile de misaine' (*DGén.*), both of which appear to be derivatives of Breton *MIN* 'beak' (*vide REW* 5582).

⁸ The word was also given the sense of 'wooden bowl' by another informant. It is found in the Norman dialects: cf. Bessin, Val de Saire *guichon* 'tasse en bois', Hague *guichon* 'vase à boire en terre'.

⁹ Derivative of verb *pūšī* 'to draw (water, etc.)'.

filē m. 'rope'¹, *dwōl* f. *də filē* 'coil of rope', *mērlē* m. 'marline', (R. 1, C. 1, J. 1) *mērləspik*, (R. 2, 0.1) *mērləspi*, (R. 4) *mērlēspik*, (LR. 1) *mēləspik* m. 'marline-spike', *aġūl* f. *a kwōtr* 'seaming-needle (= Fr. *aiguille à coudre*)', *aġūl* f. *a rālēġi* 'roping-needle', *paume* m. 'sailmaker's palm (cf. Fr. *paumelle*)', *fid* f. 'fid (tool used for splicing rope)', *eitup* f. 'oakum (used for caulking seams of carvel-built boat)', *tað* f. 'pitch (used for sealing seams)', *koultēr* f.² 'coal-tar, creosote (painted on wood to preserve it)'.

Repairs, maintenance: –

*ergreġ*³ v. 'to repair', *ergrġaž* m. 'repairs', *kalfjeiṭe* v. *ōn kwōtūð* 'to caulk a seam', *taðe* v. *ō bate* 'to caulk seams of boat with pitch (after packing them with oakum)', *koultēre* v. 'to treat with creosote', *eipisi* v. 'to splice (rope)', *eipisōz* f. 'splice' (*lōg* ~ 'long splice', *kurt* ~ 'short splice'), *gauffre*⁴ v. *ōn deiṭās* 'to cover a fender with a woven net of cord', *dwōyi* v. *dū filē* 'to coil rope', *kwōtr* v. 'to sew', *rālēġi* v. 'to sew bolt-rope round sail', *feð* v. *ō nō* (EJ *nō*, pl. *nōū*) 'to tie a knot, knot together'⁵: *nō* m. *drigaž* 'shroud knot', *nō* m. *d boulin* 'bowline knot', *pya nō* m. 'reef knot', *pweġ* m.⁶ 'spliced loop', *nō ā kū d pulē* 'slip knot'.

¹ The word seems to be used only by the maritime community; other speakers talk about *kord* f.

² The form *tað* is paralleled by Guernsey *tare* f. 'goudron'; the assibilation of *r* shows that it is an earlier borrowing than *koultēr*; in any case the expression 'coal-tar' in English dates only from the early 19th century.

³ *rgreġ* after word ending in a vowel. For sense development, *vide* FEW XVI, GREIDA.

⁴ Cf. French *gauffrer* with same sense (due to comparison between the pattern of the weave and that of a *gauffre*).

⁵ The verb *nyē* is little used (although I have heard it) because of the danger of confusion with *nyē* v. 'to swim' (< V. L. *NAUTARE), which is itself tending to be replaced by *naži* under the influence of standard French *nager*. Confusion with *naži* 'to row a boat' is not likely because the unambiguous fuller forms *naži l bate*, *naži ò bate* are nearly always used. I did not hear the word *nouachir* 'nouer' mentioned in the *Glossaire du patois jersiais*.

⁶ Cf. Hague *pouais* 'nœud en rosette', Guernsey *pouais*, Percy *pouet* 'nœud coulant'; < ?

IV. Harbours (*hāvr* m.), **Moorings** (*mwōrē* m. pl.)

Most of the island's bays are provided with a solidly built granite breakwater (*kayšī* f.) offering a certain amount of protection against storms. Each has a small granite shed (*la barak*)¹ for storing tackle and supplies, and in the more exposed bays there is a crane (*kran* f. – EJ usually *krân*) for the raising and lowering of boats.

When not in use boats are generally moored (*amaðe* v.) in the shelter of the pier. Moorings (*mwōrē* m. pl.) are adapted to local conditions. On the sandy bottoms of the southern and eastern coasts an ordinary anchor would not hold, so safe moorings have to be made by burying heavy blocks of stone, lengths of chain, or metal plates (burying a 'dead man')². On rock or pebble bottoms an anchor (*ākr* f.: *pat* f. 'prong', *žwe* m. 'stock') or grapnel (*grapē* m.) can be used with comparative safety³. In most cases a boat is on an 'endless rope' (R. 1, C. 1 *ō va e vē*; literally = Fr. *un va et vient*) which runs through a block on the anchor-rope (*amað* f. *d l ākr*, *kāby* m., *hāsyēð* f.)⁴; with this arrangement a boat can be pulled in to the embarkation steps, or returned to its moorings after disembarkation. *lā bū dā drīēð* 'the stern-fast (literally = 'le bout de derrière')', *lā bū d l avā* 'the forward mooring (tied to bows)'; *bōs* f. 'painter (of dinghy)'⁵.

¹ I only heard the word *barak* used in this connection; the usual word for 'shed' is *apātī* m. and f. (or denasalized form *apōtī*); *eītr* f. 'storeroom' (< L. *EXTERA*), *čērkaðī* f. 'cartshed', etc., are other 'special' terms.

² LR. 1 *ō kor mōr* – a calque of the English term? J. 1 *ōn lūwis* (borrowing from English *lewis* 'iron contrivance for gripping heavy blocks of stone, etc.').

³ For fishing at anchor, a heavy stone lashed into place inside a wooden fork is frequently used as an anchor; this appliance is known as an *ērš* f. (*vide* FEW IV, 431 a, *HIRPEX*).

⁴ Generally applied only to a thick ship's hawser. The *ā* of *hāsyēð* is probably due to association with the word *hā* m. 'galingale (*Cyperus longus*)', a plant formerly used locally for making ropes.

⁵ Cf. Fr. *bosse* with similar sense: (*DGén.*) *bosse* '... 7° Par ext. (Marine) cordage, terminé par de gros nœuds, fixé par une de ses extrémités sur un point de navire...'.

Nearly all craft are laid up (R. 1 *eišyę* v. – literally ‘to beach’, R. 2 *ramōte* v., C. 1 *mętr a tēr*) during the winter months, and launched again (*lāši* v.) in the spring.

V. Seamanship and Navigation

s āberči refl. v. ‘to embark’, *āberči* v. ‘to take on board’, *naži* v. (*ō bate*) ‘to row (a boat)’, *gabađe* v.¹ ‘to scull, single-oar’, *guverne* ‘to steer’, *vęle* v. ‘to sail’, (R. 2) *bęnde* v. *le vęl*² ‘to attach sails to spars, mast’, *haište* v. *le vęl* ‘to hoist the sails’, *pači* v. *le vęl* ‘to furl the sails’, *deipači* v. *le vęl* ‘to unfurl the sails’, *rīzi* v. *le vęl* ‘to reef the sails’ (*prādr* v. *ō rī*, ‘to take in a reef’), *lvyę* v. ‘to tack’ *viđe* v. *le vęl* ‘to stay (put over to opposite tack)’, (LR. 1) *arīvę* v. ‘to keep head of boat out of wind’: *swō l vā* ‘on the lee side’, *ou vā* ‘to windward’.

prādr v. *de męr* ‘to take bearings’ (*męr* m. ‘landmark’, *bwī* f. ‘buoy’), *ažūste* v. (or *feđ* v.) *ōn kurs* ‘to set a course’, *ęrlāši* v. ‘to run back to shelter’, *ā rlāš* f. ‘weather-bound’, *ā kap* f. ‘laid-to’.

lei m. ‘ballast’, (R. 2, C. 1 *swō lei*, R. 1, LR. 1, O. 1 *ā lei* ‘in ballast’), *leite* v. ‘to take on ballast’, *deileite* v. ‘to take off ballast’, *saumō* m. pl. ‘iron ballast (‘pigs’ – cf. Fr. *saumon*)’, *ave* v. *d la list* ‘to have a list’ (C. 1 *listę* ‘listing’); *pa l nę* ‘down by the bows (literally = ‘by the nose’), *pa l cū* ‘down by the stern’; *ā trim*³ ‘on an even keel’, *trimę* v. ‘to trim ship’.

a fyo ‘afloat’, *afyę* v. ‘to become water-borne’; *fyote* v. ‘to float’; *eišyę* v. 1. ‘to beach (a boat)’, 2. (intrans.) ‘to run aground’, 3. (intrans.) ‘to be grounded by the fall of the tide’; *ęrtiđe* v. . . . *pī d yaų* ‘to draw . . . feet of water’: *prādr* v. (or *feđ* v.) *d yaų* ‘to leak’ (R. 1 *lō bate fe d yaų kum ō pāni* ‘the boat is leaking like a sieve’ – literally ‘like a basket’), *kule* v. 1. ‘to leak’, 2. ‘to sink’, *vęse* v. ‘to capsize’, *drīvę* v. ‘to drift’; *ā drīv* f. ‘adrift’, *tūę* v. ‘to tow’.

