

**Agenda Item C4**  
**Report on the patrol vessel 'Tamesis'**  
**Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority**  
**Quarterly report for the period ending March 2015**

Vessel priorities

- Monitor Commercial and private fishing vessels, fixed/drift nets and static gear for compliance with Kent and Essex Byelaws, EU Legislation and Regulations.
- Monitor vessels fishing within the Thames and Blackwater Herring Fishery
- Day grab sampling of licensed and permitted cockle areas
- Conduct whelk survey Hythe bay and Whitstable
- Operational plan for enforcement of pots and traps
- Vessel refit at Burnham Harbour.

Risk based fisheries enforcement

Risk based enforcement has continued, allowing senior officers to determine species at risk within the district throughout the whole year. Tactical meetings between senior officers allowed informed decisions to be made on how to enforce and regulate, using information reports and data collected by officers on shore and vessel patrols.

Enforcement patrols have been conducted covering the Thames Estuary and up to the six mile limit including local rivers.

Thirty two registered fishing vessels were sighted and recorded. Five non boarding inspections were carried out to check for compliance with Byelaws and EU regulations. Guidance was given to individuals on legislation relating to drift nets, pots and traps and minimum size of species.

Data collected on patrols for fixed nets and static gear sightings has resulted in nineteen gear sightings and Gsu sightings (GS identified PLN or name and address, Gsu not identified but sighted) and twelve gear inspections (handled gear checked for compliance) being recorded. This resulted in five inspection notices and one offence notice being issued. Operational planning and intelligence gathering resulted in seizure of fishing gear that was non-compliant with byelaws and permit conditions. Six seizure notices were issued.

Patrols were carried out to monitor closed area cockle beds with no activity recorded. Patrols were carried out to monitor whelk fishing activity within the Essex coastline. Limited commercial fishing was recorded with small catches. No infringements were recorded.

The Thames and Blackwater Herring Fishery was extended in this period due to quota not being taken and quantity of stocks available. Drift nets and minimum landing size were checked and monitored.

### Surveys

Day grab surveys of the licensed and permitted cockle areas started at the end on the quarter. This will continue throughout April.

Officers carried out two whelk surveys this quarter. Survey pots were deployed on separate occasions on the North and South Kent coast. Although the survey was completed, officers had to re schedule one as weather hampered efforts to reach the proposed areas. Contents of the pots were weighed and counted with sub samples being retained for future analysis.

### Maintenance

Tamesis was in refit from 3 December 2014 to 27 February 2015 for refurbishment work to hydraulic rams, gantry and serviceable parts on the vessel. Following noise monitoring testing required under Health & Safety legislation, silencers have been fitted into stern voids to allow Tamesis to operation within acceptable parameters and fuel tanks have been altered accordingly.

Regular 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 14 patrols, used 3227.53 litres of fuel and travelled 622.6 sea miles. The engines have run a total of 76 hours.

### Invitation to Authority Members

Authority members are welcome to contact the office to arrange a day out on Tamesis to observe the work that the vessel and officers engage in.

**Mark Davey**  
**Skipper/IFC Officer**