



Agenda Item – C4

Report on the patrol vessel 'Nerissa' and daughter RIB 'Nereus' Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority Report for the period January 2025 to June 2025

Priorities of vessel for quarter

- Targeted inspection of static gear.
- Patrol District limits for any large/foreign vessel incursions.
- Patrol areas closed to bottom towed gear.
- Inspect pots and traps for compliance of byelaws.
- Inspection of commercial and recreational fishers.
- Patrol, monitor and inspect cockle fishing areas and activity.
- Logging fishing vessels, gear and activity.
- Sightings and intel logged and reported.
- Input key enforcement information into national fisheries enforcement database (MCSS).
- Attend to cockle survey on inside and outside areas as required.
- Attending to tide height and sea temperature survey equipment log data.

Fisheries Enforcement

Nerissa sighted 60 registered fishing vessels during this time period, one non boarding inspection and case pending for fishing a closed area, 13 charter angling vessels and 11 private angling vessels also logged.

Seventy seven logs for sightings of fishing gear were made listing 199 individual gear markers, these were locating either nets or pots on the seabed. Whilst approaching surface markers we were required to lift a few to check and confirm identification and two partial strings of whelk pots were hauled to check that the pots met requirements and returned in the same location.

Patrol logs have been entered into the required databases as soon as possible and any additional information has been forwarded to the relevant agencies and enforcement bodies in their required format where required.

Conservation/Survey work

Whelk survey pots carrying temperature data loggers were not in position on our last visit; local fishers have been asked if they have been seen recently or heard of any being towed away.

Monthly samples on behalf of Thanet District Council for cockle classification have also been gathered, safely brought ashore and collected to be sent off for processing.

April cockle samples were undertaken with Nerissa attending to all areas on the Kent side of the district, checking some new possible areas of interest and also completing the site near Southend.

Forty-nine seals were sighted, at one sighting 30 plus were hauled out on sands and the rest sighted on the surface of more open water as individuals or pairs. Just 4 porpoises were sighted during this quarter.

Maintenance

The generator has had a service and the hydraulic hoses have started to be mapped and logged as they are due for replacement at 10 years old. Along with the monthly safety checks the usual maintenance has also taken place.

Other Information

The crew have taken part in joint work with the MMO, police marine units and boarder force across the district also presented to volunteer costal wardens about KEIFCAs roles and responsibilities.

Nerissa attended a Mayday call to assist a Dunkirk Little Ship in distress making her way to Ramsgate, the vessel was taking on water but still making way. We followed the vessel and its companion until the Lifeboat was alongside. We were able to liaise with the coastguard as their coms system was not getting though and ready to assist but were not required.

Statistics:

Nerissa has travelled 1,186 miles and been at sea for 125 hours. HVO fuel is still not available in Ramsgate, once available we will again look into using it. Nerissa has taken 10,694ltrs of fuel in this period

Ben Hermitage

Skipper FPV Nerissa & Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officer