*vađaž*⁴ m. ‘flotsam and jetsam’.

¹ Vide *FEW* II, *CARABUS*.

² Adaptation of English *to bend* ‘attach with knot (cable, sail)’.

³ Calque of English *in trim*.

⁴ I have not been able to find any mention of cognate forms in the Norman dialects or in O. Fr.; der. of L. *VARARE* ‘to cross water’?

VI. Sea, Coast and Tide

mē f. 'sea', *d la says* 'sea-water', (*d yay*) *saymat* 'brackish (water)', *mað* f. 'pool'.

koūt f. 'coast', *bēi* f. 'bay', *pwēt* f. 'headland', *kav* f. 'cave', *grēv* f. 'beach' (Gorey *pyā* m.)¹, *sabyō* m. 'sand', *galō* m. (pl. *galou*) 'pebble', *sēgy*² m., J. 1 *galış* f. 'shingle'; *bā* m. *d sabyō* 'sand-bank', *dē sabyō bwōžā* m. pl. 'quicksands', *vāz* f. 'black sand or mud'³.

fō m. '(sea)bottom', *d la grōn*⁴ f. collective 'rocks' (also *ōn grōn* 'a rock'), *rōcī* m. (pl. *rōcēr*) 'rock', *pērō* m. 'small rock (or small 'head' of rock showing above water)', *tēit* f. 'rock «head» showing above water', *bār* f. *d rōcēr*, *bā* m. *d rōcēr* 'reef', *foysē* m. 'perpendicular rock wall (literally 'bank')', *kanē* (EJ *kānē*) m., *šna* m., *pāsaž* m., *ātrādō* (EJ *ātrādai*) m. 'channel (between rocks)'.

lwām (NEJ, SEJ *lwām*, LR. 1, C. 1 *wām*) f.⁵ 'wave, breaker', (*ptīt*, *grād*) *pyēš* f. *dā mē* f. '(small, big) wave', *y a d la mē*, *la mē eī ō myō sū l rūd* 'the sea is a bit rough'; *y a d la lop* (0.1 *lap*)⁶ 'the sea is choppy', (R. 1) *y a dū lapōtē* 'the sea is a little choppy', *la mē ē kurt* 'there is a short (i. e. choppy) sea'⁷, (R. 2, C. 1) *la mē lāfr* 'the tide is running strongly, the tide is swirling', (R. 1, R. 2) *lāfrēi* m. 'swirl, heavy run of tide'⁸, (R. 1, C. 1) *halā* m. 'run of

¹ The WJ equivalent would be *pyē*, and the word would appear to derive from L. PLANUM.

² Distortion of the English word *shingle*?

³ Formerly often collected by farmers and used as a fertiliser because of its high lime content.

⁴ Vide FEW XIV, GRUNN (Old Norse).

⁵ A cross between Fr. *lame* and Engl. *wave*?

⁶ Borrowing from English *lop* = 'breaking of water in short lumpy waves'; English *o* has been adapted as *a* in some dialect words (e. g. *kapōr* 'copper in which clothes are boiled'), as here in the forms given by 0.1 (*lap*) and R. 1 (*lapōtē* m.).

⁷ Calque of the English expression?

⁸ LR. 1 *lāfrēi* or *āfrēi* m. 'spray' (cf. also *Glossaire du patois jersiais*, *lanfrais* s. m. 'embrun'). R. 1 gave the word *lap* for 'spray' (other subjects applying it to 'choppiness of sea'), suggesting that the idea is not clearly dissociated from the water movements which produce it. I have not been able to trace any forms related to *lāfre*, *lāfrēi*.

tide, undertow'¹, *kwɔðã* m. 'current', *rã* m. 'race'², (R. 1) *deilaši* v.³, *deibāre* v., *kaple* v. i.⁴ '(of rocks) to uncover', *trâcîl* 'calm'.

Tides: –

maðē f. 'tide', *la dmyē mōtē* f. 'half-flood', *la dmyē rtrēt* f. 'half-ebb', *la dmī*, *la maðē a dmī* 'half-tide', *la mē haŷt*, *lã haŷ d yaŷ*, C. 1 *lã pyē* 'high tide', *la mē bās*, *lã bã d yaŷ* 'low tide', *ŷɔ* m., *mōtã* m. 'flood (rising tide)', *ertidã* m. 'ebb', *mōtē* v. 'to rise (of tide)', *ertidē* v., *dvalē* v. 'to ebb (of tide)'.

pwɔñã m. 'springing tide', *mē d ɛrciã* m., *ɛrciã* m.⁵ 'neaping tide', *eicînɔk* f. pl. 'the Equinoxes', *grã* m. *d yaŷ* 'spring tide', *mɔrcãŷ* f. 'neap tide'; *la mē pwē*, *la mē rpwē* 'the tide is springing'⁶.

VII. Fishing Tackle

(i) Pots (*kyavē* m., pl. *kyavyaŷ*)⁷.

The most important items in the equipment of every local fisherman are the various types of wicker pot⁸ which he baits and

¹ Derivative of verb *halē* 'to pull' (< O. Norse HALA).

² Applied particularly to *lã rã d ɔriñi* 'the Race of Alderney'.

³ Mentioned in the *FEW* among the derivatives of V. L. *LAXICARE, to which, unless it is phonetically irregular, it cannot belong – *LAXICARE > *lãši*. Phonetically, it could be a derivative of V. L. *LACEARE, and a metaphorical 'untying' of the rocks as the tide falls appears an adequate, if not completely satisfying, explanation of the sense development.

⁴ Vide *FEW* II, CAPPELLUS.

⁵ From present participle of verb *ɛrcēi* 'to fall again' (*re-* + *céi* < V. L. *CADERE, used substantively).

⁶ C. 1 also *la mē ã fe* 'the tide is springing (literally 'making')', *la mē ã pɛr* 'the tide is neaping (literally 'losing')', *lãši* v. 'to spring (of tide)'.

⁷ The word 'clavel' or 'claveau' is not attested in this exact sense in the *FEW* under either L. CLAVA or L. CLAVELLUS, although several possible lines of semantic development suggest themselves. 'Clavel' or 'claveau' from L. CLAVELLUS was specialized in several technical senses – 'ring of coat of mail' (in Poitou and Saintonge also 'ring put in pig's snout') and 'fishhook' (and by extension 'various types of fish-hook' or 'type of line fitted with fish-hooks'): the continuant of CLAVA and its derivatives 'clavel', 'claveau' have

sets for lobsters, crayfish and spider-crabs, and to a lesser extent for wrasse, prawns and whelks.

