



Agenda Item C3

Report on the patrol vessel 'Ken Green'

Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

Quarterly report for the period ending June 2014

Priorities of vessel for quarter

- Check closed Cockle areas.
- Monitor Cockle harvesting areas.
- Patrol District for any large vessel infringement of byelaws.
- Inspect gill and trammel netting vessels for compliance with EU gear legislation.
- Inspect trawling vessels for EU gear legislation and catch composition.
- Record data of all vessel sightings.
- Record data of all fishing fixed nets and pots.
- Input key enforcement information into national fisheries enforcement database (MCSS).
- Inspect Lobster pots for compliance of byelaw, and check potting vessels
- Shore enforcement.
- Inspect oyster dredging vessels for byelaw compliance
- Check closed Herring areas.
- Checking for compliance of Whelk byelaw.

Risk based fisheries enforcement

During this quarter the Ken Green has carried out both routine and directed patrols in all parts of the district. Within the six mile limit, patrols have enabled the crew to board vessels and inspect static and towed gear, monitor fishing vessels and their activities, and check compliance with legislation, byelaws and minimum landing sizes. Using risk based enforcement methods, IFCA officers have been successful in gathering the relevant information to plan directed patrols, focusing on certain vessels fishing efforts within the district.

At the beginning of the cockle season, the patrol vessels 'Ken Green' and 'Tamesis' were operated from their 'away' ports, allowing Kent and Essex crews to gain insight and experience from both vessels. The Ken Green was tasked with checking the damage rates of the cockle fleet within the first month of the cockle season.

Conservation/Survey work

The crew have all continued to contribute to the work relating to both MPAs and MPZs. Cockle surveys have been completed by the crew, in preparation for the start of the cockle season. The Kent crew utilised the Tamesis whilst stationed here and conducted a successful whelk survey.

Statistics

The Ken Green has patrolled a total of 521 miles. Throughout these patrols there have been 54 individual sightings of commercial fishing vessels and 6 angling boats logged. The cockle areas within the district were visited on patrol on 58 separate occasions. There were 36 groups of static gear sighted, 9 of which were inspected. Eight seals and 13 porpoises have been sighted on patrol. Whilst crewed by the Kent officers, the Tamesis patrolled 105 miles and logged 6 angling boats. The cockle areas within the district were visited on 13 occasions. There were 16 groups of static gear recorded, 9 of which were inspected with 3 notices of inspection issued and 1 string of pots being seized.

Maintenance

In May the Ken Green was lifted out of the water at Ramsgate for a refit. The main engine and gearbox coolers were removed and along with the hydraulic coolers, they were sent away for refurbishment. Whilst the coolers were away the crew carried out a number of maintenance tasks of which included antifouling the hull, changing anodes and inspecting stern tubes and bow thruster. The gearbox coolers failed their inspections and replacements were sourced. With off the shelf replacements unavailable, the fitted coolers are new builds.

The Ken Greens' RIB was taken to Highway Marine in Sandwich for its annual service.

All manufacturers recommended servicing has been carried out on the Caterpillar main engines and generator. Monthly safety checks have been carried out on all the vessels equipment.

Other information

On 14th April Miss Angharad Purcell took up her post on the Ken Green as the new fourth hand. Angharad has a background in marine biology and has carried out some voluntary work for Sussex IFCA in the past

An Invitation to the Authority Members

Authority members are welcome to contact the office or myself regarding 'A day on patrol' out on the Ken Green.

David Deverson
Skipper