NWIFCA Meeting: 1st December 2022 11:00 a.m.

<u>HEAD OF ENFORCEMENT QUARTERLY REPORT –</u> <u>1ST AUGUST – 31ST OCTOBER</u>

Purpose: For information.

Recommendations:

1. That the report is received

Patch Summaries for the quarter are given in the table below:

Patch	Summary Points
Haverigg Point – Burghmarsh Point – IFCO Thinnesen,	Once again this quarter, sick leave and annual leave has curtailed the number of shore patrols undertaken this quarter.
Thinnesen and Sirkett, Edwards	Shore and quad patrols were undertaken throughout the north of the district covering all known ports and hot spots from Port Carlisle to Haverigg Point.
	TRAWLING - Some activity was observed on VMS from local trawlers targeting prawns (Nephrops) and bait fish (plaice – dogfish) from grounds southwest of St Bees Head. At the time of monitoring, all but one was fishing outside the district. During the quarter, reports of prawns being caught were up to 30 stones per day on the odd occasion. Vessels from Maryport and Whitehaven have landed their catch to Co-op's as well as direct to the public at both ports.
	<u>POTTING</u> - activity on VMS over the quarter showed whelking vessels out of Whitehaven, Fleetwood and Maryport frequently seen, with vessels engaged in whelk potting outside of the district.
	Vessels from Fleetwood were seen fishing north of north Wales, 6 – 10 miles off the coast, west of Formby, South and North of IOM.
	The Authority's new potting byelaw No: 4, was signed and came into force on 6 th June 2022 and there has been a small uptake in vessels targeting whelks inside of the district.
	It has been good to see some local vessels now starting to pioneer the grounds inside of the NW-IFCA 6 mile limit, but the majority of the fishing for whelks has been carried out, outside of the district.
	Lobster and brown crab are still being targeted by 2-3 vessels, but by the end of September reports from these vessels were that fishing was starting to slow down. $30 - 50$ kgs has been reported from the larger vessels, with a single lobster from smaller vessels.
	Vessels targeting brown crab have been mostly south of Whitehaven, with landings seen from one of the larger vessels landing up to 16 "bongos" of crab, a "bongo" holds approximately 100 kgs of crab. Landings from smaller vessels were in single catches.
	<u>ANGLING</u> - As expected at this time of the year, activity on beaches and piers was evident at all areas, where seabass, plaice, dogs were the main species caught. In the latter part of October the annual cod season began to take hold, but nearly all of the activity was in dark hours. As autumn and winter comes in, nigh time fishing will be the

	norm fishing for codlings
	norm fishing for codlings. <u>BEACH NETS</u> – no nets were seen on any beaches in the north Cumbria area, this is due to Byelaw no: 10 being in force until 1 st day of December.
	 OTHER DUTIES - Other duties undertaken – VMS satellite surveillance work crewing on board North Western Protector assisting at Southport due to operation Quake and the opening of Penfold cockle fishery at Marshside. Details of all patrols carried out on shore this quarter can be found in the appendices
Haverigg Point – Arnside – IFCO Dixon	Mussels During the reporting period hand gathering activity increased on Foulney mussel bed due to the mussels growing to 45mm plus in the area on and around the 'island' at the seaward end of the mussel bed. Activity was observed on most spring tides, no issues with minimum landing size were detected. Up to 13 gatherers were recorded at any one time. Outlets for the mussels were still relatively limited. I have assisted the Science Team conducting inspections and surveys on the Foulney area, and also on the area known as South America. One mussel dredger fished the South America authorised area for seed mussel during the quarter. I continue to undertake samples on behalf of the local authority on Foulney and the Duddon mussel beds.
	Cockles Cockle beds in the North Morecambe Bay area remained closed during the quarter. I continue to undertake samples on behalf of the local authority on Newbiggin and Flookburgh cockle beds. The cockle bed at Aldingham has disappeared due to the river Leven channel moving westwards and eroding the area. All of the cockle bed areas in the central area of the Bay and Newbiggin have seen a heavy spatfall of juvenile cockles which looks promising for the future if it survives the weather conditions.
	Shrimping During the last month of the reporting period Shrimping activity has increased as catches of reasonable size shrimps were recorded, after a relatively poor season so far.
	Potting Two permitted vessels have been observed fairly regularly working pots for crab and lobster in the Irish Sea west of Walney Island, although catches are naturally beginning to drop towards the end of the reporting period, as is usually the case at this time of year. Two licensed vessels from Barrow continue to work pots occasionally outside the District.
	Netting Beach netting has again been at very low levels during the quarter, with only 1 net being observed in the Leven estuary targeting Plaice and Flounders. One Flue netting operation has been observed on several occasions in the Leven estuary permitted area. Netting by Licensed and Authorised vessels launching into Walney channel and netting in the outer Bay and outer Duddon Estuary has been observed, inspections and catch reports received from fishermen suggest that it has been a reasonable year, with catches showing improvement.
	Angling Two commercial authorised angling vessels have been observed several times in the early part of the reporting period, targeting Bass in the area south of Foulney, with reports of good catches being received. This area was also popular with recreational angling vessels during the early part of the reporting period, with activity decreasing noticeably as the temperatures dropped.

