

## **Agenda Item C4**

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

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

- Checks of Cockle areas, open and closed, inside and outside.
- Monitor and board vessels during outside cockle fishery
- Patrol District limits for any large vessels.
- Patrolled 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 of byelaws.
- Check potting vessels for compliance of byelaws.
- Check for compliance of Whelk byelaws.
- Sightings, boarding's and observations logged and reported.
- Input key enforcement information into national fisheries enforcement database (MCSS).

#### **Risk based fisheries enforcement**

Patrols during this period have been mainly intelligence-led. This has been fed from bi-weekly meeting joining with neighbouring IFCA's and other agencies. During the outside cockle fishery, staff ran coordinated land and sea work covering all areas with good communication being key.

Nerissa has undertaken a number of chartered patrols at the request of the Marine Management Organisation extending outside the 6 mile limit. These have been to the North, to the outer Thames, and South down through the Channel to Dungeness point, looking at larger vessels out to the 12mile/territorial limit. The fishing vessels and activities that has been observed during these patrols have been photographed and logged. Report on patrol outcomes have then been made to the MMO at the end of each patrol.

Notices of inspection or offence have been attached to fishing gear that we have interacted with. Where possible pots and traps have been inspected as part of fishing vessel boarding's whilst the fisher has their gear on the deck.

## **Conservation/Survey work**

Nerissa has not undertaken any dedicated conservation work over this period but RIB Nereus has assisted in the biannual small fish surveys which take place in the River Medway and are conducted as a piece of joint work with the Environment Agency.

## **Statistics**

Despite poorer weather towards the end of this period, Nerissa has covered 987 miles and facilitated five boardings of registered fishing vessels inspecting gear, catch and documents onboard cockle and whelk boats. We have sighted and logged 92 registered fishing vessel, 16 angling vessels, the majority of which were charter angling vessels with two commercial.

We have made 41 log entries for sightings of static fishing gear; this totals almost 135 pairs of marks for a string of nets, pots or individual markers. Gear has been hauled on eight occasions to confirm identification or method and inspection notices or offence notices left but nothing seized.

During our patrols, six seals and two porpoises have been sighted and logged.

## **Maintenance**

Daily and monthly checks have taken place with additional crew drills now taking place monthly. There are no major issues to report on the vessel; a service of some of the hydraulic components will be required over the winter and some items of pipework require replacement along with a service of the main engines.

## **Other matters**

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**