Many fishermen still weave their own pots (*ye*¹ v. *õ kyave* 'to weave – literally 'to tie' – a pot'); each takes several hours to make. The mouth of the pot (*yi* m. = literally 'the eye', LR. 1 *la gul*, *l anoy* m.) is made first; lengths of young, pliable willow (*d l ouzi*, 0.1 *ouzyi* m.) are inserted into a circular series of holes pierced in a flat, round piece of wood known as *lã mül* ('the mould'). Then thin willow (known as *la yēreïs*)¹ is interwoven between the uprights to a height of about five inches². This portion forms the mouth. The uprights (*verg* f., *vergēt* f. pl., J. 1 *kout* f. pl. – literally 'ribs') are then bent outwards and downwards to the shape of an inverted pudding-basin, and held in place with the aid of a hoop (*serky* m.) until the completion of horizontal ties (R. 1, R. 2 *yēreïs* f., J. 1 *yī* f., LR. 1 *kordō* m.)³ which hold the uprights in position. The flat, round bottom (*fō* m.) of the pot is made separately of elm sticks (*dã l orm* m. or f.) closely interwoven with willow, and strengthened (*rãforši* v.) below by a further row of heavier cross-bars (C. 1 *dũ rãfor* m. 'strengthening, reinforcement') in order to reduce the effects of dragging on the sea-bed. The final stage is the joining of the body and of the bottom. Some fishermen also fit their pots with a wicker handle (*hãn* f., LR. 1 *har* m.)⁴, and an opening for a small trap-door

been applied, particularly in Norman, to a variety of wooden bars, poles and wedges. None of these senses is very close to the Jersey one, yet none is impossibly distant from it; the *kyave* is an 'engin de pêche', even if it does not involve fish-hooks; its main feature is a ring-shaped mouth, and finally it is constructed of lengths of elm and willow.

⁸ Many of them are now makeshift contraptions of wire and wire netting.

¹ Derivative of L. *LIGARE* (> *ye*).

² In the case of the larger lobster and crab pots.

³ LR. 1 *kordē* v. 'to weave the ties'.

⁴ *han* (EJ *hãn*) f. is the usual name for 'handle (of cup, jug, basket)' (> ?) but this was the only time I heard the word *har*. Vide FEW XVI, HARD.

(R. 1, LR. 1 *kyiše*, C. 1 *kiše* m.¹, J. 1 *trap* f.) to facilitate the removal of the catch.

The two main types of pot are the lobster-pot (*kyave a hūmar*) and the crab- and crayfish-pot (*kyave a pihan* or *kyave a krabako*)², which are of the same size but have mouths of different sizes: 5–6 inches in diameter in the case of the former, but 9 inches in the case of the latter. Smaller and less common types are the wrasse-pot (*kyave a vrā*), the prawn-pot (*kyave a šervet*), and, at La Rocque, the whelk-pot (*kyave a kōklūš*).

Pots are usually set (*mētr lē kyavyayū bā* – literally ‘to put the pots down’) near the coast in 10–12 fathoms (*braš* f.) of water, but they have been used in depths of up to 36 fathoms. In most of the bays they are set separately weighted with stones (*pēre* v., *pyēre* v.) and each attached to a surface line (EJ *haylīn*, NEJ *haylēn* f.³, SEJ *bāde* m.⁴, WJ *kāby* m.) buoyed up by cork floats (*yež* m., *fyot* f.)⁵ every three fathoms, and ending in a larger float (described variously as R. 1, R. 4 *la fyot*. J. 1 *la teit dā fyot*, LR. 1 *la teit dū bāde*, C. 1 *la bwī*), often provided with a small flag or other distinguishing mark⁶ to facilitate location and identification.

On relatively clear bottoms it is possible to drop groups of two or three pots linked by ten-fathom lengths of cord, with a single surface line (*ōn žwē d kyavyayū* ‘group of linked pots’, *dē kyavyayū ā žwē* ‘linked pots’)⁷.

¹ Adaptation of Fr. *guichet*; the autochthonous form is preserved in the word *vičē* m. mentioned by other subjects for ‘trap-door’, ‘door of pig-sty’, etc.

² The names of fishes and crustacea are listed on pp. 209–214.

³ Appears to be a reduction of *hayt līn* (= Fr. *haute ligne*); L. LINEA > *līn* (*lēn* in NEJ) through depalatalization of *ñ* in secondary final position (cf. *vin*, NEJ *ven* f. *dā patat* ‘potato haulm’).

⁴ Dialect equivalent of Fr. *bandeau*.

⁵ *yež* m. (Fr. *liège*) refers specifically to a cork float, while *fyot* is a general term.

⁶ Usually called a *mēr* m. (‘mark, marker’), regardless of type.

⁷ Derivative of *žučē* < L. *JOCARI* in sense of ‘to move freely’? Vide FEW V, 40a. Alternatively, *žwē* may be a feminine derivative of L. *JOCUM* in its collective sense (cf. Fr. *un jeu de cartes*). I have not found any example of the word *jouée* used elsewhere in this particular sense of ‘group of pots’.

Twice a day, at times varying with the state of the tide, the fishermen go out to inspect their pots (*kyavte*, *kyavte* v., SEJ *marāde* v. *sę kyavyay*¹ 'to see to one's pots': *lvę* v. *lę kyavyay* 'to haul up one's pots').

Captured lobsters and crayfish are often kept for a while in large coffin-like wooden boxes (known as *nwōriš* f. pl. – literally 'wet-nurses') moored out in the bays.

(ii) Nets (*dranę* m., pl. *draneį*)²

Only two types of net are in common use: the first is the 'set net' (R. 1 LR. 1, O. 1 *reį* f. pl., G. 1 m. pl.)³ placed across a tidal gully at low water, and later stretched taut to trap the fish which have entered it with the rising tide: the second is the trammel (*tramā* m.) consisting of a small-meshed inner net (*ptit męš* f., R. 4 *ptit męl* f. 'small mesh')⁴ and two outer nets of a larger mesh.

Occasionally a seine (*sān*, SEJ, NEJ *sān* f.) is used in shallow water for netting smelts (*sāne*, EJ *sāne* v. 'to net with seine') or other small fish. A little trawling is also still done in the Bay of Grouville (*trāle* v. 'to trawl', *trāl* f. 'trawl': *bīm* m. 'beam of trawl', *fyę* m. pl. *la trāl*⁵ 'iron fittings at either end of beam, to which net is attached').

¹ The presence of unassibilated *-r-* in the word *marāde*, in the speech of two persons who normally assibilated intervocalic *-r-*, without the lengthening of preceding vowel which usually occurs before retained *r* (cf. *bār* f. 'bar', *kāre* m. 'square', etc.), would suggest that this is not an autochthonous form, but I have not been able to trace any similar dialectal French or English word from which it might have been borrowed.

² Cf. FEW III, DRAGNET (English), which shows that the word is current in the Norman dialects (under form *dranę*, *dranē*, etc.), but retaining sense of 'dagnet', whereas in Jersey it is now the general term for 'fishing net'.

³ Normally used in the plural, like Fr. *rets*, but LR. 1 also mentioned the singular form (*ōn reį d bāraž* 'a set net'). C. 1 was unable to decide whether the word was feminine or masculine, as he never used the singular.

⁴ *męl* f. is the usual word for the link of a chain (< L. MACULA), but R. 4 was the only subject to use it in this connection, and it is difficult to know whether his reply reflects genuine usage.

⁵ Literally 'irons' (cf. *ō fe d žva*, *dę fyę dā žva* 'a horse-shoe, horse-shoes').

When oyster fishing was still carried on, a dredge (*drag* f.) was pulled along the sea-bed, scooping up (*draġi* v. *dz i*tr 'to dredge oysters') oysters as it went.

tādr v. *dē draneī* 'to set nets', *halē* v. *oḡ draneī* 'to haul in nets', *lve* v. *dē draneī* 'to lift (stationary) nets'; *ergreī* v. *dē draneī* 'to repair nets', *tanē* v. *dē draneī* 'to «tan» nets (i. e. camouflage and preserve them with *tā* m., a dye made from a kind of bark)'.¹

(iii) Fishing-lines (*līn*, NEJ *lən* f. *də peik*)

The main types of line used by the professional fishermen are: -

1. The weighted 'flow-line' towed after a moving boat (*līn*, NEJ *lən* f. *də fyō*; a horse-hair line of this type = *ōn līn də krē*).
2. Conger-eel trots (thick lines laid parallel to the sea-bottom, with snoods and hooks at intervals, known collectively as *d lapyē* m.)¹. The trot is moored at either end by a fairly heavy stone (called a *wāne* m., pl. *wānyay* by R. 1, R. 2)² attached to a short anchor-line. Snoods (R. 1, C. 1 *līnnō*, LR. 1 *līnnōy*, R. 2 *līmno*, O. 1, G. 1 *līnō* m.)³ are attached to the main line⁴ at intervals of about three fathoms. Because of the strength and ferocity of the conger, the upper part of the snood is of doubled cord (whence its name, *lə duby*) while the lower part (*eršo* m.)⁵, to which the hook (*ē* m.) is attached, consists of four strands of cord. Like the lobster-pots, trots are linked with the surface by a buoy-line

¹ Vide FEW I, APPLICUM.