	Angling from the shore continues to be as popular as ever, with reports from the upper Leven estuary showing increasing numbers of Bass compared to recent years. The easily accessible areas of the coast road continue to be popular in the late Summer. Foulney island and the Walney channel, and outer Duddon also saw increasing numbers of anglers. Competitions continue to be well attended.
Arnside – Lytham IFCO Graham	Lytham A seed mussel fishery at Seafield Road opened on 9/9/22. Since opening it has seen
	very small scale gathering. The size mussel on the training walls has also seen small scale gathering.
	Infrequent recreational netting and shrimping has been taking place south of Starr Gate. No reports of cockle gathering have been received in the quarter.
	Knott Spit
	Weekly monitoring ceased at the end of September as results had returned to an acceptable level. No gathering activity has been sighted however a couple of returns of fishing within in the classification have been received.
	Pilling
	The cockle bed at Pilling remains closed and there has been no sightings or reports of cockling activity. Netting and longlining continue to be infrequent. No bait collection has been sighted this quarter.
	Heysham
	A seed mussel fishery opened at Heysham Flat on 9/9/22. Since opening no activity has been sighted. By late October a large amount of seed mussel has been scoured out.
	Sampling of size mussel at Heysham began in September. The accessibility of the sample site and lab opening hours means that samples can only take place every two weeks. As of the end of October four samples have been taken with three falling within class B and one within Class A.
	Angling at Heysham Bass Nursery continues to be a priority however reports of activity and detected activity have been much lower than in previous years.
	Morecambe
	Angling continues throughout the area. Bass catches have continued to be reported unseasonably by anglers throughout the quarter.
	Assisting in Other Areas
	IFCO Burdekin and IFCO Graham assisted in monitoring the dredge fishery onboard Protector Gamma. IFCO Graham has provided support to officers at Southport in late October.
	Other
	IFCO Burdekin left the authority in October. IFCO Graham has been coordinating the

	Authority's transition to Office 365.
Dee Southport	GENERAL
Dee- Southport – IFCO Brownrigg, Taylor	During this quarter officers have been active throughout the Southern area. Both the north Wirral and Sefton coastlines have recorded hand gathering, netting and angling in both the recreational and commercial sector. Shore, ATV and seaborne patrols, along with survey work has also taken place. Byelaw 2 – North Wirral Foreshore Bivalve Molluscs continues to remain in place along the north Wirral coastline.
	On behalf of West Lancashire Borough Council officers have collected the weekly MSH sample collections required prior to classification of the Penfold fishery on Southport.
	As part of the officer's career development, both officers attended a one day Conflict Resolution training course in Carnforth. Officers continue to provide advice and support to Mersey Port Health Authority, Gangmasters Labour & Abuse Authority, Natural Resources Wales and both Wirral and Sefton Councils.
	SPECIFIC
	HAND GATHERING BI VALVE
	After 10 weeks of sample collecting the Penfold fishery on Southport was finally opened mid-October under a class 'C' classification. To date, some two hundred and eighty-nine B3 permit holders have been recorded accessing and working the fishery. Despite the large amount of undersize contained within the gathering area it has been pleasing to note gatherers have been conforming to the requirements of the flexible permit scheme.
	During the many routine MLS inspections officers have not encountered any major issues or concerns. At time of writing, some fifty x B3 permit holders are still active daily working on the fishery. A further update regarding this fishery will be available in the next report.
	During the August and September period, officers have continued to enforce persons trying to actively gather shellfish (otter clam and cockles) along the north Wirral coastline, in particular Leasowe beach. Despite beach closure notices being displayed highlighting this matter offences are still continuing to take place.
	RECREATIONAL ROD ANGLING
	SHORE
	One hundred and twenty-four inspections of shore and beach anglers have taken place during this quarter, with Kings Parade, New Brighton and the promenades of Liverpool and Wallasey continuing to remain active. In particular, the promenades of Seacombe and Magazine were found to be most popular. Plaice, sole, dogfish and bass have all been observed.
	Catch recordings have continued to be minimum due to a positive catch and release approach by anglers.
	RECREATIONAL/COMMERCIAL BOAT ANGLING
	Area officers have continued to observe the small fleet of recreational and commercial angling vessels operating within the Liverpool Bay and river Mersey areas. During the inspections officers have recorded moderate catches of plaice, flounder and sole from the commercial netters who are active within the river Mersey area.
	Recreational boat angling continues to be minimum, and often over weekends unless

