

## **Agenda Item C4**

### **Report on the patrol vessel 'Tamesis'**

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

#### **Quarterly report for the period January – March 2016**

## Vessel priorities:

- MCA 5-Year Survey
- 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
- Oyster dredge survey of Blackwater, Crouch, Roach, and Colne MCZ

### Fisheries Enforcement

Bad weather dominated the early part of this period and had a significant impact on planned patrol duties. In addition, the vessel was on hard standing in Burnham for a number of weeks for winter refit and the five year MCA survey. Nonetheless the vessel log database was updated accordingly and transferred to the GIS package for detailed analysis of fishery activity and areas worked as enforcement duties were carried out during planned patrols and whilst tasked on survey duties. Patrols were conducted off the Essex coast during which seventeen vessels were sighted and recorded. In addition three 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.

### Conservation/Survey Work

#### *Sidescan Sonar Survey*

A sidescan sonar and day grab survey was conducted during February on six sites in the Blackwater and six sites in the Ray Sand Channel to assess the long term impact of harrowing on oyster grounds.

#### *Oyster survey*

An extensive oyster survey was conducted in association with the PhD student Alice Lown covering 100 stations over 20 sites within the Blackwater Crouch Roach and Colne MCZ. A dredge was deployed within each station and water testing was conducted at the centre point on each site.

### *Marine Mammal observations*

Patrols have led to one off sightings of marine mammals on four occasions with individual seals being sighted at

- Mersea Stone
- Swire Hole
- Ray Sand Channel
- Bachelor Spit

### Maintenance

The vessel was in Burnham Yacht Harbour for winter refit during which a new Man Overboard davit was designed and fitted, the vessel was cleaned and antifouled, the deck was painted with anti-slip paint. Routine maintenance was also conducted which included replacement of the propellers, and Safe Working Load testing was carried out on the gantry, winches, and davit.

In addition, the out of water section of the five year MCA survey was carried out. The final part of the survey was conducted with the vessel afloat on her return to Brightlingsea. The vessel was passed with only three minor items requiring attention, and these issues have since been addressed.

### Other Information

#### *Statistics*

During this quarter, Tamesis has put to sea on ten occasions, used 1055 litres of fuel and travelled 214 nautical miles. The engines have run an average of 81 hours.

#### *Training and Procedures*

Operations were conducted in accordance with standard operating procedures; 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**