² The WJ form would be *wānē*; < ?

³ *līnō* and *līnnō* (and variants) are derivatives of **līnō* < L. LINEA. The first form does not call for comment, but it is perhaps necessary to say a few words about the latter. It would appear to be the local development of a form **līnōrō*; with the fall of 'mute e', *n̄* in contact with following consonant probably depalatalized to *n* (cf. development of verb *kyinte*, a derivative of V. L. *CLUDINIARE) and weakened *r* was assimilated to the *n* as in the words *pānnē* f. 'basketful' (Fr. *panerée*), *kwōšunnī* f. 'bungled piece of work' (Fr. *cochonnerie*). The form *līmno* is presumably the result of a dissimilation of *nn* > *mn*.

⁴ Not usually distinguished from *lapyē* - but cf. J. 1 *lə šē d lapyē* (originally borrowed from Fr. *chef*?)

⁵ Derivative of L. HIRPEX = vide FEW IV, 431 a.

ending in a large distinctive float (R. 2 *bwī* f. – literally ‘buoy’, R. 1, R. 4 *fyot* f. *d apyē*).

3. ‘Bay-lines’ (as they are called in local English) consist of thinner line, with hooks at intervals, laid in shallow water about a foot from the bottom to catch plaice, Pollack whiting and garfish. The dialect name *beilē* f.¹ (~ *a yō* = EJ ~ *a yōyū* – ‘whiting-line’, ~ *a pyē* ‘plaice-line’) is normally used in the plural.

4. Ground lines (*līn*, NEJ *lēn* f. *də fō*, LR. 1 *kordə d pī* – literally ‘foot-line’) are used mainly for wrasse. The snood or snoods are attached to a small swivelling piece of bone or wood (known as *ō brōdē*)² about four or five feet from the sinker (*pyō* m.) at the end of the line.

ē (SEJ, NEJ *ā*) m. ‘hook’, *barbē* m. *də l ē* ‘barb of hook’, *ēūlet* f. *də l ē* ‘butt of hook’, R. 1, R. 2, C. 1 *bēndē* v. *ōn ā* ‘to tie on a hook’³; *ēēdē* m.⁴ ‘wooden frame on to which line is wound’.

Fishing-rods (*vayl* f.)⁵ are not used by the professional fishermen. Bait (*d la bēt*): –⁶

¹ L. SAINÉAN (*Sources indigènes de la langue française* II, 167) mentions West French *belée* ‘corde flottante’, but his derivation of the word from Old French *baler* with the sense of ‘to float’ is phonetically unsatisfactory, unless one admits the possibility of a change of vowel by association with, say, *baie* ‘bay’.

² < ? The sense suggests a connection with O. Fr., Middle Fr. *bort* ‘board’ (< Franconian BORD), but no *bordet* derivative appears to be attested (*vide* FEW I, 438–9), and metathesis of *bor-* > *bro-* is not regular in the dialect (cf. *bōrdāl* ‘planking of boat’, *bōrdōz*, EJ *bōrdaiž* f. ‘flower-bed’).

³ Adaptation of English *to bend* ‘to tie’.

⁴ Could be a variant development of Lat. QUADRATUM; the group *kar-* frequently > *ēer* (cf. *ēerbō* m. ‘coal’, *ēerlēg* f. ‘keelson’, *ēēdwōn* f. ‘old, useless animal’ (< V. L. CARONIA), etc., but not the group *karr-* (*kār* f. ‘corner’, *kāre* m. ‘square’, *kāryēd* f. ‘quarry’), except where *-rr-* appears to have reduced early (*ēēdū* f. ‘plough’, *ēēdyē* v. ‘to cart’, etc.). If there was hesitation between **karē* and **kāre*, the former would have developed to *ēēdē*.

⁵ Cf. Fr. *gaulle* (< Gmc. *WALU): in Jersey the word appears to have been specialised in the sense of ‘fishing-rod’ and not to have retained that of rod in general.

⁶ *Vide* FEW I, BEITA (Old Norse).

bęte v. 'to bait', *dü šervē* m.¹ 'small salted shrimps thrown into the sea in order to attract mullet and other fish', *ön fyāk* (literally = 'a flank') 'shiny piece of mackerel or garfish taken from the tail end of the fish and used as bait on flowlines', *dü vęř* m. *d rōčī* 'rock-worm, a kind of worm which makes its home in the crevices of a soft, crumbling rock found in some of the bays', *vęrmę* v. 'to go «rock-worming»' (a small pick – *ō pīkwei* – is used to dig out the worms), *byāš kat* (EJ frequently *kāt*)² f. (R. 1 *byā ka* m.) 'type of worm found in sand at low tide (literally = 'white she-cat')', *rwōž kat* f. (R. 1 *rwōž ka* m.) 'red worm found in sea-gravel (literally = 'red she-cat')', R. 1, R. 2, R. 4, C. 1 *sāgdō* m., I.R. 1, G. 1 *sādō* m. J. 1 *sādrō* m.³ 'lugworm'.

VIII. Fishes, Mollusea and Crustacea

After giving a few general terms I have listed the names of fishes, and then those of mollusca and crustacea, in alphabetical order. I did my best to identify fish in the light of fishermen's descriptions and their recognition of illustrations⁴, but in a number of cases I was forced to accept the identifications given in

¹ Back-formation from *šervet* f. 'shrimp, prawn', with substitution of suffix *-ē*, which has collective, diminutive and usually pejorative value in the dialect (cf. *dü fraplē* 'small fry', *dü krabē* 'collection of small, and therefore useless, crabs', *dā l weižlē* m. 'flock of small birds', etc.).

² Accented *a* frequently > *ā* in N. E. Jersey, and sporadically in the rest of E. Jersey in emphatic speech.

³ Sand-eels and certain flat-fish when buried in the sand are said to be *sādrē* – if the word is a derivative of English *sand*, it appears likely that the names of the lugworm are also derived from it. *sādō* and *sādrō* are comparatively straightforward forms, but *sāgdō* is less so. If we postulate an original form **sāndərō*, the development is comparable to that of the form *kaygdōl* which exists along with *kayddōl* (vide supra p. 193, note 6) – **sāndərō* > **sāddō* by 'accommodation' of weak *-r-* to preceding consonant, > *sāgdō* by dissimilation of the *d*'s in contact.

⁴ Those of L. JOUBIN and E. LE DANOIS, *Catalogue Illustré des animaux marins comestibles des côtes de France et des mers limitrophes*, 2 Vols., Paris, 1925 and 1928.

J. Sinel's list of the *Fishes of the Channel Islands*¹, which sometimes mentions dialect names; in others I have been reduced to vague generalities of the type 'small redish fish'.

(i) Fishes

General terms: – *peisō* m. 'fish', *mōl*² f. *d peisō* (C. 1 *skōl*³ f. *d peisō*) 'shoal of fish', *dū fraplē*⁴ m. collective 'small fry'; *gîn* (NEJ *gên*) f.⁵ 'gills', *eikrēd* f. pl.⁶ 'scales', *finz* (NEJ *fenz*) m. pl. 'fins', *qvr*⁷ f. pl. 'fish-roe', *šivyeđ* (or *šüvyēđ*) f. *a brā*, 'egg capsule of skate (literally = 'hand-barrow')'⁸.

Fish-names: – *āgūl* f. 'conger-eel', J. 1 *āž* f. 'angel fish, monk fish (*Squalus squatina*, Lin.)⁹, *bar* m. 'bass', R. 1 *bavai* m.¹⁰ 'variety of blenny', *brām* (EJ *brām*) f. 'fish known locally as «bream», but which is according to Sinel «old wife» (*Cantarus lineatus*, Gun.)', *bril* m. 'brill', *brōčē* (LR. 1 *brōšē*) m. 'picked dogfish (*Galeus amanthius*, Johnson)', NEJ *bwōđē* m.¹¹ 'bib (*Gadus minutus*, Lin.)', NEJ *čā* m.¹² 'lesser spotted dogfish (*Squalus catulus*, Lin.)', *davfē* m. 'dolphin', *dmweizēl* f.¹³ 'smooth hound (*Squalus mustelus*, Lin.)', *gōndōri* m. 'John Dory (*Zeus faber*, Lin.)', SEJ *fyabō* m.¹⁴ 'bib

¹ *Transactions of the Société Guernesiaise*, 5, 56–65.