organised by one of the several boat angling clubs within the area.

BAIT DIGGING

Bait digging remains to be active along both coastlines, the Mockbeggar Wharf area along the north Wirral coastline continues to be the most popular. Twelve inspections have been undertaken with the 'pump' method being most commonly used.

<u>NETTING</u>

Netting activity has continued to take place during this quarter with nets being observed and inspected along both the north Wirral and Sefton coastlines. Four set nets continue to be routinely monitored off Taylor's Bank, Formby with a further two observed off Ainsdale/Birkdale sands.

Four set nets continue to be recorded east of Hilbre Island. During our inspections officers have found the nets to be compliant.

Four south Asian beach purse seiner and gill netters have continued to successfully fish around the low water tide line and beach area from Leasowe lighthouse to Gun site car park. During the inspections plaice, sole, mackerel and skate were recorded. Generally, all nets and catches were found to be compliant.

SHRIMPING ACTIVITY

Tractor hauled beam trawler activity has continued to be active along the Sefton coastline area. Numerous inspections have recorded good catches of plaice and sole. No MLS or netting byelaw issues were recorded.

Push netting has been active along both coastlines with modest catches being recorded in the Gut channel, Southport.

<u>POTTING</u>

Some twenty-five pot markers continue to be monitored during routine seaborne patrols with Bay Protector. All pots remain located on the training wall within the Crosby channel. Pot markers were found to be compliant under the Potting byelaw.

PREMISES INSPECTIONS

The four premises located within Liverpool Fish Market have continued to be visited during this quarter. During the inspections officers have observed and recorded the following: 6kg brill, 18kg turbot, 30kg mackerel, 6kg mullet and 40 x lobster. No MLS issues were noted.

BAY PROTECTOR

Bay Protector has continued to remain active in the river Mersey, Liverpool Bay and Dee estuary areas undertaking boarding and closings on small recreational and charter craft fishing or moored within the area.

OFFER OF ASSISTANCE

While attempting to carry out a closing on a commercial craft officers were made aware that the vessel had developed engine trouble and was unable to recover itself. Due to the nature of the breakdown and the souring heat conditions at that present time officers took the decision to tow the vessel back to New Brighton.

I am pleased to say both persons on board and vessel were safely recovered back to New Brighton.

