

NWIFCA Annual Meeting

13th June 2014: 10.30 a.m.

**AGENDA
ITEM NO.
12**

HEAD OF ENFORCEMENT REPORT ON THE FISHERIES FOR THE PERIOD 1ST FEBRUARY TO THE 30TH APRIL 2014

GENERAL

The quarter was dominated by three fisheries:

- A significant spell of Nephrops activity in and around the 6nm limit
- The start of the summer potting effort
- Light mussel fishing effort and potential beds being identified

IFCOs have been engaged in the Byelaw review during the quarter with the new byelaw 2 ready for approval by the Authority and drafts of the shellfish hobby permit, Minimum Landing Size (MLS) and foul hooking byelaws nearing completion.

ENFORCEMENT

Compliance was good across the District during the quarter and there are no prosecutions to report. Three case files relating to four individuals are currently on-going and are within the court system. Two verbal warnings were issued during the quarter.

TRAWLING

Trawling was significantly hampered during the quarter due to the inclement weather conditions. A spell of significant Nephrops activity did occur in early April. 'Solway Protector' maintained a protracted period of patrol presence during this period and found good compliance.

POTTING

With the onset of spring the quantity of static gear in the inshore waters of the District has increased but the major fishery has yet to start.

SHRIMPING

The quarter saw light activity throughout the district.

COCKLES

Cockle stocks across the District remain very limited and the reporting period saw no commercial/recreational cockling (permitted or non-permitted). One incident of prospecting the stock on Foulnaze was detected; this foray is likely to have shown the industry that none of the 2010 stock remains in the bed.

IFCOs continued to take hygiene samples as a matter of course.

MUSSEL

Four areas within the district saw commercial levels of Musseling:

West Kirby	Bed saw low levels of activity following damage to bed by severe weather earlier in the year
Ribble Training walls	Normal levels of activity until the stock began to spawn
Walney channel	9 attending as the fishery continued at its normal low level
Foulney	20 attendees on spring tides

The significant demand and high prices in the mussel market during the quarter is represented by three issues in the southern end of the District.

Hilbre Island

Acting on Intel relating to interest in the area the enforcement team conducted patrols and the science team carried out a survey of the area. Through liaison with Wirral Borough Council and the rangers on the island it was identified that the bed was covered by a byelaw made under National Parks and Access to the Country Side Act 1949. This byelaw protects the mussels from within the Hilbre island nature reserve from disturbance or removal. During liaison with Wirral Council it was made clear that IFCOs do not have any warranted powers in respect of this byelaw but would continue to enforce any unpermitted gathering or breaches of the MLS. To date no activity in the area has been detected.

New Brighton

The IFCA received intelligence regarding the gathering of unclassified mussels in the New Brighton area during the reporting period. Officers conducted regular patrols with Mersey Port Health (MPH) officers but detected no further activity.

Duddon Estuary

IFCOs endeavoured through the quarter to obtain the shellfish samples from the Duddon fishery, this involved the deployment of 'Zodiac Bravo' to obtain the 10 samples a minimum of a week apart as quickly as possible. Classification was reached (class B) in early May. Some pre-notified prospecting of the bed was conducted and the IFCA received reports that Mussels in commercial quantities had been gathered, the latter Intel was disseminated to Barrow Environmental Health. In acknowledging that the wait for classification was frustrating for the industry the bulk of gatherers showed great restraint in light of the demand and the buoyant Easter market conditions.

The HoE will supply a verbal brief on the fishery at the Duddon to update members.

SHORE ANGLING

Patchy angling occurred across the district during the quarter, which saw sporadic results. Regular monitoring of the Heysham nursery area was conducted, inclusive of a protracted 3 day presence with Lancashire police officers over the Easter bank holiday weekend. No offences were detected.

