



Agenda Item C4
Report on the patrol vessel 'Nerissa'
Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
Quarterly report for the period February 2019 to May 2019

Priorities of vessel for quarter

- Check closed Cockle areas
- Patrol District limits for any large vessels.
- 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 bylaws.
- 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

This quarter patrols have been mainly directed by our inhouse intel and shared national intel, with the addition of some routine patrolling. Data collected from each patrol has been entered into MCSS (national database), our own database and circulated through information reports to other agencies. The vessel has been chartered on six occasions by the MMO for use outside of our district for their own enforcement work.

Since my last report I have taken Nerissa to Brightlingsea and operated the vessel with the Essex crew for familiarisation; they have also joined the vessel in Kent for a few days bringing Blue Jacket with them. Nereus has also completed two short patrols on its own based out of Ramsgate.

Gear has been hauled to check methods being used and for compliance. Owners' of fishing gear that has been checked have been informed that we have interacted with their gear.

Conservation/Survey work

Nerissa has been primarily undertaking enforcement works this quarter with some of the crew taking time to assist with cockle sampling up on the Maplin sands. We also collect water samples along the north Kent for Canterbury Christ Church University at the beginning of February.

Statistics

The vessel has covered 1166 miles and facilitated 17 boardings of registered fishing vessels, five of these have been offshore foreign vessel which we have put the MMO onboard.

Two verbal warnings have been issued in the quarter and two case files started following combined boarding and shore inspections. We have sighted and logged 48 registered fishing vessel, six charter angling vessels and two private angling vessels. Thirty-five logged entries of static fishing gear sightings have been compiled totalling almost 100 individual markers. Gear has been hauled to confirm methods and inspection notices or offence notices left but nothing seized.

During our patrols 61 Seals and four Porpoises have been sighted and logged.

Maintenance

Daily and monthly checks have taken place. MAN have been and serviced the main engines as they reached 1200hrs. 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 and look into the addition of morse cables for hydraulic clutches will also be attended to.

Brexit

In preparation for the UKs exit from the EU arrangements were made and schedules lined up for Nerissa's charter enforcement of potential fisheries offences. Equipment, procedures and processes were discussed, planned and put in place. The patrol vessels charts were updated with 12 mile and territorial limits and coms systems tested and upgraded where required. Crews were prepared and on standby for the weeks either side of the proposed date.

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