² By extension from a phrase *ōn mōl dā* with sense 'a lot of' (cf. Fr. 'un tas de')?

³ Borrowing from English *school* (cf. 'school of porpoises', etc.).

⁴ *Vide FEW III*, 400b, FALUPPA 'strohfaser; wertloses zeug'.

⁵ *Vide FEW II*, CIN. ⁶ *Vide REW 7977*, SKERDA.

⁷ Cf. Guernsey *œuvres* f. pl. 'œufs de poisson', Old French *ove*, *ueve* 'collectif d'œuf' (GODEFROY); < L. OVA, with final intrusive *r*.

⁸ Cf. the English expression *skate wheel-barrow*.

⁹ As in the case of *mwōn* (*vide infra*), the name may have been suggested by the English of the questionnaire. *Ange* with the sense of *Squalus squatina* is not attested in the North of France, although it is current in Provençal (*vide FEW I*, ANGELUS).

¹⁰ Literally 'dribbler'.

¹¹ < ? The fish has other names in SEJ (*fyabō* m.) and NWJ (*tabūl* f.). Bib tend to congregate; a 'nest' of them is called *ōn bwōđēđ* (R. 2, C. 1) or *ōn kōtrē a bwōđēđ* (R. 1).

¹² Literally 'dog' (cf. Fr. *chien de mer*).

¹³ *Vide FEW III*, 134a, DOMNICELLA.

¹⁴ Metaphorical extension of Middle French *flabel* 'éventail', from shape of fish?

(*Gadus minutus*, Lin.), *fyēt* f.¹ (J. 1 *fyī*) 'Allis shad (*Clupea alosa*, Cuv.)', *fyay* f.² 'skate (*Raia batis*, Lin.)', *fyōdr* f.³ 'flounder (*Platessa flossus*, Yar., Jen.)', *grādoγ* m.⁴ 'smelt (*Atherina presbyter*, Guv., Yar.)', *grōdē* m. 'gurnard', *halibō* m. 'halibut', *heđā* m. 'herring', *hōrfi* (LR. 1 *ōrfi*) m. 'garfish' (*Belone vulgaris*, Cuv., Yar.)', *hay* m.⁵ 'tope (*Squalus galeus*, Lin.)', *kabō* m.⁶ 'smooth blenny (*Blennius pholis*, Yar., Gun.)', *kaplā*, *kaplē* m.⁷ 'cap(e)lin (fish of smelt family)', *kāre* m.⁸ 'horse mackerel (*Trachurus trachurus*)', C. 1 *kat* f. 'dab (*Platessa limanda*)?', *kō* m. 'crested blenny (*Blennius gatturogine*, Lin., Cuv.)', R. 1, C. 1 *krapay* m. 'small inedible fish with large flattish head (literally = 'toad')', *kuku* m. 'cuckoo wrasse (*Labrus mixtus*, Lin.)', *lāšō* m.⁹ 'sandeel (the terms *vēr* ~ and *rwōž* ~ appear to refer to the greater sandeel – *Ammodytes lanceolatus* – and lesser sandeel – *Ammodytes tobianus* – respectively)¹⁰, *lē* m. 'ling', *lwōš* f. 'three-bearded rockling and five-bearded rockling (*Motella tricirrata* and *Motella quinquecirrata*)', *makdē* m.¹¹ 'mackerel', *matō* m.¹² (*vide* also *čā* m.) 'lesser spotted dogfish (*Squalus catulus*, Lin.)', LR. 1 *mwōn* m. 'monkfish'¹³, *mwōđū* f. 'cod', *mūlē* m. 'mullet' (*grī* ~ 'grey mullet', *rwōž* ~

¹ Cf. St. Malo *fleinte* 'Clupea alosa'.

² < ?

³ *Vide* FEW III, FLUNDR (Old Danish).

⁴ *Vide* E. ROLLAND, *Faune populaire de la France*, III, 158.

⁵ *Vide* FEW XVI, HAR (Old Norse).

⁶ *Vide* FEW II, 346, N 5 for discussion of etymology of Fr. *chabot*, Pic., Norm. *cabot*.

⁷ Latter form influenced by the English *caplin*.

⁸ *Vide* FEW II, 1403b, QUADRUS.

⁹ Dialect equivalent of Fr. *lançon* (der. of Lat. LANCEA).

¹⁰ *Vide infra* *twōš* also.

¹¹ There are a number of phonetic variations of the word due to differing development of intervocalic *-r-*; in the plural the form was consistently WJ *makēdyoy*, EJ *makēdyay*, except for C. 1's *makēryay*, but in the singular, in contact with *k*, *-r-* variously remained as *r* or assimilated to *đ* (devoiced on occasion to *θ*) or *z* (devoiced on occasion to *s*).

¹² Variant of Fr. *matou* 'tomcat' (etymology obscure), used metaphorically? *Vide* alternative name *čā* = literally 'dog'.

¹³ Cf. Bessin *mouēne* m. 'espèce de squalé (*Squatina angelus*)'.

'red mullet'), *perle* m.¹ 'spotted wrasse (*Labrus maculatus*, Gun., Yar.)', *purpei* m. 'porpoise', *pyē* f. 'plaice', *rei* f. 'ray skate', R. 1 *ernar* m. 'fish resembling trout (literally = 'fox')', *rus* f. 'great spotted dogfish (*Squalus catulus*, Lin.)'², *sard* f. 'common sea bream' (*Pagellus centrodentus*, Cuv., Gun.), *sol* f. 'sole (*Solea vulgaris*, Yar.) and lemon sole (*Platessa limanda*)', R. 1 *šāneiz* f.³ 'fish of wrasse family (*Acantholabrus exoleta*, Yar., Jen.? Cf. Sinel, *op. cit.* p. 56)', *šōrk* (R. 2 *šērk*) m. 'shark', O. 1 *tabül* f.⁴ 'bib' (*vide supra* *bwōdē*, *fyabō*), R. 1 *tābur* m. 'small reddish fish (literally 'drum')', *tūrbo* (R. 3 *tōrbō*) m. 'turbot', *twōš* f. 'yellowish sandeel'⁵, *viđlē*⁶ m. 'yellow sculpin, dragonet (*Callionymus lyra*, Lin., Yar.)' R. 1 *vyōlō* m. 'angel fish, monk fish (*Squalus squatina*, Lin.) (?)', *d la vnīz*⁷ f. collective 'name given to shoals of small silvery fish, known locally as *whitebait*, which Sinel (*op. cit.*, p. 63) thought were young sprats', *vra*⁸ (pl. *vrā*) m. 'wrasse in general, comber wrasse (*Labrus vulgaris*, Yar.) in particular', *yō* m. 'Pollack whiting (*Gadus pollachius*, Lin.)' (cf. regional Fr. *lieu* 'espèce de merlan', of which this is the phonetic equivalent).

Fresh-water fishes: –

There are few fresh-water fishes on the island – eels (*āgūl* f. *d yaū dwōš*), tench, sticklebacks and a few trout (*trūit* f.) in the streams (*kane*, EJ *kāne* m., *du* m.) and carp (*karp* f.) in the manorial fishponds (*vivī* m., pl. *vivyēr*).

(ii) Crustacea

General terms: – *krab* f. 'crab', *dū krabē* m. collective 'contemp-

¹ Derivative of *perl* f. 'pearl', from appearance of spots?

² Cf. Fr. *rousset* 'chien de mer'. Named because of colour of skin.

³ Adaptation of English *shanny* 'smooth blenny'?

⁴ < ?

⁵ Believed by SINEL to be the female of the sandeel when full of roe (*op. cit.*, p. 62); < ?

⁶ Cf. Norman *virli*, *firli*, 'great weever and little weever', considered by PAUL BARBIER *filis* to be a derivative of the verb *virer* (RLR 63, 65).

⁷ < ?