Head of Enforcement
3rd June 2014

Master of the “Solway Proector” - H Thinnesen

“SOLWAY PROTECTOR”

The patrol boat has given valuable service throughout the quarter. However we did encounter a number of minor running problems, which are as follows:

- The main hydraulic pump failed. This pump is used solely for operating the deck machinery equipment and upon inspection a considerable amount of wear and tear was found inside the pump housing. As the hydraulic pump is, as I believe to be the same age as the patrol boat it, is therefore not surprising that it has now failed. A replacement pump was ordered and has now been fitted.
- We encountered several problems with the main generating set. A new raw water pump was fitted along with a mechanical lift pump and an electrical fuel pump.
- The vessel's battery charging unit was sent away for repairs. A fault was found on the main circuit board. As this unit was under 12 months old, this work was carried out under warranty.
- Both port and starboard battery banks were replaced during the quarter. Due in the main to the heavy usage and extra electrical equipment being added to the vessel over the years, which has resulted in a shorter life span of these units. On average we usually get 24 months out of these batteries before needing replaced.
- Minor electrical repairs were also carried out on the Webasto heating system and accommodation lighting circuit during the quarter.

All oil and planned maintenance schedules are up to date.

“PROTECTOR BRAVO” – 7 metre Osprey Viper - RIB

I am pleased to report that “Protector Bravo” has given good service over the reporting period with no repairs or faults to report on.

PATROLS, BOARDINGS AND INSPECTIONS

Poor weather conditions, annual leave along with no available crew, resulted in a number of patrol days being lost at sea during the first part of the quarter. This apart, 18 patrols, and 14 boardings and inspections were carried out from the “Solway Protector” and “Protector Bravo”. Compliance with IFCA byelaws and other legislation on the whole, has been good with only one verbal warning being issued.

WEATHER

On the whole the weather for the first 8 weeks of the reporting period was very poor, with strong to gale-force southerly winds throughout. This settled down towards the beginning of April and gave way to a spell of light easterly winds to which most of the local vessels took advantage, making to sea on a number of occasions.

SHRIMPING, POTTING, NETTING AND ANGLING

Shrimping – catches still remain low for this sector of the industry.

Potting – potting activity increased during the quarter as fishermen continued to set gear throughout the district. To date approximately 40% – 50% of static gear still remains to be set. Catches remain low for both lobster and crab.

Netting – netting activity has moderately increased offshore with mixed reports mainly of light landings of thornback ray.

Angling – angling activity has increased over the latter part of the reporting period, mainly due to the settled weather encountered. Again boat anglers are reporting a number of codling being returned back to the sea as undersized.

TRAWLING

Due to the poor weather conditions during the first part of the quarter activity remained low key, with vessels only making to sea on the odd day. This increased during the first week of April where a large number of mainly visiting vessels arrived on the prawn grounds off the Cumbrian coast. On the whole catches have been spasmodic with reports of the large twin rigged vessels making moderate to good landings of nephrops and thornback ray. Reports from the local inshore vessels have seen, at best, low to moderate returns.

SURVEY

“Solway Protector” carried out one bird survey during the quarter. This work was for environmental consulting firm Natural Power. The work involved the “Solway Protector” transecting around the Robin Rigg Wind Farm site in the Solway Firth. The vessel ran up and down a series of transect lines, with two Natural Power consultants on board observing monitoring and recording bird activity in the wind farm area.

H THINNESEN

Master “Solway Protector” & Deputy Enforcement Director/IFCO (Whitehaven)
Manager of sea going operations

2nd May 2014

" Solway Protector "
DURATION OF PATROLS AND SIGHTINGS

Date	Area Patrolled	Sightings	Sea time	
			Hrs.	Mins.
14/02/2014	Whitehaven to Maryport	0	2	30
18/02/2014	Prawn Pitch - Workington/Maryport	7	3	45
19/02/2014	Maryport/Workington/Harrington/Whitehaven	9	4	0
28/02/2014	Robin Rigg Survey	6	14	0
04/03/2014	Passage to Whitehaven	0	1	0
11/03/2014	Prawn Pitch - Parton	6	6	25
12/03/2014	Parton/Maryport/Eskmeals	6	7	30
01/04/2014	Prawn Pitch	7	8	10
02/04/2014	Prawn Pitch	16	14	0
03/04/2014	Prawn Pitch - Eskmeals/Ravenglass	18	14	30
04/04/2014	Prawn Pitch - Selker/Duddon	17	13	30
07/04/2014	Prawn Pitch - Haverigg Point	8	8	0
29/04/2014	Prawn Pitch	34	5	0
30/04/2014	Prawn Pitch	32	11	50

