



Agenda Item C4

Report on the patrol vessel 'Nerissa'

Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority **Quarterly report for the period September to November 2017**

Priorities of vessel for quarter

- Check closed Cockle areas.
- Board and inspect cockle fishing vessels.
- Attend to cockle vessels within permit fishery (outside 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 static fishing gears, fixed nets and pots.
- Input key enforcement information into national fisheries enforcement database (MCSS).
- Inspect pots and traps for compliance of byelaws.
- Check potting vessels for compliance of byelaws
- Inspect oyster dredging vessels for byelaw compliance.
- Check closed Herring areas.
- Check for compliance of Whelk byelaws.
- Complete and send off relative information reports.

Risk based fisheries enforcement

Over the quarter the patrol vessel has again been busy hauling static gear and boarding vessels. Observation and checks on cockle vessels have been undertaken within the TECFO and the outside permit cockle fishery.

With information from internal and external Tasking & Coordination Group Meeting and officers' knowledge directed patrols have taken place both at sea and ashore giving good results. We have also been working with other agencies on dedicated patrols and sharing intelligence. The six mile limit has been patrolled for incursions by large/foreign vessels into our district. Closed and restricted areas have been monitored for activity.

Fishing activity has been monitored throughout the district with Nerissa carrying out patrols all areas down to Dungeness point, the 6 mile limit in the outer

Thames, up to Chatham in the River Medway and to our limits in the mouth of the Thames. The RIB Nereus has made some of its own patrols from Ramsgate looking within Pegwell bay and down to Deal and also heading north round through Broadstairs up to Margate.

Conservation/Survey work

The crew have all continued to contribute to the work relating to MPA's ashore. The Vessel has undertaken cockle damage rate work and starting work surveying for clams. When required crew have gone up to assist with survey work on Tamesis and have also continued to assist with shore based cockle surveys. Small fish surveys were undertaken within the River Medway using the RIB to deploy hand hauled nets.

Statistics

From August to mid November Nerissa has patrolled 1294 miles and boarded 20 vessels. It has not been required to issue any verbal warnings during these boardings. We have identified 181 fishing vessels, most of which have been sighted on several occasions, 15 of which were charter or private angling vessels. In the course of our patrols closed areas have been monitored and MCZ observed. Eighty one log records for sightings of collections of static gear amounting to nearly 267 fleets or individual markers have been made. Fixed fishing gear has been inspected for compliance of bylaws and marking on 8 occasions when conditions have allowed with notices of offence or inspection attached and followed up with associated vessels ashore. Over the quarter approximately 260 seals have been sighted and 1 porpoise also seen.

Maintenance

Daily and monthly checks have taken place, annual service of fire systems and lifting gear completed and a visit for the workboat code midterm inspection.

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