

NWIFCA Annual Meeting: 28th June 2018: 11.00 a.m.

**AGENDA
ITEM
10**

PATROL AND ENFORCEMENT QUARTERLY REPORT – 1st February 2017 to 30th April 2018

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 Senior IFCO Thinnesen, IFCO Sparks and Sirkett	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFCO Thinnesen is back at work after a successful heart operation • Trawlers have landed up to 15 boxes of Thornback Ray with very little Nephrops being reported. • Lobster and Crab fishing only started in April with inspections revealing 20-50 lobsters for a two day soak from licenced boats. • Anglers reported good catches of codling close to shore in February and March. Both shore and boat anglers have reported good landings of Rays. • Around 50 shore nets have been inspected during the quarter, with codling and Thornback landed.
Haverigg Point to Arnside Senior IFCO Dixon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two B3 permit holders issued FAPs for US cockles in February at Flookburgh. Effort decreased during the quarter at the Flookburgh cockle bed until the last two weeks of April when up to 44 gatherers were present. • No mussel gathering took place during the quarter. • Low levels of potting activity were detected inside the district with two boats operating from Barrow, both reporting poor catches due to lobsters moulting late. • Limited beach and boat netting was observed. • Moderate levels of shrimping were observed earlier in the quarter.
Arnside to Knott End IFCO Waltho/Burdekin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low levels of cockling activity persisted at the Pilling cockle fishery until the last two weeks of April when demand from industry increased. • Shore patrols have focused on Angling along the piers and promenades. • Limited shrimping activity has been seen of the Morecambe boats. • The inshore netting boats have returned to their moorings at the Stone Jetty.
River Wyre- River Alt IFCO Waltho/Burdekin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited patrols in the area due to staffing. • Environmental Health Samples gathered from the Ribble Training Walls for West Lancashire Borough Council.
River Alt to River Dee- IFCOs Brownrigg, Taylor & Senior IFCO Capper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFCO's Brownrigg and Taylor attended the Torquay training course. • Routine ATV and shore patrols have been carried out through the area. • Bay protector conducted a RIB patrol in the River Mersey and Dee Estuary.

General Update

- Senior IFCO Erik Thinnesen has returned to work after a successful heart operation and Deputy Master of the patrol vessel Alan Forster has recovered sufficiently from a stroke in 2017 to return to full duties.
- Patrol vessel crew have decommissioned “Solway Protector” so she is ready for sale.
- Crew also committed much time to monitoring and assisting Holyhead Marine Services to complete the new patrol vessel “North Western Protector” to specification.
- IFCO’s were issued with body worn video cameras in March. These are routinely worn on patrols and are already improving interactions with fishermen. Hopefully they will improve safety and assist with gathering evidence for successful prosecutions.
- Five officers attended and passed the IFCO training course at the beginning of February.
- The Authority was pleased to appoint Matthew Burdekin as an IFCO in April. Matt previously worked for NWIFCA as an IFCO for two years and has completed training.

NIMEG

Head of Enforcement attended the quarterly meeting of the National Inshore marine Enforcement Group in March. A number of important issues were discussed.

- Baseline Personnel Security Standard (BPSS check) is to be in place across IFCA’s by the end of 2018 for all new personnel. This would bring NWIFCA up to the same standard of other partners. It involves verification of identity, nationality, employment status and criminal record.
- A code of conduct for inspections is to be introduced. Agreed that all IFCA’s should present consistency for stakeholders. It was agreed to develop a standard enforcement policy across IFCA’s.

Health and Safety

Risk Profiles for the Authority were developed throughout the quarter, with the spot check safety assessments being developed and key performance indicators being identified. There are currently 10 proactive indicators being listed and developed and a further 3 reactive indicators which will be monitored on a monthly basis.

Lone working is an example of an issue identified through Health and Safety meetings. All lone working is identified through a weekly tasking document and a buddy system has been implemented. The Head of Enforcement keeps a log of any lone working and a record of staff logging in and out of any activity. Therefore it is possible to assess if levels of lone working are increasing.

