

## **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 November 2021 to January 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).

### **Fisheries Enforcement**

Patrols on the district limits have taken place looking for larger and foreign vessel near the boundaries, this has been mainly routine. On occasions where staff or weather has hampered the patrol vessels deployment officers have tracked suspect vessel activity from shore and followed them along the coast observing their activity.

Thirty two log entries were made for sightings of static fishing gear, totalling 98 individual ends. There were seven inspections of fishing gear made; two offence notices were issued with instructions to amend smaller issues found during their inspection and the rest had notices attached reminding to re-mark gear that was unclear.

Commercial, registered fishing vessels were sighted and logged 34 times, six of these were charter and private angling vessels and two private angling vessels were also recorded. Six of these were spoken with directly boat to boat where possible or by phone/radio when we were unable to get close enough.

## **Conservation/Survey work**

### *Surveys*

No survey equipment has been in use during this quarter, but time was taken to check through equipment during disassembly ready for storage.

### *Marine mammal observations*

Entries for the sighting of marine mammals were made when seen, seals often individually but also observed at a distance in groups of 50 to 100 at a time estimating 300 sightings with the addition of two porpoise identified out in deeper water.

## **Maintenance**

Monthly checks have been undertaken onboard as normal. New high pressure hydraulic and water hoses are being replaced due to age. The GPS unit required attention due to date faults when seeing in the new year but this has now been rectified.

RIB Nereus has undertaken some individual patrols close Ramsgate with training and enforcement in mind; the smaller vessel allows access to the river and getting in closer to the shore.

## **Other Information**

The patrol vessel was in the vicinity of a MAYDAY call for a vessel with an engine room fire, which we attended in Rye Bay. We had the RIB in the water ready to assist if required and checked on the occupants whilst awaiting Dungeness Lifeboat. The fire was dealt with but the vessel had lost power and communications making our attendance essential and appreciated by the vessel in question, the Lifeboat and Coastguard.

We also assisted with a reported sighting of a RIB or life raft adrift in the outer Thames. Nerissa searched an area as part of our patrol and reported back negative sighting for that area.

### *Statistics*

During this period Kent based vessels put to sea 11 times and covered 458 miles taking on 4638 litres of fuel.

Ben Hermitage

*Skipper FPV Nerissa & Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officer*