North Western

Protector	North Western Protector
	North Western Protector encountered a number of mechanical failures this quarter. This resulted in the vessel being taken offline on the 6 th September 2022, and remains offline at the time of writing this report.
	Whilst out on a routine patrol on the 1 st September 2022, the starboard jet drive unit was giving off vibration along with loss of speed. Initially our first thoughts were that we had picked up some debris (rope/net etc.) in the starboard jet drive unit, and that we would therefore dry the vessel out on the sands at Whitehaven for inspection.
	The vessel was dried out on the 6 th September for further inspection. It was found that the problem was from the main shaft bearing on the starboard jet drive unit. Replacement parts were ordered but unfortunately the lead time for delivery of the parts was 14 weeks from order date.
	Prior to the jet drive failure, we had carried out a scheduled oil and filter change on both main engines. It was noticed that there was signs of white metal in the oil filters from the starboard side engine, the oil samples were sent away for analysis as usual.
	The oil report for the starboard engine came back indicating white metal fragments in oil due to excessive wear on big end bearings.
	We had previously planned to carry out a major overhaul on both main engines in 2023, as part of a midlife refit. With the vessel now being offline for at least 14 weeks, it was thought prudent to bring this work forward and have the vessel working at its best for the New Year. At the time of writing this report the engines were being made ready by the patrol boat crew for lifting out.
	TRAWLING - Trawling this quarter, apart from the odd day of good fishing, has again been mainly low key with both the local and visiting vessels. Toward the end of August we saw a small fleet of Northern Irish vessels in the Eastern part of the Irish Sea, these were mainly under 15m vessels fitted with single trawls. These vessels mainly fished in the Cumbrian part of the district alongside the local fleet. Only a couple of light landings were made into Whitehaven during this period before the visiting vessels returned back to their home ports.
	<u>POTTING</u> - Whelk vessels which fish the Eastern Irish Sea continue to make regular landings into Whitehaven for onward transportation. Landings into the port have been on the whole quite good. Some of the local vessels have taken up the opportunity to fish inside the NWIFCA district with the introduction of the new byelaw 4 potting permit
	Lobster and Crab vessels have continued fishing throughout the quarter. Prices back to the vessels have on the whole been good. Most of the smaller potting vessels have now brought their pots ashore for the winter period.
	Boat angling has been quiet throughout the district mainly due to poor weather conditions.
	Patrol boat crew have again continued to assist with shore patrols both local, and in other parts of the district during the quarter.
	 Priorities/Patrols/ boarding's/and inspections statistics Patrol district for large vessel infringement of byelaws Record data of nets and pots in district Inspect lobster/Brown crab pots and carry out checks on potting vessels Inspect gill nets Record data of nets
	 Inspect nets for compliance with Byelaw 10 (3) Record all vessel sightings data Maintain service and repair patrol boats

 Inspect and carry out checks with hobby fishermen/ vessels byelaw 26 Patrol throughout district for detection of fishery limit line offences
Fishing activities have been monitored throughout the district through VMS (vessel monitoring system) and for a time in both North western Protector and Protector Charlie. The weather conditions throughout this quarter have been very poor at times, this along with mechanical problems with North Western Protector has resulted in a number of patrol days at sea being lost.
Patrols boarding's and inspections of vessels at sea along with static gear inspections using both North Western Protector, Protector Charlie and Protector Bravo totalled 52. Compliance with byelaws this quarter has on the whole been good.
All vessel maintenance and service schedules are up to date. North Western Protector is due for slipping sometime during the next quarter.
Patrol boat Master Hugh Thinnesen

General Update

<u>Training</u>

Head of Enforcement/ Acting CEO delivered the training on intelligence management and recording to the competent officer course. The session was delivered across teams to delegates on the course in Torquay.

During the reporting period staff received training in personal safety & Conflict management with the provider affinity training. The training is in accordance with the ICM Quality Award for training in work related violence.

Officers also completed courses in first aid, personal survival techniques and ATV training across the district.

A staff team building day took place on the 22nd of November at the flower bowl, Broughton.

Blue Belt Intelligence System

Head of Enforcement and intel Officer have begun planning to work with MMO Blue belt staff to assist in training and implementing an intelligence management system for the Turks and Caicos islands overseas fisheries team. This will greatly enhance the ability of the team there to record intelligence securely and make strategic and tactical decisions based on priority areas of illegal activity.

North Western Protector

A resolution at the last full authority meeting resulted in officers being tasked to remove the engines from NWP and send to have further analysis and report back to the committee on pricing. Since then a number of issues in the procedure of this have been encountered which have delayed this. The vessel was due to be lifted out of the water but all available options for this were removed due to issues in ports, space and renovations of the A590.

Costs were reported to the committee for lifting the boat out of the water and on to hard standing in Whitehaven however the costs for the procedure then escalated again and the Master, Engineer took the decision to lift the engines out in situ at the marina.

The vessel can then be lifted out of the water in the New Year when more cost effective and simpler options are available hopefully to have the planned repairs to the jet drives take place. The parts for this have been procured from Sweden and should be delivered by January.

At the time of writing the crew are working flat out to remove the engines. Below is a report of the schedule of initial repairs from the Engineer.

Phase 1 of NWP refit

Port/stbd engines and gearboxes will be stripped down ready for removal and transport to PME group UK for full strip down, diagnosis and rebuild, alongside gearbox pressure test.

Once the engine bays are clear, the engine bays will be cleaned and prepped for re fitment of the rebuilt engines as well as new consumable parts fitted. This will also include replacing and repairing the insolation and water tight seals within the engine bays to reduce the amount of corrosion on the rebuilt engines.

Initial Parts list to be renewed before return of port and stbd engines from rebuild.