Fisheries

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	Flookburgh /Leven	Pilling	Ribble Training Walls	West Kirby Mussel Bed	North Morecambe Bay Inc Foulney Mussel Beds
Overall Attendance (from returns)	Feb 5 Mar 6 Apr 6	Feb 282 Mar 304 Apr 353	Feb 166 Mar 252 Apr 248	Feb 7 Mar 13 Apr 7	Feb 43 Mar 30 Apr 9	Feb 0 Mar 0 Apr 4
Av per day	Feb <1 Mar <1 Apr <1	Feb 11 Mar 10 Apr 12	Feb 6 Mar 8 Apr 8	Feb <1 Mar <1 Apr <1	Feb 1 Mar 1 Apr <1	Feb N/A Mar N/A Apr <1
No. inspected fishing	8	184	43	7	0	0
No. Inspected off	6	97	64	0	4	0
No. MLS inspections	5	170	33	7	2	0
Days covered	4	10	10	2	2	0

by IFCO's						
Reported landings (kg)	Feb 640	Feb 49,056	Feb 34,532.	Feb 734	Feb 32200	Feb 0
	Mar 900	Mar 50,089	Mar 42,362	Mar 1,540	Mar 18,050	Mar 0
	Apr 650	Apr 61,510	Apr 42,977	Apr 990	Apr 4,200	Apr 820
Hours worked	Feb 25	Feb 1,248	Feb 716	Feb 24	Feb N/A	Feb 0
	Mar 30	Mar 1,364	Mar 1,124	Mar 47	Mar 5	Mar 0
	Apr 30	Apr 1,516	Apr 1,229	Apr 26	April N/A	Apr 24

Cockle Fisheries

Pilling Cockle fishery

Effort at the Pilling cockle fishery decreased earlier in the quarter with only small numbers of gatherers attending regularly. Fishing increased exponentially during the last two weeks of April due to market demand from processing factories. During this period the HoE responded to intelligence received by tasking almost every tide for this final period of the fishery. As a result a large quantity of undersize cockle was detected and relayed to the beach. Investigations are continuing with regard to other offences detected.

There were a number of complaints raised by local residents in the final two weeks, mostly due to the increased activity. Largely this was surrounding issues out with of NWIFCA's remit, however where possible IFCO's did liaise with fishermen and merchants to alleviate these issues such as littering.

Flookburgh Cockle Fishery

The Flookburgh cockle bed continued through the end of winter with a steady low effort mostly by local fisherman, again as with Pilling towards the end of the fishery effort increased due to industry demand. However due to the larger cockle available there were no issues with minimum landing size.

Leasowe Cockle Fishery

The Leasowe cockle bed has only seen sporadic interest from Byelaw 3 permit holders through this quarter.

Byelaw 3 returns

- Submission of Byelaw 3 returns dropped significantly in the Spring
- Sanctions were unable to be escalated in February/ March due to issues with the Royal Mail.
- The Byelaw 3 returns sanctions have been included in this quarters report as the actual offence took place in April, although the sanctions were imposed in early May.
- IFCO Matt Burdekin is now responsible for the monthly compiling of B3 returns.

Sanctions, Infringements and Court Activity

A summary of sanctions used this quarter is given in the table below.

Sanctions	Comments
Verbal	
Advisory Letters	6 advisory letters for non-compliance with B3 returns.
Official Warning Letters	14 Total; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 for failure to comply with B3 returns • 1 for failure to notify of address change • 1 for breach of CSFC byelaw 13
Home office Cautions	
FAPs	2 landing US cockles at Flookburgh, £750 PAID.
Permit Suspension	7 permit suspension for failure to comply with B3 returns. All subsequently rescinded.
Prosecutions Pending	
Prosecutions	
On-going investigations	4

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 Pilling, Flookburgh
- Shore patrols surrounding beaches at St Bees
- Shore patrols enforcing Bass legislation.

Number of:	Haverigg Point – Burgh Marsh Point	Haverigg Point – Arnside –	Arnside – Knott End –	River Wyre – River Alt –	Mersey, Wirral and Dee
Shore patrols*	28	59	16		53
ATV patrols	3	6	2		10
ATV patrol hrs	4.32	8.33	2		13.5
ATV kms covered	90	95	19		148
Inspections under taken	40	694	6		172

*undertaken either by vehicle or on foot without using ATV

Maritime Activity Report

A summary table of Maritime patrols is provided below.

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	0						
Protector Bravo	2	85 nm	5.5 hrs	1	18	20	4
Protector Gamma	0						
Bay Protector	2	47 nm	5.5 hrs	2	1	3	0
Zodiac Bravo	0						
Totals for the quarter	4	132 nm	11 hrs	3	19	23	4

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
Protector Bravo	02.11.17	2.5 hours	50 nm	Whitehaven to Ravenglass to Workington	Bass fishing and potting activity	- Cumbria Coast MCZ - Drigg Coast SAC	1	13	15	1
Protector Bravo	11.11.17	3.5 hours	35 nm	Maryport to Coulderton	Potting & netting activity	-Cumbria Coast MCZ	0	5	5	3
Total		5.5	85				1	18	20	4

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
Bay Protector	17.11.17	2.5 hours	35 nm	River Mersey	Angling activity		1	1	2	0
Bay Protector	19.11.17	3 hours	12 nm	River Mersey	Angling activity		1	0	1	0
Total		5.5	47				2	1	3	0