

**Report on the patrol vessel 'Nerissa'**  
**Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority**  
**Quarterly report for the period May to August 2019**

**Priorities of vessel for quarter**

- Checks of cockle areas, open and closed, inside and outside.
- Patrol District limits for any large vessels.
- Patrol areas closed to bottom towed gear.
- Inspect trawling vessels.
- Record data of all vessel sightings.
- Record data of all static fishing gears (fixed nets pots and traps).
- Inspect pots and traps for compliance with byelaws.
- Check potting vessels for compliance with byelaws.
- Check for compliance with Whelk byelaws.
- Sightings and observations logged and information reports forwarded.
- Input key enforcement information into National fisheries enforcement database (MCSS).

**Risk based fisheries enforcement**

Bi-weekly taskings have primarily directed sea patrols over the quarter from both local neighbouring district's intelligence. The task of getting all of the cockle vessel damage rates checked at the beginning of the season also kept the vessel busy. All boarding and patrol data have been entered into MCSS (National database) and intelligence reports filed to be circulated amongst other agencies.

Fishing gear has been hauled to check methods being used and for compliance; the owners of gear we have interacted with have been informed by use of a notice of inspection or offence attached. The opportunity has been taken to inspect pots and traps as part of a boarding whilst the fisher has it on the deck where possible.

**Conservation/Survey work**

Nerissa has not undertaken any dedicated conservation work over this period as it has been primarily working on enforcement at sea and ashore. Crew have attended cockle surveys ashore during this time also.

## **Statistics**

During this period the patrol vessel has covered 1425 miles and facilitated 41 boardings of registered fishing vessels, conducting inspection at sea and damage rate check on cockle boats. We have sighted and logged 112 registered fishing vessels, 4 charter angling vessels and 9 private angling vessels. 127 logged entries of static fishing gear sightings have been compiled totalling almost 517 pairs of marks for a string of nets or pots and individual markers. Gear has been hauled to confirm methods and inspection notices or offence notices left but nothing seized. During our patrols 109 Seals and 11 Porpoises have been sighted and logged.

## **Maintenance**

Daily and monthly checks have taken place. No major issues to report on the vessel, a service of some of the hydraulic components will be required towards winter and some bits of pipework will need to be replaced. In preparation for the vessel being lifted, a brace has been made to span between the hulls as per the lifting plan.

## **Other matters**

Nerissa attended Whitstable harbour day on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August. This event saw approximately 200 people take the opportunity to come onboard and speak with the officers about who we are and what we do and handouts & stickers were given out.

Ahmed Mohamed joined the crew and has started training, getting familiar with the vessel and the district as well as commencing further seamanship training.

If any Authority members would like to come and visit the vessel or take the opportunity to join the crew in "a day on patrol", please speak to a member of staff or contact the office about doing so.

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