- Sea water coolant pipes inlet and outlet.
- Fuel lines supply + return.
- 8 X engine securing bolts(4 per side)
- 20 X shaft coupling bolts(10 per side)
- Exhaust stacks to be shot blasted and inspected
- Exhaust flexy connection to be replaced X4
- New ELTA intake fans / reconditioned housings (shot blasted and powder coated) investigation into intake filtering to reduce the amount of sea water spray been sucked into the engine bays.
- Gearbox Electrical connections to be inspected and cleaned / replaced were needed.
- Engine bay lights to be replaced with new led units to increase light within bays and reduce load on electrical system.
- Bolts and fixings to be renewed were necessary.

On return of the engines and gearbox's and the re-fitment, they will be re connected and ran up and tested. Reedy to move into phase 2 of NWP refit plan, which involves jet drive, electrical, and hull work.

Health & Safety

One near miss has been recorded regarding an equipment failure with a vehicle.

Staff have continued to develop risk assessments and polices regarding health and safety

Byelaw Update

I. **Byelaw 1** Minimum Conservation Reference Sizes. Byelaw has been submitted for signatory.

Fishery Report

South America/Perch Scar Seed Mussel Dredge Fishery

In Mid-September a permit was issued to an operator for accessing the South America and Perch Scar seed fisheries. Fishing took place over four tides in one weekend. Due to commercial sensitivity around a small fishery more information cannot be given.

Officers conducted patrols surrounding this fishery including boarding the vessel. The inspections were concurrent with the permit conditions issued.

Penfold Cockle Fishery

The fishery opened to Byelaw 3 Permit holders under flexible permit conditions on the 26th of October. Access to the cockle bed was stipulated from Haul road, Southport. The fishery lies in the middle of the Ribble Estuary and a specific area of the cockle bed was permitted under the conditions. Access is only permitted by ATV quad bikes. Due to approximately 50% undersize cockle being present riddling was specified. An annex of permitted tides to be fished was included.

Prior to opening the fishery a multi-agency group of relevant authorities was convened. Chaired by HoE this assisted with the development of the fishery and other work required such as permitting of vehicles, organising of facilities. An operational Plan, Op Quake was drafted and implemented for the opening fishery.

On the first tide 96 permit holders accessed the fishery with all permits checked by IFCOs before accessing the fishery. Officers have been conducting regular ATV patrols on to the fishery and monitoring the size of cockles landed. To date no offences have been detected and it is excellent to see good compliance with the flexible conditions.

Landings were initially poor leading to less permit holders accessing the fishery, before picking up again. The price was reported to be poor leading to gatherers not fishing for a few days of the second week before gatherers resumed fishing. An average of 40-50 gatherers have since been present.

On the 18th November a second set of tides running to the end of the year were issued under the flexible conditions.

An issue surrounding litter has been raised by the RSPB and was dealt with in 24 hours by officers engaging with permit holders, and the issuing of a statement reminding gatherers that litter negatively affecting the fishery would mean the fishery not being HRA compliant.

Officers will continue to be tasked to a high level to ensure compliance with the flexible permit conditions.

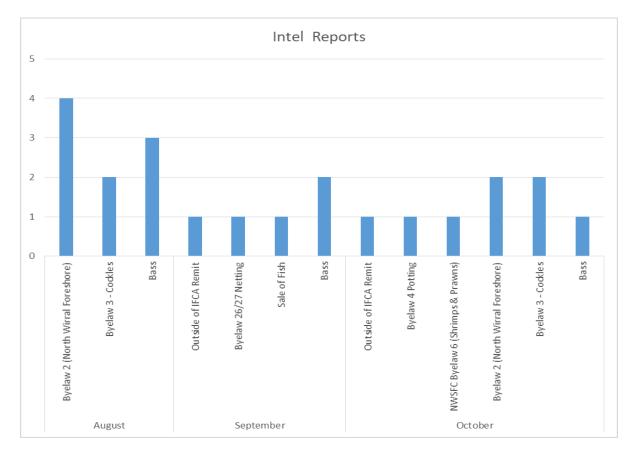
Byelaw 3 Reporting

	Aug-22	0	0	25,556	4,000	150	0	0	0
Amount Removed (kg)	Sep-22	0	0	127,257	0	0	180	1,900	900
(Oct-22	42,051	180	20,573	0	0	0	1,500	0
	Aug-22	0	0	37	4	1	0	0	0
Attendance	Sep-22	0	0	139	0	0	1	4	1
	Oct-22	165	1	25	0	0	0	3	0
	Aug-22	0	0	91	12	2	0	0	0
Hours	Sep-22	0	0	468	0	0	3	6	2
	Oct-22	729.5	4	94	0	0	0	5	0
	Aug-22	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
No. Inspected Fishing	Sep-22	0	0	24	0	0	0	0	0
cg	Oct-22	96	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Aug-22	0	0	10	2	1	0	0	0
Days Covered by IFCO's	Sep-22	0	0	19	0	0	1	3	1
11003	Oct-22	7	1	10	0	0	0	2	0

