

By: Assistant Chief IFCO

To: Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation
Authority – 12 September 2016

Subject: **ENFORCEMENT UPDATE**

Classification Unrestricted

Summary:

This report will provide Members with an update on enforcement work carried out within the District

Recommendations:

This report is for comment and noting only

Introduction

In undertaking its regulatory responsibilities, KEIFCA starts from the position that the vast majority of the community of people, organisations and industries using the marine area are compliant with the regulation and control that affects them. KEIFCA works to try to ensure that all parties understand both what rules apply to their particular industry and the rationale for the regulation being necessary.

Full compliance with EU, UK and in particular local fisheries and environmental legislation is the overall aim of the Authority. This aim is best achieved through the adoption of an adaptive co-management approach to fisheries management.

Risk based Enforcement

A risk based enforcement framework is in place to analyse the risks different fisheries pose at various times throughout the year. This framework scores the likelihood of offences occurring and the impact of those potential offences. This analysis is then supported by officer knowledge of the spatial and temporal variation in fisheries, species and gear types used throughout the district. As risks change within the District the framework will be updated to reflect the current position. For this reporting quarter the primary risks have been compliance with the whelk permit byelaw, compliance with technical

conservation measures relating to quota species and bass education ahead of the primary bass time starting next quarter.

Intelligence led approach

Information Reports (IR's) continue to be introduced as the primary method of recording, storing and collating information and intelligence which is then used to inform our risk based approach. This is an evolution of the practice of good communication between officers and responsiveness to local issues which has always existed within the organisation. With increasing enforcement workloads with the new MPA byelaws being introduced and a greater emphasis on some high risk fisheries, effective targeting of enforcement resource is now more essential than ever. A National Intelligence Project being piloted in the Northern Region (Northumberland IFCA, North Eastern IFCA, North Western IFCA and Northern Area MMO) that follows the National Intelligence Model and incorporates a tasking and coordination process is proving very successful and discussions and training have started between KEIFCA officers and the intelligence team delivering the rollout.

Operational Planning

The application of an intelligence led approach is being introduced in the production of operational planning documents which are completed for targeted patrols across the District as well as more detailed operational plans for specific operations over longer periods. These planning documents also record outcomes from these patrols to feed into future work via Information Reports.

Enforcement Activity

Between April and September, 103 patrols both at sea and ashore have been carried out, with almost 70 of those taking place at sea aboard Tamesis and Blue Jacket. There are always fluctuations in the number of patrols throughout the year and whether they occur on shore or at sea, which is affected by a number of factors including the specific risks being targeted, staff resources, weather, other duties and the objectives of the patrols. The objectives of many of the patrols during this period were to ensure that both commercial and recreational fishermen were compliant with the bass regulations, to this end two joint operations took place with MMO including over the May Bank Holiday weekend. Enforcement activity also took place to target the Thames Estuary Cockle Fishery, including damage rate inspections and landing checks and the permitted whelk fishery which primarily takes place off the Kent coastline.

Offence reports

Between April and September seventeen offences were detected, primarily related to fixed gear offences including under the whelk permit byelaw and also

the Thames Estuary Cockle Fishery regulations. There have been a number of offences found relating to retention of undersized fish by recreational fishermen.

Offence Outcomes

Five verbal warnings have been issued in this period as well as eight written warnings and one Fixed Administrative Penalty. Four offences are currently being investigated.

Recommendations:

Members of Kent & Essex IFCA are asked to **NOTE** these reports and make **COMMENT** on them.