



## **Agenda item C1**

### **Shore Report - Kent**

#### **Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority**

#### **Quarterly report for the period ending December 2016**

### **Overview**

The beginning of January will see new bass regulations come into place for 2016, with a catch and release policy for recreational fishermen for the first half of 2016 and one per person per day for the second half of the year. There is also a limited fishery for commercial fisherman with a complete ban on catching bass in February and March.

In conjunction with this the start of the demersal landing obligation requirements start from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016 and fisherman throughout the district are concerned about how this will impact their fisheries and income and are voicing concerns about how it will be implemented and policed.

Vessels have been moving around the district trying to take advantage of the different fisheries within our district. The weather towards the end of the quarter has made fishing difficult, with gales and rain bringing problems for the fishermen.

### **Queenborough**

The commercial fishing vessels here have continued to vary fishing methods and constantly moved grounds to catch their targeted species with both gill netting and pots being set. The fisherman are concerned with the demersal landing obligations and are worried about what needs to be done to meet these regulations. With the cockle season over the two cockle dredgers started their annual refits.

**Number of vessels fishing from Queenborough: 9**

### **Faversham**

A variety of different fishing methods have been used including dredging for oysters and gillnet fishing. The vessels have had to use a variety of methods to stay viable. Being able to sell the catch through their own shop, they have been able to get slightly better prices than the norm.

**Number of vessels fishing from Faversham: 3**

## **Whitstable**

Whitstable continues to be a very active port with a number of different fishing methods used here. After the cockle season ended, maintenance occurred on the cockle vessels and one vessel changed methods to go fishing for whelks during this period, to make a total of five vessels fishing for whelks out of Whitstable, during this quarter. A variety of fishing methods occur here including oyster dredging, whelk potting, lobster potting, drift netting and trawling for fin fish. Fishermen are having to change their methods of fishing regularly to remain viable and maintain an income. As with most ports the fisherman here are concerned about the new regulations that are coming into force in the New Year.

**Number of vessels fishing from Whitstable: 15**

## **Herne Bay**

Recreational Anglers have had good catches of thornback rays from both the shore and boats, whilst the commercial vessels targeted mostly shellfish with pots from this port, inspection of bait diggers occurred along the foreshore near Hampton Pier. Reports of gill nets set along the beach were investigated by Officers during this period.

**Number of vessels fishing from Herne Bay: 2**

## **Thanet Ports (Ramsgate/Broadstairs/Margate)**

A combination of fishing methods are being utilised by the fishermen to maximise their income from the fishery. Whelk potting remains constant throughout this quarter with the majority of the whelk vessels fishing out of Ramsgate. A couple of visiting fishing vessels were prospecting for mussels during this quarter near Ramsgate harbour. Bass fishing was reported to be slow particularly in Margate. Once again, the weather has significantly restricted activity late in the quarter. At the beginning of September, 42cm became the legal minimum size limit for Bass. This has led to the fleet having to use larger size nets to avoid unwanted discards. The new quotas for bass also came into force which has restricted the commercial fleet further. Potting for lobsters and crabs continued around the Thanet coast and fishing was reported to be slow.

**Number of vessels fishing from Thanet Ports: 30**

## **Deal and Walmer**

Fisherman have been drifting for sprats and herring during the beginning of this quarter with fish being sold locally near Deal castle. Fishing for lobster and crabs has remained steady. With several boats targeting whelks off of Deal, whelk pots

on occasion have been shot near Deal Pier causing concerns from the anglers using the pier.

### **Number of vessels fishing from Deal and Walmer: 5**

#### **Dover**

Fishing effect from Dover has continued to be low, with vessels using gill nets and pots. The Prince of Wales and the Admiralty Piers have been patrolled by officers, with 61 inspections of recreational anglers taking place in one visit. Boat fishing was reported to be sporadic when the weather allowed fishing to take place.

### **Number of vessels fishing from Dover: 4**

#### **Folkestone and Hythe**

Following the signing of the Folkestone Pomerania MCZ bottom towed gear byelaw during summer 2015, fishing effort in this quarter has remained fairly constant. Vessels taking part in netting and potting in Folkestone, have continued to sell their catch locally. Anglers continue to fish along Hythe beach but not as constantly as in the summer. The effect from these ports has remained constant, but fishermen are having to use more than one method to be able to remain viable.

The fisherman here have voiced their concerns over lack of quota and the demersal landing obligation with the sole net fishery a particular concern

### **Number of vessels fishing from Folkestone and Hythe: 13**

#### **Dungeness**

Lack of quota, the new demersal landing obligation and new bass rules were all topics discussed at Dungeness. Bass, cod and sole have been targeted by vessels using gill nets. Having the advantage of two ICES areas has allowed the Fishermen to target fish in both area, couple this with selling their fish through their own shops has allowed them to have obtain better prices. Lack of cod quota has been a cause for concern. Good reports of cod being caught from the charter vessels during this quarter

### **Number of vessels fishing from Dungeness: 5**

David Deverson,  
Kent Shore Officer