

Agenda Item C4

Report on the patrol vessel 'Nerissa' **Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority** **Quarterly report for the period February to May 2021**

Priorities of vessel for quarter

- Cockle sampling (North Kent)
- Checks of Cockle areas.
- Patrol District limits for any large vessels.
- Patrolled areas closed to bottom towed gear.
- 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.
- Sightings and intel 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 as well as other agencies of our plans and observations.

Sighting of vessels have been logged and approached where necessary. This is also the case with sightings of fishing gear. All vessel sightings have been logged on the central MCSS database and information reports completed and forwarded centrally.

A notice of inspection or offence has been attached to gear markings that we have interacted with.

Conservation/Survey work

Nerissa had her deck plates fitted and rigged for cockle sampling at the beginning of April. The annual cockle samples were taken across the North Kent coast as well as undertaking new works on the Margate Sands, this area has never been surveyed by KEIFCA before and covered a very large area and additional test sites nearby. In all Nerissa worked 8 full survey days.

Statistics

Since coming back into service Nerissa has mainly been attending surveys. The vessel has covered 547 miles sighting 12 fishing vessel and 2 smaller private angling boats. One non boarding inspection has taken place resulting in a new case file opening. Twenty three log entries were made upon the sighting of static fishing gear amounting to 45 strings or individual pieces of gear. Two inspection/offence notices have been issued at sea and one string of whelk pots seized for non-compliance.

There have been over 20 sightings of seals during survey works on the Margate sands

Maintenance

Pre sail and monthly checks have taken place as normal over the quarter.

Since completion of repair works Nerissa has had a full engine service and been out on the hard to be checked over. Annual servicing of lifting gear has also been completed and her compass re-swung.

Ben Hermitage
Skipper FPV Nerissa