



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 to May 2022

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.
- Record data of all vessel and gear sightings.
- Sightings and intel logged and reported.
- Input key enforcement information into national fisheries enforcement database (MCSS).
- Cockle sampling sites on the Kent coast.

Fisheries Enforcement

Patrols have taken place across the whole of the district with some time dedicated to the observation of effort from the visiting Scallop fleet on the old Sea Fishery Committee boundary at Dungeness. The 6 mile limit and areas closed to bottom towed gear were checked, observations made and activity logged.

One hundred and four log entries were made for sightings of static fishing gear totalling 387 individual ends. Fourteen inspections were made resulting in one string having some non-compliant pots seized, two notices of offence attached for unreadable or missing PLN and three recoveries of lost ends of gear; one of which was clearly marked and returned to its owner along with an anchor. The rest were left with a notice of inspection and revisited for visual compliance checks.

Ninety fishing vessels were sighted and logged, six of these were charter angling vessels and eight private recreational vessels. One boarding was undertaken, another vessel had the rib alongside to speak with the fishing vessel skipper directly and a further six had a no boarding inspection with the patrol vessel close enough to speak with the fishers directly and look in at the fishing activity.

Conservation/Survey work

Surveys

Nerissa has had her deck plates installed and undertook cockle sampling along the North Kent coast during April.

Marine mammal observations

Five log entries were made to record sightings on Porpoises during the quarter, these were mainly in ones or twos. Individual seal sightings totalled 80 some of which were in groups of 30+ hauled out on sand banks with the rest being individual sightings out deeper water where just a head was visible above the water surface.

Maintenance

Rib Nereus has spent some time in Brightlingsea for the short term as an enforcement tool for the period Vigilant has been out of service.

Nerissa has recently had her routine engine service and required a few replacement parts; I have been looking to the future and await quotes and have booked a lift slot for works on the hull as the specialist anti-foul is due for replacement.

The normal monthly checks of the vessel, its equipment and systems have been undertaken. Crew have run drills on board for man overboard and discussed fire and first aid scenarios.

Other Information

Three reports were put into the Coastguard during our patrols this quarter, one for our observation of a large inflatable vessel washed up on a remote beach, another for an abandoned migrant crossing Rib found adrift with boarder force markings. The third was for a large channel marker adrift and miles off station, photos were forwarded to the Coastguard and thanks given for our help on these reports.

Statistics

During this period Kent based vessels put to sea nineteen times and covered 1221 miles taking on 14869 litres of fuel.

Ben Hermitage

Skipper FPV Nerissa & Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officer