

### **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 2019 – January 2020**

##### **Vessel priorities:**

- Patrol district boundary for incursions by cockle 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
- Continue BCRC MCZ native oyster survey
- Set and retrieve whelk pots to obtain seasonal samples for Population Study
- Vessel Maintenance

##### **Fisheries Enforcement**

This is a shorter period than normal which saw significantly reduced activity due to a combination of poor weather, poor fishing and the Christmas break. On regular occasions even when the weather was suitable, the fishing fleet remained in port as poor catches were being recorded, though some vessels continued to fish cockles outside the 6-mile limit. The principal enforcement priorities for this period were the Essex Estuaries, and monitoring vessels involved in the cockle fishery to ensure they were not fishing inside the KEIFCA district. Tamesis put to sea four times over this period, and Blue Jacket put to sea six times.

Over the course of these patrols, officers logged nine commercial vessels and one charter recreational vessel. Boarding inspections were conducted on two of these vessels. The patrol vessels also inspected two sets of gear with and detected one minor offence for incorrectly marked gear. A notice was attached advising the owner to rectify the marking.

##### **Conservation/survey work**

The oyster survey in the Blackwater Crouch Roach and Colne MCZ remains a priority tasking for Tamesis, however adverse weather conditions on the planned

survey dates meant that the surveys did not take place and will be carried forward into the next period.

As there are very few vessels involved in the whelk fishery in Essex, Tamesis was also tasked to deploy survey pots to collect whelk samples from inside the district. The resulting catch will then be analysed the data used to inform the ongoing EMFF population study.

#### *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.

### **Maintenance**

Routine maintenance was conducted on the vessels as required and monthly safety checks were carried out on schedule. Tamesis is currently on hard standing at Suffolk Yacht Harbour for annual maintenance. In addition, all the skin fittings below the waterline and the seacocks are being replaced as required by the MECAL surveyor. Driveshafts and propellers are showing signs of wear and are also being replaced.

### **Other Information**

#### *Statistics*

During this quarter, Tamesis has put to sea on five occasions and took 632 litres of fuel and travelled 75 nautical miles. Blue Jacket also put to sea six times using 276 litres of fuel to cover a patrol distance of 181 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**