



Agenda Item C4

Report on the patrol vessel 'Nerissa'

Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

Quarterly report for the period November 2018 to January 2019

Priorities of vessel for quarter

- Check closed Cockle areas
- Patrol District for any large vessel infringement of byelaws.
- Patrolled areas closed to bottom towed gear.
- 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.
- Inspect pots and traps for compliance of byelaws.
- Check potting vessels for compliance of byelaws.
- Check for compliance of Whelk byelaws.
- Sightings and observations logged, and information reports forwarded.
- Input key enforcement information into national fisheries enforcement database (MCSS).

Risk based fisheries enforcement

The Kent based patrol vessel has worked on intelligence led enforcement before Christmas and then intelligence gathering in the new year. Patrol information has been entered into MCSS (National database) and circulated through information reports to other agencies. The MMO have chartered the vessel for a few days for their own enforcement work. Unfortunately, additional planned dates were called off due to poor weather.

Poor weather has also meant Nerissa has been unable to achieve some tasks at sea, however, the crew has attended to shore enforcement at these times.

Shore patrols on the banks of the River Medway closed area have collected information that will assist future sea patrols in the area.

Pots and traps have been hauled to check for compliance; owners of fishing gear have been informed when we have interacted with their gear in any way.

Conservation/Survey work

Nerissa has undertaken whelk sampling by setting and recovering pots during the quarter. The side-scan sonar has been taken on board to run operation trials with this equipment, it will be the first time it has been used on Nerissa.

Statistics

The vessel has covered 480 miles and achieved seven boardings of registered fishing vessels. Most of these vessels have been local inshore fleet, although one was an offshore foreign vessel which was inspected while under charter by the MMO. It has not been required for us to issue any verbal warnings in the quarter. We have sighted and logged 23 registered fishing vessel, one charter angling vessel and one private angling vessel. Seventeen groups of static fishing gear has been sighted totalling 60 individual markers. Two strings of whelk pots were seized and owners contacted with details of seizure and relevant evidence collected to put casefiles together.

During our patrols 76 seals have been sighted both individually and in groups numbering up to 50.

Maintenance

Daily and monthly checks have taken place. The vessels survey this year will require lifting out for hull and stern gear inspection, required adjustments will be made at this time also. Preparations for removal and service of the "A" frame hydraulic rams have been made following the discovery of a small leak.

Other matters

If any Authority Members would like to visit the vessel or take the opportunity to join the crew in a day on patrol they are welcome to contact the office about doing so.

Ben Hermitage
Skipper FPV Nerissa