⁸ Cf. Guern. *vra* 'carpe de mer', Hague *vra(c)*, Bessin *vra* 'labre tacheté'. For discussion of etymology, *vide* BARBIER *filis*, RLR 51, 406.

tuous term for small crabs', *eikal* f. 'shell (of crab)', *pěščet* f. pl. 'pincers (of crab, etc.)'.

Names: – *grěžeis* f.¹ (or *krab* ~) 'velvet crab, lady crab' (*Portunus puber*, Leach), *hymar* m. 'lobster' (*vide* also *mwōđ* f.), *krab* f. 'crab' (~ *grěžeiz* '*Portunus puber*'; *vertə* ~ 'shore crab' – *Carcinus maenas*, Pen.), *krabakō* f.² 'crayfish', *mwōđ* f.³ 'spawn-carrying female lobster', *pihan* (EJ *pihān*) f.⁴ 'spider crab' (*vide* also WJ *wōlē* m.), *pwēkyou* m.⁵ '*Cancer pagarus*', *saŭtikō* m. 'sandhopper', *sudar* m. 'hermit-crab'⁶, O. 1 *wōlē* m.⁷ 'spider-crab'.

(iii) Mollusca

General terms: – *vlik* f.⁸ 'shellfish', *eikal* f. 'shell', *kapüşō* m. 'operculum (of winkle, etc.)', *pōpī*, *pēpī* f. 'shell of cuttle-fish' (compared to tongue covered by scale of *la pēpī* 'the pip'?)

Names: – *bek* f. *də kōrbē* 'mussel'⁹, *bānak* (SEJ, NEJ *bānak*) f.

¹ Derivative of V. L. *GREVIARE, which becomes in Jersey *grégir* 'se mettre en colère'; this crab, though small, is fierce. *Vide* FEW IV, GRAVIARE.

² Cf. also Guernsey *crabe-à-co* 'langouste'. Could be taken literally as meaning 'the crab with the neck (*kō* m.)', although this does not appear a very apposite name for the crayfish.

³ The word WJ *mwēđ*, EJ *mwōđ* f. (< L. MORA) also means 'blackberry'. Is the sense 'spawn-carrying lobster' due to the dark colour of the lobster (which is not restricted to the female) or to some resemblance of the spawn to berries?

⁴ < ?

⁵ Cf. Norman *clopoing* '*Cancer pagarus*', from resemblance of crab to closed firt. *Vide* FEW II, 748, CLAUDERE.

⁶ Literally = 'soldier': the crab is humorously compared with a soldier in a sentry-box.

⁷ Cf. Guernsey *haeuilin*, *houvlin*, *houblin*, m. 'araignée de mer', Manche *houlin* '*Maia squinado*', etc. (ROLLAND, *Faune populaire*, III, 226–7). P. BARBIER *filis* (*Proceedings of the Leeds Philosophical Society*, VI, 59) suggests that these and similar forms are diminutives of Old Norse HOFN 'hoof' (> *houvel*, *houvelin*, etc.). The Jersey form is obviously allied to the Norman ones, but derivation from HOFN would be difficult to explain (*wō* would be expected to derive from lengthened *ū* – cf. *rwōk* f. 'hive').

⁸ Adaptation of English *whelk* (pronounced *wilk*), or early borrowing from Anglo-Saxon VEOLC?

⁹ Literally 'crow's beak'.

'barnacle', *bāni* (EJ *bāni*) m.¹ 'limpet', EJ *bqb* f.² 'cockle', R. 1 *brīqš* f. 'razor-fish'³ (*vide infra māšq* m.), *eitel* f. (or *eitel də me*) 'starfish', *ītr* f. 'oyster', WJ *kqk* f. 'cockle', WJ *kqk* f. *a žvoṽ* 'dog-whelk' (literally = 'horse-whelk'), *kqklūš* f.⁴ 'whelk', *kqliḡšyaṽ* m. pl.⁵ 'queens', *koune* m.⁶ 'cuttle-fish', *māšq* m. 'razor-fish', *mūl* f. 'mussel', *qrmēr* m.⁷ 'haliotis (*Auris marina*)'⁸, R. 1 *patq* m.⁹ 'queen' (*vide supra kqliḡšyaṽ*), *pōvr*, *pōrv* f.¹⁰ 'octopus', *seš* f. 'cuttle-fish', *skwid* f. 'squid', WJ *šākr* m.¹¹ 'edible crab (*Cancer pagarus*, Lin.)' (*vide infra pwēkyoṽ*), *šervet* f.¹² 'shrimp, prawn',

¹ *Vide FEW I*, BERNIC (Breton) for forms *bānak* and *bāni*.

² < ? The *FEW* groups together under a rubric BOB- (onomatopœia) a large number of words containing this sound group; the most common senses of the words deriving from the root are 'pout, grimace' or 'swollen face'. The Jersey sense may be due to a metaphorical comparison with full, pouting lips, or go back to the underlying sense ascribed to the root - 'etwas aufgedunsenes, dickes, geschwollenes ...' (*FEW I*, 419 a).

³ Literally = 'clasp-knife' (from the shape of the shell-fish); cf. similar metaphors in Engl. *razor-fish*, Fr. *manche de couteau*, and the term more frequently used in the dialect, *māšq* (derivative of V. L. *MANICU). The form *brioche* 'broie' is given by Cotgrave as Norman and appears to be a derivative of Gmc. BREKAN (> Fr. *broyer*), but it is not quite clear how the name of an implement used for breaking or crushing came to designate one used for cutting.

⁴ Cf. Coutances, Avranches, Granville *coqueluche* 'mollusc du genre Venus' (ROLLAND, *Faune populaire III*, 220).

⁵ < ?

⁶ Cf. Middle and Modern Fr. *cornet* 'cuttle-fish', a metaphor from *cornet* 'ink-horn' because of the dark fluid ejected by the cuttle-fish. In the dialect *r* normally falls when followed by *l* or *n* (cf. EJ *koun* f. 'horn' < V. L. *CORNA).

⁷ < L. AURIS MARIS: final -*r* has normally become silent in singulars, while being retained in plurals, and the singular *qrmēr* is presumably due to the analogical generalisation of the plural form.

⁸ The entrails of the ormer are known variously as *pitō* m. pl. (R. 2, LR. 1, J. 1, G. 1), *pitouzyer* m. pl. (R. 1), *pitūzyer* m. pl. (0.1), *pitouzō* m. pl. (C. 1, J. 1), *pitouzē* m. pl. (R. 2).

⁹ Derivative of *pat* f. 'paw', used metaphorically?

¹⁰ *Vide N 12*.

¹¹ Francien form found also in Guernsey (*chancre* s. m. 'crabe').

¹² From Middle French *chevrete*, with transposition of *vr* > *rv*,

šervē m.¹ collective 'opossum shrimps (*Mysis chameleon*, Thomp.) and fairy shrimps (*Mysis ornata*, Thomp.)', *vane* (pl. *vanyay*) m.² 'scallop', EJ *vlik* f. *sivqiz*³ 'small inedible winkle-like shellfish', J. 1 *vlik špršyeđ*⁴ 'small inedible winkle-like shellfish', *vliko* m. 'winkle'.

Belfast.

N. C. W. Spence.

Index of dialect terms mentioned

The following alphabetical order has been adopted: – *a, ā, b, ĉ, d, e, ě, ě, f, g, ĝ, h, i, k, l, m, n, ñ* (and *ñ*), *o, õ, ö, ő, p, r* (and *ř* deriving from intervocalic *r*), *s, š, t, u, ü, w, ü, y, z, ž*.

