

## **Agenda Item C4**

### **Report on the patrol vessel 'Nerissa'** **Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority** **Quarterly report for the period November 2019 through to January 2020**

#### **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**

Bi-weekly tasking meetings have directed our patrols, working with and informing neighbouring IFCAS and other agencies of our plans and working together in some cases. Activity from local and visiting cockle vessel in an area just outside the district was monitored and had a few directed patrols. The patrol vessel has continued to undertake a number of patrols extending outside the six mile limit at the request of the MMO. The patrol vessel has gathered intelligence, highlighting any unusual sightings and reporting time critical intelligence live via sat phone if required. These patrols have been North, up to the outer Thames, and South, down to Dungeness point, looking at larger vessel within the 12mile/territorial limit. The activity that has been observed during these patrols has been photographed and logged with the additional information of the vessels speed and heading, all of this information has been sent on to the MMO at the end of each day's patrol.

A notice of inspection or offence has been attached to gear markings that we have interacted with. The opportunity has been taken to ask fishers to haul or retain pots and traps on board so they can be inspected as part of a boarding.

### **Conservation/Survey work**

Nerissa has not undertaken any dedicated conservation work over this period but crew have assisted with research connected to the Sumaris project.

### **Statistics**

Over this short period Nerissa has covered 711 miles and sighted and identified 48 fishing vessels, three of which were charter angling vessels. Four commercial vessels were boarded and whilst on board the catch and gear were inspected for compliance. Twenty six entries have been made into the vessels log for the fishing gear that has been sighted, totalling 47 strings or individual pots or traps and a few sets of nets. Fishing gear was hauled and inspected on four occasions, checking for correct markings and that the pots and traps that were seen were compliant with our byelaws. Sightings of marine mammals were logged totalling 89, just two were porpoises and one of a larger creature thought to be a Minke whale.

### **Maintenance**

Daily and monthly checks have taken place with additional health and safety drills now taking place monthly. There are no major issues to report on the vessel, some hydraulic soft pipework will require replacement shortly and a rotation and condition check of batteries is due to be looked at. The main engines have their next service booked in to be completed in January.

### **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**