

NWIFCA Quarterly Meeting

15th September 2017: 11.00 a.m.

**AGENDA
ITEM
7**

PATROL AND ENFORCEMENT QUARTERLY REPORT – 1ST AUGUST 2017 TO 31ST OCTOBER 2017

Recommendation: The report is received

Area Summary A summary of Activity for the quarter by area is as follows:

Area	Summary points
Burgh Marsh point to Haverigg Point IFCOs Thinnesen, Sparks and Sirkett	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular lobster landings in August, dropping in September. • Very little trawling. Local fleet has barely moved • Very good quarter for shrimp beam trawl catches. 2 Maryport boats landed 11,694Kg; Silloth vessels landed 5030Kg. • Bass and Mackerel caught in August/September. Bass dwindled In October but plenty of Cod now being caught on the beaches, mostly at night.
Haverigg Point to Arnside IFCO Dixon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flookburgh cockle fishery continued. • Poor catches of shrimps (small size/ low numbers) and size bass. • Angling- popular due to plenty of small Bass for sport, good catches of a variety of species landed at Barrow. • Mussel- No activity at Foulney due to large percentages of undersize and most B3 holders occupied by the cockle bed. • Low levels of potting activity inside the district
Arnside to Knott End IFCO Moulton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 13 gatherers worked regularly at Heysham Flat seed mussel fishery. 2 offences detected. • Good numbers of anglers across the area. Good numbers of small bass reported. No activity detected in Heysham bass Nursery Area. • Routine patrols of Pilling Cockle Bed. • Monthly shellfish samples taken for Wyre Borough Council of cockles from Pilling and Mussels from the Wyre. • Regular shrimp trawling has been observed. • Continuing Intel duties
River Wyre- River Alt IFCO Moulton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mussel and cockle samples have continued to be taken for West Lancs Borough Council. • Small amounts of mussel gathering in the Ribble detected. • Angling boats have been observed in the Fleetwood/Wyre area during good weather.
River Alt to River Dee- IFCOs Brownrigg, Taylor & Capper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leasowe cockle fishery has been active since 01/09/2017 • This has occupied most the areas enforcement patrols • Mussel beds on the Caldy and West Kirby still mainly undersize. • RIB patrols have taken place within the river Mersey and Liverpool Bay areas. Boardings and closings have taken place on charter and recreational anglers. • Routine ATV patrols have taken place along the north Wirral coastline inspecting B3 permit holders on Leasowe cockle bed and net checking the four set nets. Shrimping has been observed with poor catches (1kg) being recorded, again this has been down to the warm weather.

General Update

- IFCO's assisted the science team with surveys across the district.
- Two voluntary attendance interviews were conducted at Morecambe Police Station.
- Acting HoE attended the Shellfish Liaison Meeting, a Leasowe cockle bed multi agency group meeting and a Northern Marine Area intel management meeting in Newcastle

Staff

- Andrew Deary left to join the MMO Bluebelt team.
- IFCO Moulton was appointed acting HoE and promoted to HoE in October.
- The IFCA is joined by Mark Taylor based in Liverpool, Calum Sirkett in Whitehaven and Elliott Waltho in Carnforth.
- IFCO's Brownrigg and Sparks are continuing to work on their accreditation qualification.

Health and Safety

A Safety Improvement Plan for 2017/18 had been set by DMA Safety Management in the area of health and safety, and reviewed during the quarter by Andy Deary, Cath Dobson and Elsa Mason of DMA Safety Management Ltd, the Authority's Competent Person, on health & safety matters.

The plan was developed as part of the Authority's commitment to meeting and assuring its compliance with health & safety regulations, both in documented arrangements and in their implementation across all areas of the organisation.

Out of the original 25 recommendations made by Elsa, the few remaining areas which are being worked through and their timescales, are as follows:

- Risk Profiling – currently being prepared
- Key Performance Indicators – Identify KPI's from risk profiling, develop data streams and start collecting data for each KPI – January to April 2018
- Structure of the Health & Safety Policy & Documentation – April 2018 onwards
- Emergency and Incident Responses – Identify situations requiring testing and rehearsing – January 2018. Draw up plan of testing, carry out tests and record all outcomes and learning points – April 2018 onwards
- Review of Health & Safety Policy and Documentation – Review as part of annual audit – April 2018 and implement changes/updates – June 2018

Work undertaken during the current period under review was to revisit all risk assessments in place which are approaching their 12 month review date and implement new/amend existing risk assessments to reflect the day-to-day changes to operational activities and procedures.

