

Agenda item B7

By: Deputy Chief IFCO

To: Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority – 23 January 2026

Subject: Vessel update

Classification **Unrestricted**

**Summary:**

This report provides an update for members regarding the planned refit works on Tamesis and Nerissa as well as an update regarding the build of the new 10.5m cabin RIB, Nemo.

**Recommendations –**

NOTE and COMMENT only

**Introduction**

In December 2023, Workboat Code 3 came into force. This has presented significant challenges to workboat operators across the country as vessels are required to conform to tighter regulations than were in place under Workboat Code 2.

Both Nerissa and Tamesis require refit works in boatyards, and the entire vessel management and auditing system is in the process of being updated for compliance with Workboat Code 3.

At the meeting of 27 September 2025, officers provided a detailed update of likely expenditure for the required refit works, this paper is an update of that.

**Nerissa**

Nerissa was transited by officers from Ramsgate Harbour to Diverse Marine boat yard, on the Isle of Wight on 11 December 2025. Works have begun on the vessel including examination of hydraulics systems and the planning of deck

removal. It is expected that the vessel will be lifted out of the water in early February for out-of-water works to be undertaken. The vessel is currently expected to return to service in late March/early April 2026, which is when survey works for the summer fisheries commence.

## **Nemo**

Construction of FPV Nemo began in late 2024 following finalisation of contract details. The contracted delivery date for Nemo was 29 May 2025. Most recently, Ribcraft had given a delivery date of 23 January 2026. At the time of writing this paper, significant amounts of procurement are still required for electronics items for the vessel, with procurement cashflow being given as the reason for the continued delay.

Since the last meeting, officers have conducted a further three visits to Ribcraft, taking the total so far to eight. We have communicated to Ribcraft that such a delay is beyond the realms of reasonableness and continues to be highly disappointing, especially in light of the agreed contract.

On 15 December 2025, following internal discussions, Andrew Jackson Solicitors on behalf of KEIFCA sent a letter to Ribcraft requesting information related to proposals to ensure delivery of the Vessel by the 23 January 2026 in accordance with the contract, failing which KEIFCA would take advice regarding the necessary steps to enforce the contractual rights. It was clearly explained that the vessel is being financed through the public purse and that KEIFCA is a public body, and as such are under a statutory duty to protect taxpayers' monies.

However, Kent and Essex IFCA would still ideally take delivery of the fully completed vessel as soon as possible, not least because of the financial and logistical challenges of withdrawing and starting again with a new tender process to acquire a vessel.

Officers attended a face-to-face meeting at the Ribcraft yard site on 13 January 2026, where progress since the last meeting was highlighted, including the fitting of the windows. The meeting was productive and the build of the vessel is progressing, albeit far more slowly than reasonably expected or promised.

Officers have developed, based on discussions with Ribcraft, an assumed timeline for delivery of March 2026. Officers continue to be concerned, especially given the previous record of Ribcraft proposing new dates which have not been met. Officers will continue to engage with Ribcraft on a weekly basis regarding the progress on the build.

## **Tamesis**

Taking into account the delay in both moving Nerissa to the Isle of Wight and in the delivery of Nemo, the refit works on Tamesis have been moved back to July 2026. This will ensure that we retain constant capability for both enforcement and survey work. This time is being used to further refine the works requirement for the vessel so as to ensure best value for money – additional yards have been contacted, and quotes are starting to be received.

<b>Recommendations –</b> NOTE and COMMENT only
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