" Solway Protector "
PATROL STATISTICS

	<u>1/02/2014 - 30/04/2014</u>		<u>1/11/2013 - 31/1/2014</u>	
Number of patrols and passages	14	patrols	9	patrols
Seatime	114 hrs	10 mins	29 hrs	40 mins
Average length of patrol	8 hrs	10 mins	3 hrs	18 mins
Total distance covered	798	miles	174	miles
Average distance per patrol	57	miles	19	miles
Fuel used	2093	gallons	880	gallons
Average fuel used per patrol	149	gallons	98	gallons
<u>Total identified sightings:</u>	166	vessels	29	vessels
Local	68	vessels	29	vessels
Visiting	98	vessels	0	vessels
<u>Types of fishing vessels sighted:</u>	<u>< 45'</u>	<u>> 45'</u>	<u>< 45'</u>	<u>> 45'</u>
Trawlers	45	58	0	0
Beam Trawlers	0	0	0	0
Twin Rig Trawlers	0	41	0	0
Pair Trawlers	0	0	0	0
Anchor Seiners	0	0	0	0
Fly Draggers	0	0	0	0
Gill Netters	0	0	0	0
Shrimpers	3	0	1	0
Twin Beam Shrimpers	0	0	0	0
Whelk Potters	0	0	0	0
Potting Boats	6	0	15	0
Scallop Dredgers	2	0	0	0
Mussel Dredgers	0	0	0	0
Cockle Dredgers	0	0	0	0
Netters	0	0	2	0
Anglers	11	0	11	0
<u>Total:</u>	67	99	29	0

GENERAL

The majority of this reporting period has again been spent monitoring the various mussel fisheries which have been operating on the North Morecambe Bay area, driven by a continued demand for mussels both nationally and internationally. This is covered in more detail in the mussels section.

Newbiggin Shellfish Ltd accepted a Fixed Admin Penalty during the quarter for the use of a vessel without a UK fishing licence and breaches of the Buyers and Sellers legislation.

TRAWLING

During the last quarter I have not observed or had any reports of commercial trawling activity. I have observed 2 small boats trawling in Walney channel targeting Plaice and shrimps, on an infrequent hobby basis, I have not heard any catch reports.

POTTING

One licensed potting vessel from Barrow began to set strings of lobster pots during March and continued to increase the number of strings in the water throughout April. Catch reports are modest at the minute and they seem to be selling their catch locally directly from the vessel by putting up signs advertising lobster and crab for sale in the vicinity of the docks. Also they are selling their catch via a Petrol Station in Ulverston, where I inspected the lobsters and crabs for sale, all were of legal size, although it was disappointing to notice that half of the lobsters that were inspected were carrying berries.

A licensed potting vessel from the north of my area continues to work strings of pots in the area in front of Walney and close to the wind farms.

I expect there to be more lobster fishing activity from Barrow this summer, there are three new licensed vessels which plan to be operating during the next reporting quarter.

SHRIMPING

I have not witnessed any shrimping activity in Morecambe Bay during the last quarter. I have had reports from shrimp fishermen that they had been out prospecting for shrimp but had not caught enough to ensure catches were viable. Shrimp orders are building up and the fishermen are hoping for an increase in numbers in the very near future.

I have observed one boat shrimping in the Duddon estuary, purely on a hobby basis.

COCKLES

During the last quarter I have received no reports of cockling activity on the North Morecambe Bay area. Regular patrols both at night and during the daytime have not identified any illegal cockling activity either.

I continue to take Food Hygiene samples from Flookburgh, Leven Island, Newbiggin and Aldingham cockle beds for South Lakeland District Council, however there is no noticeable increase in adult stock levels in these areas.

MUSSELS

The numbers of mussel gatherers active in the Barrow area dropped throughout the last quarter. Foulney area was fished on all of the spring tides in the quarter by up to 15 permitted gatherers, all utilising grading machines which proved to be effective, with no instances of undersize mussel

gathering being reported. Outside of the spring tides groups of up to 9 permitted gatherers worked the mussel beds in Walney channel, with no enforcement action needed.

One Byelaw 3 permit holder continues to travel to Walney from the North East of England to gather small quantities of large mussels for use as angling bait.

I continue to take mussel samples from Foulney for Barrow Borough Council. I have been taking mussel samples weekly from a mussel bed in the outer Duddon estuary known locally as Hard Acre, this mussel bed has not previously been classified so I worked with Barrow Council's Environmental Health team and CEFAS to ensure the bed was classified before gatherers began working on it. A survey with the IFCA's Science team established that the majority of the mussels were under the minimum landing size of 45mm, although this is expected to reach the mls towards the end of the summer/early autumn.

