

Agenda Item C4
Report on the patrol vessel 'Tamesis'
Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
Quarterly report for the period ending June 2014

Vessel priorities:

- Day grab sampling for Outside Cockle areas
- Monitoring restrictions for Thames Estuary Herring fishery
- Monitoring of commercial vessels harvesting Gigas oysters
- Monitor Authority's Several Order shellfish beds in the River Roach
- Monitor fishing vessels for compliance and enforce Kent and Essex IFCA Byelaws, EU Legislation and Regulations
- Input enforcement information into UK fisheries Monitoring Control Surveillance System database (MCSS)

Risk Based Fisheries Enforcement

Risk Based Enforcement has continued through this quarter and the vessel data base has now been modified to allow this information to be recorded. Including vessel sighting, Gear sighting and inspections. This will in turn be transferred to GIS to ground truth the fisheries activity and areas worked.

Fourteen Enforcement patrols have been conducted covering the Thames Estuary and coastal areas. Twenty vessels were sighted and recorded. Eleven non boarding inspections were undertaken and ten vessels were boarded to check for compliance with Byelaws and EU regulations. Private and charter vessels have been sighted and recorded with general guidance given to individuals on drift nets, pots and traps and minimum size of species. Mcss data has been recorded

A patrol of the Authority's Several Order shellfish beds in the River Roach and within areas of the Roach and River Crouch has been completed from Tamesis during this quarter. No vessels/offences have been recorded.

Patrols of Thames Estuary Herring fishery have been conducted, commercial vessels and areas have been monitored with no breaches found.

Patrols within the district have resulted in inspections of vessels, drift/fixed nets and pots/traps. Twelve static gear sightings were recorded of which five were inspected which resulted in two Offence Notices being attached for non-compliance of byelaws and one seizure of a fixed net that was non-compliant with Kent and Essex Byelaws.

The Closure of Shellfish Beds Byelaw - Prohibition on taking native oysters within the proposed Blackwater, Crouch, Roach and Colne MCZ continues. Vessels fishing around these areas have been boarded and catches checked with no offences found.

Tamesis was transferred to Ramsgate for enforcement duties and The Ken Green temporarily based in Brightlingsea to carry out damage rates on vessels fishing within the TEFCO at the start of the cockle season.

Conservation/Survey Work

Day grab sampling

Day grab sampling has been carried out at the E Barrows, Dengie, Ray Sands, St Peters Flats, Leysdown, Minnis bay, Scrapsgate and Marsh End to ascertain biomass of stocks and total allowable catch for the outside cockle areas. Kent based IFCO`s E Lyons and A Purcell, Mr D Wales (university Graduate) and Mr J Brennan from Natural England attended some of these days.

Maintenance

Five days of programmed maintenance has been carried out for the vessel's engines and equipment, records have been stored in both hard copy and electronic format.

Statistics

During this quarter, Tamesis has undertaken nineteen patrols, used 3582.45 litres of fuel and travelled 712.6 sea miles. The engines have run a total of 91.6 hours.

Other Information

Seal observations

Patrols have led to one off sightings of marine mammals in various areas including:

- Seals have been sighted near the Gunfleet windfarm, maplin bank, middle deep, eagle bank
- Porpoises have been sighted in Brightlingsea harbour and around the E barrows. One dead porpoise was sighted near the maplin bank.

Repairs and servicing

D.B Marine has carried out annual servicing to the vessels engines.

M.C.A Survey

Tamesis has completed this year's M.C.A survey with minimal deficiencies and no action was required.

Training and Procedures

Standard operating procedures are being finalised for survey methods and equipment on board Tamesis; the procedures will outline safe working practices for employees and other agencies whilst working on the boat.

Invitation to Authority Members and P.R

Some Authority Members have taken the opportunity to come on the patrol vessel. It is an open invitation to all Members.

Mark Davey
Skipper/IFC Officer