

## **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 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**

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 recommenced vessel operations at the end of the previous quarter, but these only really became routine again at the beginning of September. Patrols were undertaken to the North, to the outer Thames, and South down through the Channel to Dungeness point, including along the six-mile limit. The fishing vessels and activities that has been observed during these patrols have been logged.

Boarding activities have not yet resumed to the implementation of COVID-19 protocols which restricts the numbers of staff aboard whilst procedures are developed and refined, although it is envisioned that these will recommence in December, ahead of EU Exit.

Nerissa has also taken part in EU Exit preparedness exercises with the MMO and Coastguard spotter planes. Report on patrol outcomes have then been made to the MMO at the end of each patrol.

### **Conservation/Survey work**

Nerissa has not undertaken any dedicated conservation work over this period as all survey work was suspended in March and has only recommenced aboard Tamesis at this time.

### **Statistics**

Despite poorer weather during the period, Nerissa has covered 560 miles over 8 patrols. We have sighted and logged 80 registered fishing vessel, 8 angling vessels, the majority of which were charter angling vessels.

We have made 20 log entries for sightings of static fishing gear; this totals almost 56 pairs of marks for a string of nets, pots or individual markers.

During our patrols, 13 marine mammal sightings have been recorded.

### **Maintenance**

Daily and monthly checks have taken place with additional crew drills now taking place monthly.

The vessel was scheduled for coding inspection at the end of October but there were difficulties in securing a suitable boatyard to lift her out of the water. The vessel has subsequently been slipped at Ramsgate for her out of water inspection which has revealed some remedial work being required.

None of this is major, however parts availability is slowing down repairs at present, with an estimated 3 week wait on some parts. The vessel is expected to be operational again at the start of December.

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**Assistant Chief IFCO**