

By: Deputy Chief Officer

To: Kent and Essex IFCA – 14 September 2026

Subject: Completion of build of new patrol vessel 'Nemo'

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary:

This report updates Members on the completion, delivery, certification and commissioning of the Authority's new patrol vessel, *Nemo*, since the previous report presented in May 2026.

Recommendations:

Members are requested to:

1. Note the successful completion, certification and delivery of patrol vessel *Nemo*.
2. Note that all commissioning and snagging works have been completed.
3. Note that the vessel has entered operational service and will undertake its first enforcement patrol on 6 September 2026.

Background

As reported to Members in May 2026, construction of *Nemo* was nearing completion, with completion of construction, sea trials, survey work, certification and final commissioning activities remaining before the vessel could be accepted into operational service.

The vessel was significantly behind schedule with large amounts of procurement required to complete the vessel. After discussion between the Chief Fishery Officer, Chairman and Vice-Chairman it was agreed to undertake further direct procurement with suppliers to deliver required items to Ribcraft, with an agreed equivalent reduction in the total price of the vessel.

Significant progress has since been achieved, resulting in the vessel entering operational service and supporting the Authority's fisheries enforcement programme.

Sea Trials

Formal sea trials were undertaken between 7 and 9 July 2026. These trials assessed vessel performance, handling characteristics and onboard systems against the agreed specification.

The trials provided an opportunity for Ribcraft, equipment suppliers and Authority officers to test all major systems and identify any minor defects or outstanding works requiring completion before final acceptance. A snagging list was subsequently produced and incorporated into the final commissioning programme.

The sea trials demonstrated that the vessel met the required operational performance standards necessary for acceptance of the vessel and it was suitable to progress to the final survey and certification stages.



MECAL Survey

A MECAL survey was undertaken on 22 July 2026 as part of the statutory certification process. The survey examined the vessel's compliance with applicable construction, safety and operational requirements and formed a key component of the certification package.

Collection and Delivery

Following the successful completion of sea trials and survey requirements, Authority officers formally took delivery of *Nemo* on 23 July 2026.

The vessel then completed its transit voyage to Essex, providing an opportunity for officers to familiarise themselves with the vessel's systems and operational procedures under practical operating conditions.

Certification

On 21 August 2026, *Nemo* achieved full certification as a Workboat Code Category 3 vessel.

Obtaining certification represented a major project milestone and confirmed that the vessel met all relevant standards required for operation within its designated service area.

Initial Service

In accordance with the manufacturer's maintenance schedule, the vessel underwent its first 20-hour gearbox service on 21 August 2026.

Completion of this service ensured compliance with warranty requirements and enabled the vessel to continue into operational use following certification.

Final Commissioning and Snagging Works

Representatives from Ribcraft attended the vessel on 27 and 28 August 2026 to complete the remaining commissioning programme and address outstanding snagging items identified during sea trials and delivery.

The work undertaken included:

- Installation of the vessel refrigerator.
- Commissioning of the Humphree stabilisation system.
- Completion of the snagging list resulting from the sea trial process.
- Final inspections and system checks.

The completion of these works marked the conclusion of the build and delivery project.

Operational Service

Following certification, servicing and commissioning activities, *Nemo* has now entered operational service with Kent and Essex IFCA. On 25 August 2026, officers conducted rough weather trials and familiarisation training.

The vessel provides enhanced operational capability, reliability and officer safety, strengthening the Authority's ability to undertake fisheries management, monitoring and enforcement activities throughout the District.

The vessel's first fisheries enforcement deployment was scheduled for 6 September 2026, supporting the opening of the Authority's permit cockle fishery.



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