NETTING

Drift netting began in early April after reports of a few Bass being landed by anglers in the Barrow area. Two licensed boats are known to have been netting several times in the west of Walney area and in Morecambe Bay although catch returns were not promising, with several blanks recorded.

During late April the first beach stake nets were observed in the Newbiggin area on the coast road, however no catch reports have been heard as yet, on several occasions I have observed the nets to be hung up and not fishing.

ANGLING

Angling continues to be popular in the Walney area, along the coast road and at Greenodd.

Good catches of Codling were reported throughout March and April in the Walney area, as well as some good catches of plaice. The first catches of Bass were reported during late March and early April, but numbers have not increased locally as yet. Several Angling boats have been observed launching from Walney when the weather was favourable although no catch reports have been received, suggesting little was caught.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

During this quarter I have continued to undertake export checks on behalf of CEFAS for oyster seed exports from Walney hatchery.

I have conducted patrols from Silecroft to Whitehaven to cover my colleague's absence, during quiet periods on my own area. No illegal activity was observed.

SOUTH MORECAMBE BAY

ARNSIDE TO KNOTT END

SIFCO, S. J. Waite

TRAWLING

This fishery continues to be extremely low key. I have continued to see no improvement in activity taking place either on a commercial or hobby basis. This fishery continues to prove very disappointing and, as reported in previous reports, no improvement is expected in the foreseeable future.

SHRIMPS

Effort in the inshore fishery slowly improved after the seasonal closure. During this last quarter fishermen associated with this fishery concentrated their efforts in repairs to their gear and in

overhauling their boats. During this last quarter I have observed little effort in the fishery. Fishermen associated with the inshore shrimp fishery have complained of very poor landings and as a result effort in the commercial fishery remains extremely low key. During this last quarter I have observed only occasional effort taking place from one part time fisherman working his inshore shrimp boat on a hobby basis over a single tide.

During this last quarter, I have continued to observe no activity by fishermen working tractor and tra la la units. Similarly, I have observed no activity from fishermen using push nets.

COCKLES

During this last quarter I have received no reports of cockles being removed by either commercial gatherers or from members of the public removing cockles for private consumption. This is due to the almost non-existence of both mature and undersize cockles throughout my area.

During this last quarter, all recognised cockle beds in my area have been checked. I have seen no improvement in stocks of either mature or immature cockles as mentioned in my last report and I see no improvement in this fishery in the foreseeable future. All beds in my area remain closed.

MUSSELS

During this last quarter I have observed and received no reports of mature mussels being gathered from any of the recognised skears in my area although fishermen associated with the harvesting of shellfish have checked skears on an occasional basis. All skears have been checked during this last quarter and although mature mussel stocks have continued to be extremely low, all recognised beds have had a good settlement of seed mussel.

During this last quarter I have continued to collect shellfish for Wyre District Council, and I have also checked possible new sample sites for Wyre District Council.

DRIFT STAKE AND SET NETS

During this last quarter all but one recognised inshore drift net boat remain away from their seasonal moorings. Effort and landings from this inshore drift net fisherman has proved low key although one tide saw 26 bass landed. Unfortunately, as I have mentioned in previous reports, effort in this fishery continues to be on a part time basis with fishermen working away from the fishing industry, returning only to work on a seasonal part time basis.

During this quarter most set and stake nets remain removed from the fishery with only occasional nets being fished towards the top of Morecambe Bay. During this last quarter I received a report of nets being fished in the Heysham Bass Nursery area. I checked the area but found no nets. I have received no other reports of nets in the closed area. Whitebait nets have continued to be set in the Lune Estuary, fishing selected tides. Although these fishermen have fished every available tide, landings have proved extremely poor with fishermen informing me that landings throughout this last quarter have been the worst that they can remember.

During this last quarter I have continued to observe no activity from anglers setting lines.

DINGHY AND SHORE ANGLING

Throughout this last quarter effort from dinghy anglers has continued to be low key with effort only improving slightly towards the end of the quarter. I expect effort to improve during in the next period with the return of the bass fishery.

During this last quarter shore anglers have continued to fish over high and low water tides at the top end of Morecambe Bay, the Stone Jetty at Morecambe, Heysham North Wall, Heysham and Knott End. Landings of Plaice and Flounder have proved low key. I have continued to receive reports of occasional codling being landed.