A meeting with Elsa took place on 6th November, and a further meeting is planned for 15th January 2018, the outcomes of which will be reported in the next quarterly report.

There were no reportable near misses, accidents or incidents this quarter.

Legislative changes

Berried Lobster SI

National SI prohibition on landing berried lobster and crawfish came into force on the 1st of October. Landing berried lobsters (*Homarus gammarus*) crawfish (*Palinurus elephas* and *Palinurus mauritanicus*) in English Ports is prohibited.

Current rules prohibiting the landing of V-notched lobsters remain in force and there is no change to the minimum conservation reference sizes for lobster or crawfish.

The rules do not apply to non-native species such as the Canadian lobsters (*Homarus americanus*) and they must be retained (regardless of size) and reported immediately.

Fishery Specific issues

The table below summarises industry and IFCO activity during the quarter. The data has been compiled from Byelaw 3 returns and IFCO sightings.

Activity	Leasowe Cockles	Flookburgh/Leven Cockles	Pilling Cockles	Heysham Flat Seed Mussel	Ribble Training Wall Mussels
Overall Attendance (from returns)	Sept- 1214 Oct- 416	Sept- 597 Oct- 665	Sept- 0 Oct- 7	Aug- 108	2
Av per day	27	21	N/A	10	N/A
No. Inspected fishing	Sept- 672 Oct- 88	Sept- 275 Oct- 307	N/A	Aug- 49	N/A
No. MLS inspections	Sept- 102	Sept- 239 Oct- 223	N/A	N/A (Seed Fishery)	N/A
Days Covered by IFCO's	Sept- 19 Oct- 10	Sept- 14 Oct- 15	Sept- 3 Oct- 2	Aug- 4	N/A
Reported landings	885,995kg*	519,488kg*	1,548kg*	170,968kg	90kg
Man Hours	8701	6707	30	612	6

***16 returns missing from October**

Heysham Flat Seed Mussel Fishery

Heysham Flat Seed Mussel Fishery opened on the 7th of August for Byelaw 3 permit holders to gather seed mussel. Fishing was only permitted Monday – Friday during daylight hours and was accessed from the Morecambe, Battery carpark. Gatherers had to obtain access permits from Lancaster City Council to use the slipway. A maximum of 13 gatherers attended most days until the start of the cockle fisheries on the 1st of September

An excluded area was put in place which officers marked out with wooden stakes. This was to protect the colonies of honeycomb worm which were present. Two gatherers were detected in the area and after investigation they were issued with FAP's totalling £500.

Cockle Fisheries

Pilling Cockle fishery

- Only a very small amount of activity was detected for small orders.
- The classification of the bed is a long term B.
- Patrols were limited due to a high enforcement burden at Leasowe and Pilling
- Risk based patrols were conducted led by intelligence.

Flookburgh Cockle Fishery

- Fishery opened at the end of the closed season on the 1st of September and is classified as B under the shellfish hygiene classification scheme.
- Initially there were stable numbers of gatherers who attended the fishery mostly from the local area. This fitted the pattern expected of higher levels of activity at Leasowe.
- Compliance was exceptionally good with an excellent size of cockle landed.
- Only one incidence of possible un-permitted gathering was detected and an investigation is on-going.

- Moving into October effort switched from Leasowe to Flookburgh. Initially this led to there being a number of gangmasters buying cockles. Two tractors were taken on to the bed; officers were alerted to this and the fact that it would not be HRA compliant. The merchants willingly agreed to transfer their operations to the airfield.
- Most gangmasters agreed that the use of support workers was not necessary at this fishery as the fishermen were mostly capable of bringing off their landings as would normally operate. An agreement was made where gangmasters could only use one support worker; this limited the possible incidences of support workers gathering cockles of which officers had suspicions.

