



Agenda Item – C4

Report on the patrol vessel 'Nerissa' and daughter RIB 'Nereus' Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority Report for the period November 2024 to January 2025 (12/01/2025)

Priorities of vessel for quarter

- Targeted inspection of static gear.
- Patrol District limits for any large/foreign vessel incursions.
- Patrol areas closed to bottom towed gear.
- Inspect pots and traps for compliance of byelaws.
- Inspection of commercial and recreational fishers.
- Patrol, monitor and inspect cockle fishing areas and activity.
- Logging fishing vessels, gear and activity.
- Sightings and intel logged and reported.
- Input key enforcement information into national fisheries enforcement database (MCSS).
- Attend to cockle survey on inside and outside areas as required.
- Attending to tide height and sea temperature survey equipment and data.

Fisheries Enforcement

Nerissa sighted twenty fishing vessels during this period, six of which were chartered angling vessels. Two registered fishing vessels were boarded for gear and catch inspection.

Forty individual fishing gear markers were sighted, these were locating both fishing nets or pots. One string of whelk pots were hauled and found to be non-compliant, these were seized and case files started.

After every patrol the logs have been entered into the required databases as soon as possible and any required information has been forwarded to the relevant agencies and enforcement bodies in their required format where required.

Conservation/Survey work

Monthly samples on behalf of Thanet District Council for cockle classification have also been gathered, safely brought ashore and collected to be sent off for processing. Temperature data logger and whelk gear have been turned over and data collected.

Just sixteen seals were sighted, almost all were individuals swimming and sighted on the surface of more open water, No porpoises were sighted this quarter.

Maintenance

Along with the monthly safety checks some maintenance was required changing some sensors on the engines and looking into some electrical issues that caused a blown fuse.

Other Information

Nerissa's Skipper has visited Sussex IFCA and assisted in the interview process for a new Skipper for their Vessel based in Shoreham-by-sea.

Statistics:

Nerissa travelled 328 miles and took 5,406 ltrs of fuel, at sea for 36 hours. FPV Nereus attended an additional two-hour patrol covering 18 miles. HVO fuel is not available in Ramsgate but will be used as soon as it is made available again.

Ben Hermitage

Skipper FPV Nerissa & Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officer