



Agenda Item C4

Report on the patrol vessel 'Tamesis'

Quarterly report for the period ending 31 December 2015

Vessel priorities:

- Joint patrol with MMO
- Sea patrols on the River Roach Several Order
- Monitor fishing vessels for compliance and enforce Kent and Essex IFCA Byelaws, EU Legislation and Regulations
- Sidescan sonar survey of Blackwater and Ray Sand Channel

Fisheries Enforcement

Bad weather had a significant impact on planned patrol duties during this period and some available sea days were allocated to duties associated with the new vessel. Nonetheless the programme of risk based enforcement did continue through this quarter and the vessel log database was updated accordingly and transferred to the GIS package for detailed analysis of fishery activity and areas worked. Patrols were conducted on the River Roach Several Order, the Buxey, The Kings Channel and the Wallet. In addition the vessel undertook a patrol with an MMO officer aboard which included the Swin, the Oaze, and the Black Deep. In the course of these patrols thirty six vessels were sighted and recorded. In addition five boarding inspections were carried out and a further fifteen non-boarding inspections were undertaken. Private and charter vessels were recorded and general guidance given to individuals on minimum size of species and new bass regulations.

Patrols within the district have resulted in inspections of drift and fixed nets and of pots and traps. Sixteen static gear sightings were recorded resulting in fifteen gear inspections. Three offence notices were issued for non-compliance with KEIFCA byelaws.

Conservation/Survey Work

Sidescan Sonar Survey

A sidescan sonar survey listed for December was not completed due to technical faults with the vessels main navigation system.

Marine Mammal observations

Patrols have led to one off sightings of marine mammals on ten occasions. A lone porpoise was sighted at the mouth of the River Roach and large groups of seals were sighted on the Foulness (24) and Buxey sands (>80) with individuals observed in various areas including:

- Swire Hole
- The Crouch
- The Roach
- The Middleway

Maintenance

Two days of programmed maintenance and safety checks on engines and equipment were been carried out with hard copy records retained.

Emergency repairs were carried out following failure of the Navnet computer. It was removed and sent to Mantsbrite who in turn sent it to Furuno for repair. The fault was deemed to be terminal failure of the power PCB. The unit was repaired and reinstalled on the vessel however she was out of commission for 19 days while the repair was carried out.

Other Information

Statistics

During this quarter, Tamesis has undertaken five patrols, used 606 litres of fuel and travelled 284 nautical miles. The engines have run an average of 33 hours.

Staffing

Following the resignation of the Essex skipper, Mark Davey, in June 2015, the existing first mate had been acting up in that role, with the duties of first mate when Tamesis has been at sea being undertaken by an experienced seaman. Following interviews in November the position of Skipper was awarded to Colm O'Laoi who was first mate under Mark Davey. The position of first mate will be advertised in the near future.

Training and Procedures

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

Invitation to Authority Members and P.R

An open invitation is extended to Authority Members to join the crew on an enforcement patrol or survey aboard the vessel.

Colm O'Laoi
Skipper & IFC Officer