Leasowe Cockle Fishery

- Fishery opened at the end of the closed season on the 1st of September with a shellfish hygiene classification of C. This affected the price which the cockles could be sold.
- Initially there was a rush of activity with an average of 40 gatherers per tide
- A heavy presence from IFCO's meant that good effective inspections of permits and landings could take place. Not only did this deter unpermitted gathering but also aided in carrying out enforcement action where required. A table detailing the enforcement action and sanctions applied during the reporting period is included.
- A limited amount of recreational gathering was observed with members of the public being allowed 5kg per day for personal consumption.
- At the end of October a multi-agency group meeting was held with Wirral Council officers as there were concerns over the sanitation and waste in the carpark area which the shore based activities of the fishery were carrying out. The conclusion of the meeting was for the carpark to remain open and additional toilets be provided.

Byelaw 3 returns

- Returns compliance has been excellent.
- A compliance rate of 95% was achieved for activity in September.
- In respect of this 5 advisory letters and one official warning letter were issued.
- The excellent compliance may be a result of text message reminders and a recent. Advisory/warning letters issued.
- Compliance has dropped with returns in October with 16 returns outstanding from Byelaw 3 permit holder who have been observed fishing. Although outwith this reporting period, investigations are being conducted and sanctions prepared.
- The high enforcement priority of this is continuing as it is proving valuable in establishing good statistics on the fisheries.

Sanctions, Infringements and Court Activity

There was no court activity during the quarter. A summary of sanctions used this quarter is given in the table below.

Sanctions	Comments
Verbal	1
Advisory Letters	5- for failure to submit returns
Official Warning Letters	4 for breaches of 5kg limit.
Home office Cautions	
FAPs	2 issued for offences during Heysham Flat Seed Mussel Fishery. £250 each, both paid.
Prosecutions Pending	1 Breach of 5kg personal limit and obstruction. Court date 7 th December.
Prosecutions	

Shore Based Activity Report

A summary of the shore based activity is given in the table below. Areas the IFCO's focused on during the quarter were:

- Commercial cockle beds at Leasowe on the North Wirral Coastline and Flookburgh in North Morecambe Bay.
- Bass compliance focused patrols

Number of:	Haverigg Point – Burgh Marsh Point	Haverigg Point – Arnside –	Arnside – Knott End –	River Wyre – River Alt –	Mersey, Wirral and Dee
Shore patrols*	31	57	9		62
ATV patrols	0	11	5		4
ATV patrol hrs	0	17.42	19.5		14.59
ATV kms covered	0	114.5	26		125
Inspections under taken	133	1060	118		895

*undertaken either by vehicle or on foot without using ATV

Maritime Activity Report

A summary table of Maritime patrols is provided below. Areas of focus were:

A full activity report is provided in Annex A.

Vessel	No of patrols	Distance patrolled	Time on patrol	Boarding's	Closings	Sightings	Static gear inspections
Solway Protector	1	65	5.67	0	1	7	0
Protector Bravo	1	43	2.84	1	1	3	3
Protector Gamma	0						
Bay Protector	0						
Zodiac Bravo	0						
Totals for the quarter	2	108	8.51	1	2	10	3

ANNEX A

Patrol Vessel	Patrol Date	Patrol Time	Distance	Area Covered	Risk/Purpose	Sectors Covered	No. of Boarding	No. of Closings	No. Of Sightings	No of Static gear Inspections
Solway Protector	18.09.17	5.67 hours	65 nm	Whitehaven to Silecroft and St Bees Head	Potting activity	- Cumbria Coast MCZ - Plaice byelaw	0	1	7	0
Total										

Patrol Vessel	Patrol Date	Patrol Time	Distance	Area Covered	Risk/Purpose	Sectors Covered	No. of Boarding	No. of Closings	No. Of Sightings	No of Static gear Inspections
Protector Bravo	08.08.17	2.84 hours	43 nm	Whitehaven to Ravenglass	Bass fishing and potting activity	- Cumbria Coast MCZ - Plaice byelaw	1	1	3	3
Total		2.84	43				1	1	3	3