



Agenda Item C1

Shore Report - Kent

Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

Quarterly report for the period ending December 2014

Overview

As the year drew to a close, quotas became an issue with major fisheries throughout the district. This has led to fishermen having to abandon good fishing due to the lack of quota for different species. Seals damaging fish in gill nets are a constant issue in the district.

Queenborough

Fishing from Queenborough has become sporadic with vessels either laying up for the winter or changing over to native oyster fishing. The three vessels that target cockle were able to take part in the short October fishery in the area of the Buxey Sands

Number of vessels fishing from Queenborough: 9

Faversham

Vessels have targeted both oysters and finfish during this quarter. Being able to catch, process and offer for sale their catch has led to local fishermen being able to receive a better price compared to other ports in the district.

Number of vessels fishing from Faversham: 2

Whitstable

Whitstable remains one of the busiest ports within Kent, with most of the vessels using a combination of fishing methods in order to stay viable. Trawling activity has seen vessels landing comprised of mixed fish. There have been reports from the whelk fisherman that catches have remained low, with some vessels bringing their pots ashore. Towards the end of the quarter, some of the fisherman started to

concentrate on oyster dredging. One vessel has left the port to fish for scallops in the North Sea.

The outside cockle fishing season began in October and ran for one week, with both resident cockle boats and visiting cockle boats landing their catch to the local cooking plant.

Number of vessels fishing from Whitstable: 15

Herne Bay

Vessels based in Herne Bay continue to focus on whelk fishing. Herne Bay remains an active angling area for both shore anglers and boat anglers.

Number of vessels fishing from Herne Bay: 2

Thanet Ports (Ramsgate/Broadstairs/Margate)

Within the whole of the Thanet area, there have been reports of issues with seals and remains a constant concern for fishermen.

Fishing activity in Ramsgate has been consistent this quarter. There is continued focus on a variety of fishing methods, although netting appears to be favoured at the moment. Again quotas have been an issue with vessels running out of quota and viable species to fish. Ramsgate has continued to be a focus for recreational angling with both charter and privately owned vessels sailing from this harbour. The local foreshore has seen an increase in angling activity.

Sole, thornback ray, cod and bass have been targeted by both gill nets and trawls with various success. The vessels using pots to target lobster and crabs decreased the amount of effort on these species, whilst fishermen wanting to catch whelks are reporting sporadic catches.

Broadstairs and Margate have continued to focus on netting and potting activity. There is one commercial fishing vessel working out of Margate, but there has been some angling activity this quarter.

Number of vessels fishing from Thanet Ports: 24

Deal and Walmer

Vessels fishing from Deal and Walmer focused on lobster potting for the summer, and are beginning to focus on herring and sprat fishing for the winter.

Number of vessels fishing from Deal and Walmer: 5

Dover

Dover has seen a lot of activity from charter angling vessels alongside shore angling. The commercial fishing from this port has remained low key with vessels using pots and gill nets on a small scale.

Number of vessels fishing from Dover: 2

Folkestone and Hythe

Vessels targeting fin fish have been able to catch their allocated quotas fairly quickly which has led to boats being tied up or changing their fishing methods. Two vessels have changed over to scalloping and have reported a slow start to the season. Fishermen using pots have reported low catches as the year ended. Fisherman have continued to be involved in discussions with local officers regarding fishing activity and future management within Hythe Bay.

Number of vessels fishing from Folkestone and Hythe: 13

Dungeness

Being able to easily fish in both ICES areas iVc and Viid has enabled fishermen working out of Dungeness to be a bit more viable. Fishing has been up and down, with quotas dictating the success of these vessels. Angling is a large feature of Dungeness, both boat and shore anglers reporting good bags of mixed fish.

Number of vessels fishing from Dungeness: 5

Evanna Lyons,
Kent Shore Officer