Sanctions, Infringements and Court Activity

Two FAPs were reissued in the quarter due to issues surrounding the strikes by postal workers affecting receipt of the initial deliveries.

Intelligence Reporting



Shore Based Activity Report

Number of:	Haverigg Point – Burgh Marsh Point	Haverigg Point – Arnside	Arnside – Knott End	River Wyre – River Alt	Mersey, Wirral and Dee				
Shore patrols by all NWIFCA officers*	46	56	12		12		75		
ATV patrols	6	20		6	40				
ATV patrol hrs	7.75	24.25	10.5		91				
ATV kms covered	174.5	209.5	56		56		56		896
Inspections under taken	195	42	0		350				

*undertaken either by vehicle or on foot without using ATV

Annex A

Vessel	No of patrol (days)	Patrol time (hrs)	Distance patrolled (nm)	Boarding's	Closings	Sightings	Inspections (inc. gear inspections)
North Western Protector /Protector Charlie	5	22.25	212	0	2	21	50
Protector Bravo	2	4.0	43	0	0	2	2
Protector Gamma	2	14	35	1	2	2	0
Bay Protector	2	8	105	5	7	12	25
Totals for the quarter	11	48.25	395	6	11	42	77

<u>Annex B</u>

Patrol Date	Patrol Time	Distance (nm)	Area Covered	Risk/ Purpose	Sectors Covered	No. Boardings	No. Closings	No. Sightings	No. Inspections
North We	estern F	rotector							
08.08.22	0.67	2	W of Whitehaven	Sea engine trials		0	0	0	0
24.08.22	4.50	45	Fisheries patrol - Prawn patch - Selker	Trawling activity		0	2	2	10
30.08.22	6.00	60	Fisheries patrol - Prawn patch – Selker, Coulderton	Trawling, angling, potting & netting		0	0	4	20
31.08.22	6.25	60	Fisheries patrol - Prawn patch – Selker, NW Corner	Trawling		0	0	10	0
01.09.22	4.83	45	Fisheries patrol - Prawn patch - Selker , St Bees	Trawling	Cumbria Coast MCZ	0	0	5	20
5	22.25	212				0	2	21	50

Patrol Date	Patrol Time	Distan ce (nm)	Area Covered	Risk/ Purpose	Sectors Covered	No. Boarding	No. Closings	No. Sightings	No. Inspections		
<u>Protecto</u>	Protector Bravo										
09.08.22	1.0	1	Whitehaven Harbour	Return to port – tubbing needs attending too		0	0	0	0		
19/10/22	3.0	42	Workington, Allonby Bay	Potting, netting and angling activity	Solway Firth SPA	0	0	2	2 sets of static gear		
2	4.00	43				0	0	2	2		

Patrol Date	Patrol Time	Dista nce (nm)	Area Covered	Risk/ Purpose	Sectors Covered	No. Boarding	No. Closings	No. Sightings	No. Inspections			
Protecto	Protector Gamma											
04/10/22	7.5	5	South Morecambe Bay	EA/ Small Fish Survey	Wyre Estuary							
17/09/22	6.5	30	North Morecambe Bay	Dredge Fishery monitoring	South America - Falklands	1	2	7	0			
1	14	35				1	2	2	1			

Patrol Date	Patrol Time	Distance (nm)	Area Covered	Risk/ Purpose	Sectors Covered	No. Boarding	No. Closings	No. Sightings	No. Inspections
Bay Protector									
13.08.22	4.5	45	Liverpool Marina, Mersey Estuary	Recreational and charter activities	Mersey Estuary SPA	1	2	3	25 pots inspected
26.08.22	3.5	60	River Mersey & Liverpool Bay areas	Recreational and charter activities	Mersey Estuary SPA	4	5	9	0
2	8	105				5	7	12	25