GENERAL

The particularly stormy if mild weather experienced throughout the winter and into early spring prevented most fishing activity. Conditions have improved throughout the quarter and the fishing season has begun to get under-way.

TRAWLING

The few remaining Fleetwood trawlers have been weather bound for much of the quarter. When able to get to sea modest catches of thin place have been taken from Shell Wharf and out to the Point of the Bank.

All the Fleetwood inshore trawlermen have expressed concerned about the progress of Byelaw 6 (European Marine Sites) authorisations as the Lune Deep fishery is expected to begin shortly.

SHRIMPING

Shrimps began to show at Southport and the Penfold Channel at the beginning of March. Modest catches have been taken on the slacker tides through to the end of the reporting period.

Some good publicity for this sector of this industry has been provided by the BBC's Countryfile team who attempted to recreate "cart shanking" with the aid of veteran fisherman Gerald Rimmer, a local wheelwright and a rather well groomed horse. The net used was a "Dawson Booth" type raised bar shank as developed by those still respected if long past founding officers of the Authority. They encouraged the introduction of this more selective type of net over a century ago. Most appropriate if lost to all but the most select of viewers.

One Lytham shrimp boat has been working; catches have not been as good as those taken from the southern banks of the estuary.

Reports from the Fylde Coast push netters have been poor; catches have been insufficient to meet personal or domestic needs.

POTS

There has been a resurgence of interest in potting activity at Fleetwood with most of the netting vessels rigging up a string of pots apparently to be worked alongside the net fishery. One new potting vessel HL2 'Sarah Lynn' has been brought to Fleetwood; she has not started to work at the time of writing.

COCKLES/MUSSELS

Recent visits to all the main cockle beds about the Ribble estuary suggest that virtually no cockle stock has survived the winter storms. Stock levels are so low on the S. Gut, Penfold North and Penfold South beds that it is becoming increasingly difficult to gather the small samples of mature cockle required to maintain the MSH classification. Similarly only a few individual cockles have been found on visits to the North Run and Mousehole beds off St Annes.

Clearly there is little prospect of a significant spatfall from the indigenous Ribble cockle stock. Similar stock losses have been recorded in the past on this estuary supporting the hypothesis held by many fishermen that major spat settlements within the Ribble originate from elsewhere in the Liverpool Bay water mass.

The Lytham fishermen have worked the Ribble mussel fishery up until the end of March when meat yields began to drop as the mussels prepared to spat. One of the fishermen has his own

purifying plant. This combined with responsible mechanical riddling has made working the remote beds on the outer Ribble Walls a viable small scale operation. This local initiative has provided employment for local fishermen throughout the winter. Impact on the stock (which is not suitable for bulk gathering) is negligible. In the small areas that have been responsibly harvested new and healthier stocks are developing. The fishery that the Lytham men have developed is sustainable, low impact and I have recently been informed providing a top quality product to high profile restaurants in central London.

NETTING

With the general improvement in the weather coastal netting has become more practical, however the considerable amount of debris still coming down the river has restricted activity in the Penfold Channel. The coastal cod fishery has continued longer than usual this year possible as a result of the mild winter. Hopefully a stronger year class will result that is robust enough to survive the predation of the ever present dogfish stock.

Nets have been observed along the Sefton Coast from Formby to the Penfold Channel. Catches have been sufficient for domestic purposes and have consisted of Codling, Flounder Thornback Ray (Roker) and the occasional early Bass.

Drift netting from Lytham started in March. Modest catches of Bass, Codling backed up by the occasional Sole and Thornback Ray (Roker) have been reported.

ANGLING

With the improving weather considerable numbers of shore anglers have been observed particularly along the Fylde coast. Very few size fish have been taken with the vast majority of catches consisting of codling, seed whiting and a few flounder. Reports have been received of the odd early Bass and decent codling being taken but that is all. Considerable numbers of Lesser Spotted Dogfish are reported to be in the area.

Reports from the beach launched angling and charter boats have been a little better with a few more size codling being taken. Plaice are beginning to move in but remain very thin.

Some good Flounder fishing has been had on the Ribble. The beach launched angling boats from Ainsdale have been seen fishing off the Penfold Channel and Gut.

