

## **Agenda Item C4**

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

### **Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority** **Quarterly report for the period January to May 2017**

#### **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 spent some long days at sea and the crew are much more familiar with the vessel, its ability and procedures.

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 Nerissa carrying out patrols in the Thames Estuary, the River Medway, Essex Estuaries, the Essex coast and the North and South Kent coast.

#### **Conservation/Survey work**

The crew have all continued to contribute to the work relating to MPA's ashore. prepared the vessel to undertake Cockle sampling work on the Kent coast in April and They have also continued to assist with shore base cockle surveys.

### **Statistics**

Since my last report in January Nerissa has patrolled 1042 miles, boarded 18 vessels, issued 6 verbal warning, identified 74 fishing vessels, most of which have been sighted on several occasions and 8 of which were charter or private angling vessels. In the course of our patrols 36 closed areas were monitored, 180 log records for sightings of collections of static gear amounting to nearly 339 fleets or individual markers. Gear has been inspected for compliance of bylaws and marking on 23 occasions as well as discussion with associated vessels ashore. 17 whelk pots were seized and retained with cases pending on bylaw offences. Over the quarter approximately 134 Marine mammals have been sighted, mainly seals but porpoises also.

### **Maintenance**

The first service of the main gearboxes has been undertaken, daily fluid checks have taken place logging and topping up when necessary. Monthly safety checks have also been undertaken.

### **Other information**

Continued work of trail and improvement to operations on board the vessel are being undertaken all adding to the crews familiarity with the vessel.

### **An Invitation to the Authority Members**

Authority members are welcome to contact the office regarding 'A day on patrol' out on Nerissa.

**Ben Hermitage**  
**Skipper FPV Nerissa**