<i>afyue</i> 200	<i>vel d</i> ~ 197	<i>bā</i> (f. <i>bās</i>) 192, 202
<i>aĝül</i> 198	<i>bü d l</i> ~ 199	<i>bānak</i> 212
<i>ale</i> 192, 193	<i>ave</i>	<i>bāni</i> 213
~ <i>a la peik</i> 192	~ <i>d la list</i> 200	<i>bar</i> 209
~ <i>a la bās yay</i>	<i>aviđō</i> 197	<i>bār</i> 196, 205
<i>ou lāšō</i> 192	<i>ažüste</i> 200	<i>barak</i> 199
<i>amađ</i> 197, 199	<i>āberči</i> 200	<i>bāraž</i> 205
<i>amađaž</i> 197	<i>āfrei</i> 201	<i>barbe</i> 207
<i>amađe</i> 199	<i>āĝül</i> 209, 211	<i>bāslē</i> 192
<i>anoŭ</i> (LR. 1) 203	<i>āgyeī</i> 189	<i>bāslō</i> 192
<i>apye</i> 206, 207	<i>ākr</i> 199	WJ <i>bāsyote</i> 192
<i>arive</i> 200	<i>ātrədō</i> 201	<i>bate</i> (pl. <i>bačay</i>) 191,
<i>armweđ</i> 196	<i>āž</i> 209	194, 195, 198, 200
<i>aŭmađ</i> 196	<i>āžē</i> 195	<i>bay</i> 196
<i>avā</i> 197		<i>bayprē</i> 195, 196

which occurs also in words *ēserve* v. 'to wean' (der. of V. L. *SEPERARE), *swōšervō* m. 'type of rafter' (der. of Lat. CAPRA), and *pōrv*, variant of *pōvr* f. 'octopus' (< Lat. POLYPUM).

¹ Vide supra p. 208, N 1.

² Vide Guernsey *vannet* 'coquille St. Jacques', Cherbourg *vanneau* 'Pecten opercularis', *vanne* 'Pecten Jacobaeus'; derivatives of L. VANNUS, from resemblance of shell to winnowing basket?

³ The W. Jersey form would be *sivqz*; the word appears to be a derivative of the verb *sūe* 'to sweat, to ooze'.

⁴ Possibly the same shellfish as the preceding one; the name means literally 'witch shellfish' (or 'sorcerer shellfish'), possibly from resemblance to a pointed witch's or wizard's hat.

- bavai* (R. 1) 209
bā 196, 201, 204
 SEJ *bāde* 204
bečil 196
bei 201
beilē 207
beḱ dā korbē 212
bende 200, 207
berk 195
bēt 207
beṭe 208
bīm 205
bōb 213
bordāl 196, 207
bos 199
boulin 198
bōb 196, 197
brā
 šivyeḏ a ~ 209
brām 209
braš 204
bril 209
brīoš 213
bročē 209
brode 207
brošē 209
būgr 190
būm 197
bū 199
bweīt 193
bwī 200, 204, 207
bwon
 ōn ~ peik 191
bwōdčēḏ 209
bwōḏe 209
bwōžā
 sabyō ~ 201
byā 208

čā 209, 210
čei 202
čel 195
 faus ~ 195
čēḏe 207

čerkəḏī 199
čerlēg 195, 207
čū 196, 200
čūlet 207

dauḑē 209
deibāre 202
deifās 197, 198
deilaši 202
deileite 200
deilo 197
deipači 200
dīgē 193
dīni 195
dmī 202
 la madē a la ~
dmweizel 209
dmye mōtē 202
dou
 pāni a ~ 198
drag 206
draḡi 194, 206
drane 205, 206
driēḏ 196, 199
driv 200
drive 200
du 211
duby 197, 206
dvale 202
dwōl 198
dwōš 211
dwōyi 198

eičinok 202
eikal 212
eikred 209
eikut 197
eipisi 198
eipisōz
 kurt ~ 198
 lōg ~ 198
eišue 192, 208
eitān 195
eitel 213

eitup 198
 EJ *ēḏan* 194
erbi (pl. *erbyer*) 193
erčei 202
erčīā 202
ergrei 198, 206
ergriāž 198
erlāši 200
erš 199
eršo 206
ertiḏā 202
ertiḏe 200, 202
ē 193, 206, 207

faus čel 195
feḏ
 ~ ō nō 198
 ~ d yau 200
fid 198
filē 198
finz 209
fouse 201
fō 195, 201, 203, 207
fraplē 208, 209
fyabō 209
fyau 210
fyāk 208
fyer 205
fyēt 210
fyō 200, 202, 206
fyōt 204, 206
fyōte 200
fyōdr 210

gabaḏe 200
gaḑ 197
gaḑ 197
gališ 201
galō 201
gauḑre 198
gorž 197
grādou 210
grapē 199
grā 196, 201

- ~ *vel* 197
 ~ *d yay* 202
gr̥ev 201
gr̥žeiz 212
grī mūle 210
grōdē 210
grōn 201
gul 203
guvernā 196
guverne 200

ġib 197
ġin 209
ġišō 197
ġondōri 209

h̥aiste 200
halā 201
hale 202, 206
halibō 210
hān 203
har (LR. 1) 203
hay m. 202, 210
hay (f. *hayt*) adj. 202,
haylin 204 [204
hav 193
hāvr 199
hās 193
hāsyeð 199
heðā 194, 210
herpō 193
herpune 193
hōrfi 210
hul 193, 194
hule 193
humar 204, 212

isā 197
ītr 194, 206, 213
īye 197

ka 208
kabo 210
kāby 199, 204

kalfeite 198
kane 201, 211
kap 200
kaplā, kaplē 210
kaple 202
kaplē 210
kapōr 201
kapūšō 212
kāre 205
karp 211
kāryeð 207
kat 208, 210
kaṽddol, kaṽdol 193,
kaṽšī 199 [194, 208
kav 201
kīše, kyīše 204
kō 210
kōk 213
kōklūš 204, 213
kōlīfišyay 213
kōrbē
bek dā ~ 212
kōrd 198, 207
kōrde (LR. 1) 203
kōrdō (LR. 1) 203
kōr mōr (LR. 1) 199
kōrsē d ōvr 198
kōtōr 191, 194
kōultēr 198
kōultēre 198
kōune 213
kōut 201
kōyi 195
kōtrē (a bwōdeī) 209
krab 211, 212
krabako 204, 212
krabē 208, 211
krān 199
krapay 210
krāp 196
krē 206
krō 194
krōčē 193
kuku 210

kule 200
kur (f. *kurt*) 198, 201
kurs 200
kwōdā 202
kwōšunnī 206
kwōtr 198
kwōtūð 195, 198
kyave (pl. *kyavyay*)
 202, 204, 205
kyavte 205
kyinte 206
kyiše 204

lap (O. 1) 201
lapotē (R. 1) 201
lāfre 201
lāfrei 201
lāši 200, 202
lāšō 192, 193, 210
lāšune 192
lēgz 195, 196
lei
swō ~, ā lei 200
leite 200
leiz 194
lē 210
lin 204, 206, 207
linnō, (R. 2) limnō
linō 206 [206
list 200
liste 200
lof 197
lofe 200
lop 201
lovyē 200
lō (f. *lōg*) 198
luwis (J. 1) 199
lvē 205, 206
lwām 201
lwōš 210

mā 196
makðe, makze
 (pl. *makədyay*) 210

- að* 193, 201
 EJ *maràde* 205
adē 202
aršəpi 196
ato 210
ātōz 196
abr 195
āšə 213
e 201, 202
eiči 191
el 205
er 200, 204
erləspi, mērləspik
erlē 198 [198]
erlēspik 198
ēš 205
etr 192, 200, 204
inawē 197
orçau 202
otā 202
ote 202
otē 202
ōl 209
ūl m. 203
ūl f. 213
ūlē
grī ~, rwōž ~ 210
won 209, 210
wōð 212
wōrē 199
wōðū 210