OBITUARIES

It is my unfortunate duty to report the passing of 3 former industry stalwarts during the last quarter.

Former NW&NWSFC committee member Mark Hamer, a former manager of larger trawlers who campaigned both vigorously and successfully for compensation for displaced deep sea fishermen following the last Icelandic Cod War. He subsequently represented the Fleetwood area as a Committee member for many years.

Fleetwood inshore fisherman John Cowell. An outstanding inshore fisherman who was the catching part of the Cowell & Rainford Northfleet Fish Co that dominated the Fleetwood inshore sector during the late 70's through to the early 90's. Despite terrible disfigurement from burns suffered during the loss of the Pygmalion John maintained a formidable wit and an extraordinary ability to catch fish. He was a highly respected member of the local fishing community.

James (Chick) Cropper. As a younger man Chick was a highly respected Bosun on deep sea trawlers, he later moved into the inshore sector mostly working as mate but also sailing as skipper in the "Birds" fleet. The fishing industry has lost another personality, a man with the rare ability to defuse almost any situation with a handy joke.

SOUTHERN AREA

MERSEY, WIRRAL AND DEE

Fishery Officer, A. Brownrigg

GENERAL

During this quarter both IFC Officer Capper and I have continued to undertake activities such as enforcement, sampling and survey work throughout our area and the NWIFCA district. Both officers have also had the chance to carry out training and familiarisation on the areas new patrol vessel 'Bay Protector'.

SPECIFIC

COCKLING

In March a cockle survey took place with members of the science team in attendance. Unfortunately results indicate very low numbers of adult size cockle and spat, to that end, Wirral North cockle bed will remain closed, and will continue to do so throughout 2014. Beach closure notices to cockling have been updated and are now displayed along the coastline. Assistance in the collection of samples from the Ribble Cockle beds for West Lancashire Borough Council and Mersey Port Health Authority (MPHA) remains on going.

MUSSEL

Low level mussel gathering on West Kirby mussel bed has continued to take place since my last report; however from harvesting and the severe weather, very little commercial value remains on the bed. Gatherers then continued to harvest on Caldys gathering up to twenty bags a tide; this has now dropped considerably again due to harvesting and the weather. Both beds will continue to remain open and be monitored over the next quarter.

SHORE ANGLING

Very little recreational angling has been observed throughout this reporting period. The North Wirral coastline and New Brighton (Perch Rock and Kings Parade) again have been the popular areas.

BOAT ANGLING

Daily sightings have observed registered and unregistered fishing vessels continuing to fish in the River Mersey and Liverpool Bay area. Again weekends or times of competitions remain to be the most popular times for boat angling.

BAIT DIGGERS

Bait diggers remain to be seen predominantly along the North Wirral coastline, with New Brighton, Mockbeggar Wharf and the area of beach off Leasowe Common being identified as the most popular. Numbers indicate between 0 – 3 bait diggers have been recorded daily with anywhere between 50 – 200 worms gathered per individual.

BAIT COLLECTION

Recent patrols at low water in the River Mersey (New Brighton to Rock Ferry) has shown there to be activity with regard to bait collection utilising Crab tiles/pipes which are located on the lower foreshore.

This type of activity remains an "activity of interest" and will continue to be monitored.

COMMERCIAL BOAT ANGLING

Liverpool Marina has eight to nine commercial craft working in and out the marina, most vessels have been taken out of the water this quarter to carry out service and repairs with a view of being ready for the spring/summer period.

ENFORCEMENT

Reports of musseling activity taking place in the River Mersey and Hilbre Island have been received. Presently all shellfish within the Mersey estuary are prohibited for harvesting. Reports suggest that up to 50 bags of mussel were gathered just off New Brighton. Since that report early morning patrols before and over low water have been carried out, however, no activity has been observed. Wirral Council has now placed signage out within the area, while Mersey Port Health and NWIFCA will continue to monitor the area. After reports of mussels being found on Hilbre Island an ATV patrol was carried to see what was there. Approximately 50 – 100 ton of size and undersize mussel was found along the north and east side of the island. After recent discussions with Wirral Council the mussels will come under Hilbre Island LNR.

