

NWIFCA Technical, Science and Byelaw Committee

6th February 2018: 10:00 a.m.

**AGENDA
ITEM NO.**

9

Cockle and Mussel Fisheries Enforcement Report

Purpose of the report: To provide an update on the enforcement and compliance at the recent fisheries.

Recommendation: That the report is received.

Context

- This report gives an activity, compliance and enforcement summary for all commercial cockle and mussel fisheries within the current period.

Activity, Compliance and Enforcement Summary

- The table below summarises industry and IFCO activity for the current fisheries. The data has been compiled from Byelaw 3 returns and IFCO sightings. It is therefore dependent on fishermen having submitted returns and IFCO's having been present. Where there may be discrepancies this has been highlighted.

Activity	Leasowe	Flookburgh/Leven	Pilling	Ribble Training Walls	West Kirby Mussel Bed
Overall Attendance (from returns)	October 437 November 67 December 5	October 799 November 771 December 403	October 7 November 110 December 155	October 2 November 9 December 16	October Nil November 7 December 9
Av per day	October 14 November 2 December Too low	October 26 November 26 December 13	October Too low November 4 December 5	October Too Low November Too Low December Too Low	October Nil November Too low December Too Low
No. inspected fishing	132	642	22	2	0
No. MLS inspections	0	626	22	2	0
Days covered by IFCO's	57	36	12	1	22
Reported landings	October 122,248.5 kg November 17,443 kg December 1,063 kg	October 286,525 kg November 214,114.5 kg December 87,166 kg	October 1,548.5 kg November 26,010 kg December 34,794 kg	October 90 kg November 1,070 kg December 1,827 kg	October Nil November 6,200 kg December 6,800 kg

Man hours	October 2077.5	October 4040.5	October 30	October 6	October Nil
	November 347	November 3783	November 420	November 29	November 28
	December 17	December 1892	December 692	December 53	December 36
Sanctions summary					
IFCO cautions	0				
Advisory letters	24				
Official Warning letters	15				
Verbal Warning	0				
FAPs	0				
Permit Suspension	1				
On-going investigation	1				

Relevant points regarding the sanctions above are as follows:

Byelaw 3 Returns Compliance

3. As highlighted in the previous report back in October it was becoming apparent that compliance with returns was dropping. As a result there has been a significant compliance drive in November and December.
4. Fifteen sanctions were issued during November for failure to supply returns for October and 17 in November including one permit suspension for continued failure to supply (rescinded in January after returns supplied). Sanctions have been escalated from advisory letters to official warning letters there a number of permit holders who will have their permit suspended on the next occasion they fail to supply permits. Other sanctions such as FAPs may be considered.
5. The Digital Communications Officer and HoE are working towards drafting a specific compliance strategy for the returns. Before the festive period in an effort to again encourage the submitting of returns a text message reminder was scheduled for early January.

Prosecution Case

6. On the 7th of December at Liverpool Magistrates M Swiatek represented himself and pled not guilty to the charges of obstruction. A trial has been set for the 23rd of February at Liverpool Magistrates.

Minimum Landing Size Compliance

7. **Leasowe:** MLS compliance has been exceptional due to the large size of the in the bed.
Flookburgh: MLS compliance has been good with fishermen gathering in areas of larger cockles and using riddles where appropriate.
Pilling: Excellent size from inspections completed.

Head of Enforcement
22nd January 2018