

## **Agenda Item C4**

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

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

### **Quarterly report for the period November 2017 to January 2018**

#### **Priorities of vessel for quarter**

- Check closed Cockle 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 this period the weather has been generally poor with the vessel making trips out where possible on both enforcement and survey duties. Fishing effort has been low and methods unchanged.

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 and crew, joining the boarder force vessel for the day. The six mile limit has been monitored 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 in the Thames, North Kent coast, down to Dungeness point following the 6 mile limit to the outer Thames.

## **Conservation/Survey work**

Nerissa has undertaken survey work using the day grab on a number of Kent sites looking at shellfish abundance. The crew have all continued to contribute to the work relating to MPAs ashore. Survey equipment has been maintained, serviced and repaired where necessary.

## **Statistics**

From November to the mid January Nerissa has patrolled 700 miles, boarded two vessels, and when weather hasn't allowed the RIB to deploy carried out three non-boarding inspections. It has not been required to issue any verbal warnings during boardings. We have identified 64 fishing vessels, most of which have been sighted on a few occasions, 11 of which were charter or private angling vessels. In the course of our patrols closed areas have been monitored and MPAs observed. Seventy log records have been completed for sightings of collections of static gear amounting to 242 fleets or individual markers. Fixed fishing gear has been inspected for compliance of bylaws and marking on eight occasions, when conditions have allowed, with notices of offence or inspection attached. One Lobster and fifty whelk pots have been seized for non-compliance. These have been followed up with discussions with associated vessels or notices displayed ashore and interviews have also been undertaken in relation to offences found. Over this quarter approximately 270 seals have been sighted, some sightings were of large groups.

## **Maintenance**

Daily and monthly checks have taken place as well as observation on vessel structure, annual service of lifting gear completed.

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

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

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