'BAY PROTECTOR'

'Bay Protector' the area's new 7.5 metre Rigid Inflatable Boat was finally handed over to NWIFCA in February. After a period of training and familiarisation within the local area the vessel has now begun routine patrols along the river Mersey, Liverpool Bay and the north Wirral coastline. To assist in the refuelling of the vessel a 230 litre fuel bowser has been purchased. This has been a tremendous success and aid in the refuelling since Liverpool Marina does not hold unleaded fuel.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Daily shore patrols along the River Mersey, north Wirral coastline and both sides of the Dee Estuary remain ongoing and officer support has been offered to other areas in the form of shore/ATV patrols and sample work. Both officers attended Mersey Port Health's Awareness Day in March. As part of our continued professional development both officers attended a fire fighting and first aid course. Finally; assistance to the GLA, MPHA, NRW and Merseyside Police has remained ongoing, and will continue to do so.

IFCO, J. MOULTON

During the last reporting period I have continued to provide enforcement assistance across the District as well as fulfilling my communications duties.

SOUTHERN AREA

Since last reporting I have conducted a number of shore and quad patrols in the Southern Area, supporting IFCO Brownrigg and Capper, this included a joint enforcement patrol with Mersey Port Health Authority. In addition to this I have assisted with three rib patrols on Bay Protector within the Mersey.

RIBBLE AREA.

During the last quarter I have conducted three cockle sample survey with IFCO Brown in the Ribble Estuary as well as number of shore patrols to cover Officer Brown whilst on leave. During which normal seasonal fishing activities continued with no enforcement action required. In Early march a joint enforcement patrol was conducted with Lancashire police along the Fylde coastline during the hours of dark. Similar angling and bait collecting numbers were recorded to day light tides.

MORECAMBE AREA

I have continued to support IFCO Waite in the Morecambe area. This has included two patrols in zodiac bravo and a quad patrol between the Lune and Wyre Estuary's. Shore Patrols have continued on the sea defences surrounding the Heysham Byelaw 5 closed area with no detection of byelaw breaches. A joint enforcement patrol in Lancashire Police was conducted around South Morecambe Bay during March.

BARROW AREA

During the last quarter I have assisted IFCO Dixon regularly with both the mussel fishery on Foulney which finished in March and the mussel fishery in the Duddon Estuary. This has included weekly shellfish hygiene sampling and planning for the fishery commencing in May once classification is released. I have also conducted shore patrols within IFCO Dixons area and assisted with cockle sampling for hygiene testing.

NORTHERN AREA

In late April I assisted with 2 patrols on the Solway Protector conducting boardings and inspections of Nephrops boats and inshore static gear.

NORTH WESTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

1ST FEBRUARY TO 30TH APRIL 2014

1. ENFORCEMENT BURDEN

1.1 Length of District coastline 878.5 n.m.

2. RESOURCES

2.1 Number of patrol vessels 1 + 4 RIBs + 1 Zodiac

2.2 Number of patrol ATVs (intertidal) 8

2.3 Number of Fishery Officers with other duties 7 f/t, 1 p/t + 3 warranted officers

3. ENFORCEMENT AT SEA

3.1 Number of patrol hours at sea 41.65

3.2 Number of patrols at sea 10

3.3 Number of nautical miles of patrol 317

3.4 Number of closings 25

3.5 Number of inspections 20

3.6 Number of boardings 21

3.7 Number of infringements detected 0

3.8 Number of:-

3.8.1 Prosecutions 0

3.8.2 Home Office Cautions 0

3.8.3 Prosecutions pending 0

3.8.4 Cautions issued 0

3.8.5	Official Warning Letter	0
3.8.6	Advisory Warning Letter	0
3.8.7	Verbal warnings	0
4.	<u>ENFORCEMENT ON LAND</u>	
4.1	Number of inspections	301
4.2	Number of ATV patrols	60
4.3	Number of hours ATV patrols	92.15
4.4	ATV km covered	888
4.5	Number of infringements detected	1
4.6	Number of:-	
4.6.1	Prosecutions	0
4.6.2	Home Office Cautions	0
4.6.3	Prosecutions pending	4
4.6.4	Fixed Admin Penalty	0
4.6.5	Cautions issued	0
4.6.6	Official Warning Letter	0
4.6.7	Advisory Warning Letter	5
4.6.8	Verbal warnings	1

N.B. Prosecutions pending – are only counted as such after approval is given to take the case forward by the Authority. People under caution who are likely to be prosecuted may therefore not be included in this figure.