ūby 196
izī 198, 200
ī 200
ī 198
īē 198
vōriš 205
īē 195
īēðol 195

m 203
mē 194, 213
izi, NWJ ouzyi 203
- ōvr* f. pl. 209
ōvr f. sg. 198

pacī 200
pannē 206
pañi 198, 200
pāsaž 201
pat 199, 213
patə 213
paume 198
peiči 191
peičō (pl. *peičōr*) 191
peik 191
peisō 191, 209
peisuñi
 (pl. *peisunyēr*) 191
pēl
 ~ *d l aviðō* 197
pēnt 195
pēpi, pōpi 212
pēre 204
pērlē 211
pērō 201
pēšēt 212
pi 197, 200, 207
pihán 204, 212
pik 197
pikwei 208
pitouzō, pitō, etc. 213
plīz 193
pōr
 cū *d ~* 198
pōp 196
pōrv, pōvr 213
prādr
 ~ *dē mē* 200
 ~ *d yay* 200
pti (f. *ptit*) 201, 205
pulē
 nō *ā kū d ~* 198
purpei 211
puyi 197
pūšai (G. 1) 197
pūši 197
- pwei* 198
pwēdr 202
pwēkyou 212, 213
pwēt 197, 201
pwōnā 202
pya (f. *pyat*) 195, 198
pyatfōrm 196
 SEJ *pyá* 201
pyē 207, 211
pyēr 204
pyēre 204
pyēršō 191
pyēš 201
pyē (f. *pyen*) 201
pyē m.
 lə ~ *d yay* 202
pyō 207

rā 202
rālēg 197
rālēgi 198
ramōte 200
rāte (pl. *rāçau*) 192
rāfōr 203
rei (net) 205
rei (fish) 211
rī 200
rīgāž 197, 200
rīgi 198
rīzi 197, 200
rkyē 195
rlāš 200
rnar, ərnar 211
rōči (pl. *rōčer*) 201,
 208
rōlik, rōliks, rōliks
 196
rō (f. *rōd*) 195
rō 196
rtret
dmyē ~ 202
rus 211
rūd 200
rwōž 210

- sabyō* 201
sakfō 197
sān 205
sāne 205
sard 211
saumat 201
saumō 200
saus 201
saṭtikō 212
sādō, sādrō, sāgdō
sādre 208 [193, 208
serky 197, 203
seš 213
sēgy 201
skōl 209
skōr 196
sōl 211
spēr 196
spređ 197
sudar 212
swōšervō 214
 EJ *swāiz* (*vlik* ~) 214
šāneiz (R. 1) 211
 WJ *šākr* 213
še (J. 1) 206
šervet 204, 208, 213
šervē 208, 214
šipe 195
šivyeđ
 ~ *a brā* 209
šna 201
šoršyeđ
 vlik ~ (J. 1) 214
šōrk, (R. 2) *šerk* 211
šučē 195
šūvyēđ 209
- tabül* 211
talō 195
tane 206
tađ 198
tađe 198
tā 206
tābur 211
tādr 206
teit 201, 204
tēr 192, 200
tolčēđ, tulčēđ 196
tolei, tulei 196
topsel 197
trāl 205
trāle 194, 205
tramā 205
trap 204
trāčil 202
trezpi 194
trim 200
trime 200
trivit 211
tūe 200
tulei, tulčēđ 196
tūrbō 211
twoš 210, 211

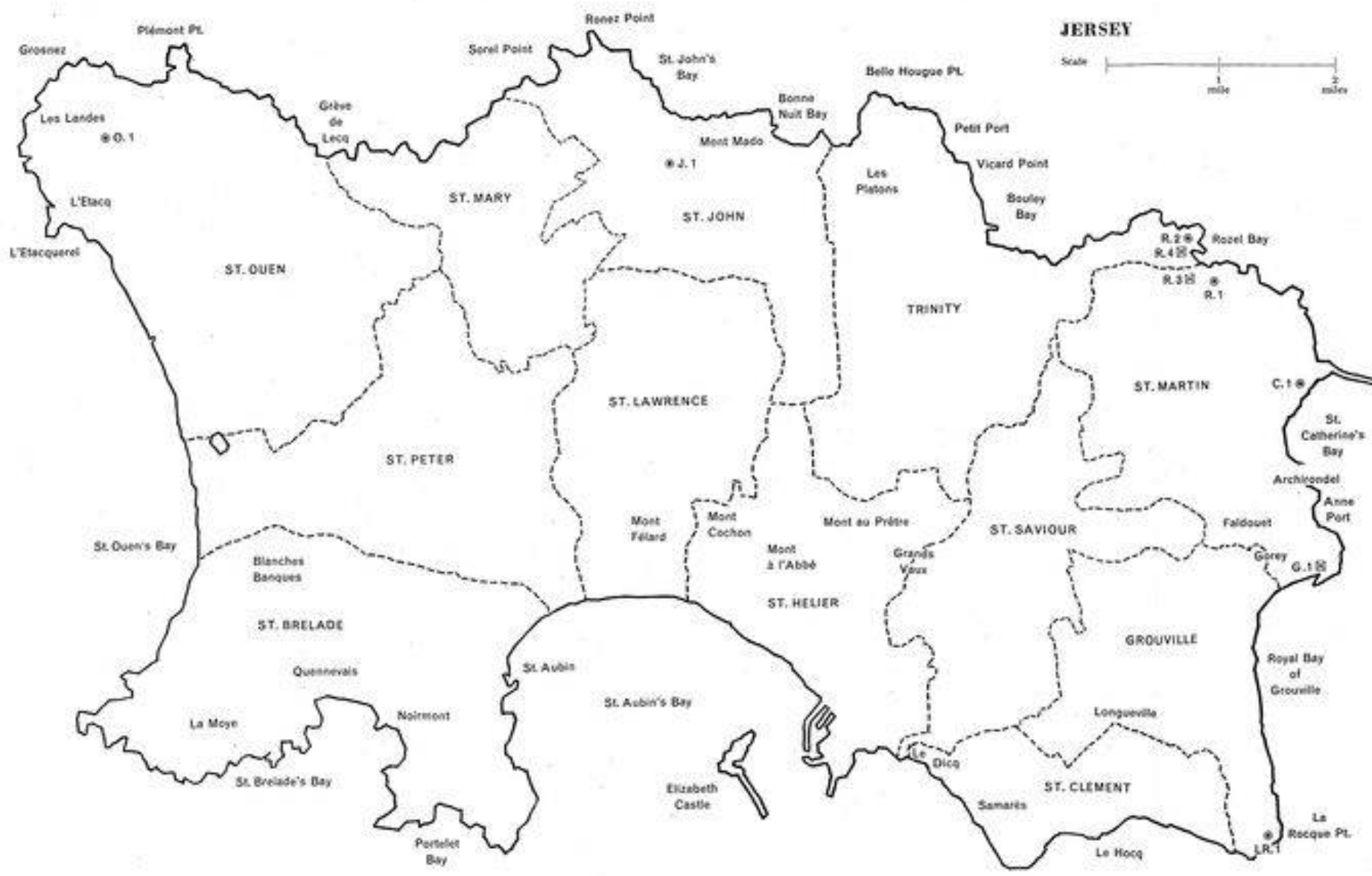
ursā 196

va e vē 199
vane (pl. *vanya*) 214
vadaž 200
vayl 207
vāz 201
vā
 oy ~, *swō l* ~ 200
veiz 194
- veize* 194
vel 197, 200
vele 200
ver (f. *vert*) 210, 21
ver m. 208
verg 196, 203
verget 203
verme 208
versē 200
viđe 200
viđlē 211
vivi (pl. *vivyer*) 211
vlik 212, 214
vlikō 214
vniz 211
vra 204, 211
vrāg 195
vyolō 211

 EJ *wāne* (pl. *wānya*)
 206
weizlē 208
 WJ *wōlē* 212
wilei 198

yay 192, 200, 201,
ye 203 [202, 21
yēreis 203
yēž 204
yī 203
yī 203
yō 207, 211

žoy 196
žue 204
žwe 199
žwē 204



Jersey-French Fishing Terms

List of informants:-
 The approximate birth-places of my principalsubjects are indicated by the sign ●, and those of minor informants by the sign ■.

- (a) Bozel area:-
 R. 1 ● G. Le Cocq, born c. 1880
 R. 2 ● G. Amy, born c. 1890
 R. 3 ■ E. Renouf, born c. 1880, now deceased
 R. 4 ■ C. Blampied, born c. 1880, now dead

- (b) St. Catherine's and Gorey areas:-
 C. 1 ● H. J. Robins, born c. 1900
 G. 1 ■ C. Godfrey, born c. 1885

- (c) La Rocque area:-
 LR. 1 ● E. Gallichan, born c. 1880, now deceased

- (d) St. John's area:-
 J. 1 ● F. Blisson, born c. 1873, now dead

- (e) St. Ouen's area:-
 O. 1 ● J. Priaulx, born c. 1877, now deceased

My informant J. Priaulx (O. 1) farmed at St. John's, but was a keen amateur fisherman in his younger days. All other subjects were, or had been, fishermen or sailors.