

NWIFCA Technical, Science and Byelaw Committee

16th May 2017: 10:00 a.m.

**AGENDA
ITEM NO.
5**

Leven and Pilling Cockle Fishery Report

Purpose of the Report: To provide an update on the enforcement and compliance at the Leven and Pilling Cockle fisheries.

Recommendation: That the report is received.

Context

1. This report gives an activity, compliance and enforcement summary for both fisheries from the opening on the 7th November 2016 to the current time.

Activity, Compliance and Enforcement Summary

2. The table below summarises industry and IFCO activity (including sanctions) for both fisheries since the fisheries opened on the 7th November 2016 – representing 175 days.

Activity		Leven	Pilling
Overall sightings		1004	9
Av attendance per day		18	n/a
No. MLS inspections		454	7
MLS inspection rate (% of landings)		45.2%	n/a
Enforcement actions taken	FAPs	1 (2 individuals for MLS breaches)	2 (3 individuals for MLS breaches)
	Official Warning Letters	3 Official warning letters (1 for MLS breach. 2 for failure to riddle)	3 (all for MLS breaches)
	Advisory Letters	1 (non-possession of permit)	None
	Verbal warning	2 (breaches of the authorised area)	None

3. Relevant points regarding the sanctions above are the following:
 - Expected MLS compliance issues were encountered early in the fishery (Pilling on the 7th Nov and Leven on the 14th Nov)
 - No further MLS breaches have occurred since although a failure to riddle was detected on the 8th December – with mitigating circumstances an official warning letter was considered appropriate
 - Officers received periodic reports of non-compliance with the authorised area - specific ATV patrols to try and detected this activity – including weekends – were conducted.
 - The only breaches detected were on the 8th December and were just prior to the extension of the Leven authorised area

4. Activity at Pilling has been very low in general and this has been exacerbated by the following:
 - MLS enforcement on the first day displacing activity to the Leven
 - General low levels of industry interest
 - The bird flu outbreak in the vicinity
5. Both fisheries closed on the closed season in Byelaw 3 commencing on the 1st May. There have been no compliance issues with closed season at the time of writing.

Head of Enforcement

8th May 2017