

Agenda Item C3

Report on the patrol vessel 'Ken Green'

Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority **Quarterly report for the period April to June 2015**

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 byelaws, and check potting vessels.
- Shore enforcement.
- Inspect oyster dredging vessels for byelaw compliance.
- Check closed herring areas.
- Check for compliance of whelk byelaws.

Risk based fisheries enforcement

Over the quarter the patrol vessel has seen less sea time than usual due to working on more effective directed patrols. The crew have continued their shore based duties and also worked on board the Tamesis conducting both enforcement and survey work for a number of days.

Using the risk based enforcement data base, officers' knowledge and information gathered from various sources has led to directed patrols taking place both at sea and ashore giving good results. The six mile limit has been patrolled for incursions by large/foreign vessels into our district. Closed areas have been monitored.

Fishing activity has been monitored throughout the district with the Ken Green carrying out patrols in the Thames Estuary, the River Medway, the Essex coast and the South Kent coast.

Conservation/Survey work

The crew have all continued to contribute to the work relating to MPA's ashore and on board Tamesis. They have also continued to assist with shore base cockle surveys.

Statistics

The Ken Green has patrolled 634 miles, boarded 12 vessels, issued one verbal warning, identified 75 fishing vessels, most of which had been sighted on several occasions and 13 of which were charter or private angling vessels. In the course of our patrols 36 closed areas were monitored, 53 log records for sightings of collections of static gear amounting to nearly 400 individual markers. Unmarked and unclearly marked gear has been inspected for compliance on two occasions as well as discussion with associated vessels ashore. Over the quarter approximately 429 Marine mammals have been sighted, mainly seals but porpoises also.

Maintenance

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. During a lift out the vessels underside was washed off and checked, anodes checked and replaced where required and the props, shafts and rudders were looked at for wear.

Other information

The Patrol vessel Ken Green is now offered for sale with 2 brokers and advertised online and in several publications. There has been some interest and we are getting feedback from the brokers that has led to a few viewings but no serious offers as yet. The vacant crew position was filled by Robert Watson who started with us at the end of the quarter. We also assisted Dover Coastguard after hearing a distress call from a vessel near our location that was drifting towards the Margate sands having lost power. We took the vessel alongside and escorted it slowly away from danger and handed over to Margate Lifeboat.

An Invitation to the Authority Members

Authority members are welcome to contact the office regarding 'A day on patrol' out on the Ken Green or possibly FPV Nerissa once the crew are competent with its operation.

Ben Hermitage
Skipper FPV Ken Green