

### **Agenda Item C3**

#### **Report on the patrol vessels 'Tamesis' and 'Blue Jacket'**

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

#### **Report for the period November 2017 – January 2018**

## Vessel priorities:

- Patrol district boundary for incursions by oversized or foreign vessels
- Patrol areas closed for bottom trawling under Essex Estuaries byelaw
- Board and inspect vessels for compliance with EU technical measures
- 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 with KEIFCA byelaws
- Inspect recreational angling vessels to ensure compliance with regulations
- Set and retrieve whelk pots to obtain seasonal samples for EMFF Population Study
- Set whelk pots outside 6nm limit to obtain samples for Genetic study
- Vessel Maintenance

### Fisheries Enforcement

This is a shorter period than normal which saw reduced activity due to a combination of poor weather, poor fishing and Christmas. On regular occasions even when the weather was suitable, the fishing fleet remained in port as poor catches were being recorded. The principal enforcement priorities for this period were the Essex Estuaries and the whelk fishery. Tamesis put to sea six times over this period, and Blue Jacket put to sea four times. A number of additional planned operations were cancelled due to adverse weather conditions. One joint patrol was conducted with the MMO.

Over the course of these patrols officers logged 17 commercial vessels and three charter recreational vessels. Boarding inspections were conducted on two vessels and non-boarding inspections were conducted on a further seven vessels. The patrol vessels also inspected seven sets of gear with no offences found.

## Conservation/Survey Work

### *Whelk Survey*

As there are very few vessels involved in the whelk fishery in Essex, Tamesis was tasked to collect whelk samples from inside the district which will then be analysed; the data used to inform the ongoing EMFF population study. Tamesis was also tasked to collect whelk samples from outside the six nautical mile limit for a genetic study which is being undertaken as a masters project at Essex University, and which is being jointly funded by Natural England and KEIFCA

### *Marine Mammal observations*

Patrols have led to a few sightings of marine mammals with individual seal sightings in the Roach and Crouch and in the Blackwater. A lone porpoise was observed in the vicinity of the Knoll

## Maintenance

Routine maintenance was conducted on the vessels as required and monthly safety checks were carried out on schedule. Tamesis is due to undergo the Safe Working Load tests and annual survey in the coming weeks.

## Other Information

### *Statistics*

During this quarter, Tamesis has put to sea on six occasions and took 1214 litres of fuel and travelled 185 nautical miles. Blue Jacket also put to sea four times using 422 litres of fuel to cover a patrol distance of 251 miles.

### *Other trips*

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**