

NWIFCA Quarterly Meeting

14TH MARCH 2019: 11.00 a.m.

**AGENDA
ITEM NO.
6**

HEAD OF ENFORCEMENT QUARTERLY REPORT – 1ST NOVEMBER 2018 TO 31ST JANUARY 2019

Recommendations: The report is received

Introduction

Patch Summary

A patch summary for the quarter is given in the table below:

Patch	Summary Points
Haverigg Point – Burgh Marsh Point – IFCOs Thinnesen and Sparks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>TRAWLING:</u> trawlers have had very little days at sea, when they did go to sea nearly all at some point have targeted Nephrops, reports of mixed landings from 12st of prawns and up to 12 boxes of mixed fish mostly dog fish, periods of 12 hrs to 24 hrs, some were targeting rays with up to 11-20 boxes for a day's work along with up to 6-8 boxes of plaice mostly for pot bait. • <u>SHRIMP VESSELS – SILLOTH:</u> Shrimp trawlers had some fine trawling days with weather, landings have been poor, reports are that 12-40 kilos has been caught for a full days fishing which is poor for this time of year, prices are low due to large amounts being caught on the continent, vessels are not fishing as hard as in past years. • <u>POTTING:</u> Lobster and brown crab catches have been slight as this is the norm for this time of year, inspections seen from 3 single lobsters to 10 kilos landed for a couple of days soaked. Brown crab has been poor according to the fishermen in the areas from WA to Maryport, no reports from vessels from Ravenglass this year as most of the time has been taken up fishing whelks in other areas. • <u>ANGLING:</u> Angling have had mixed reports depending where bouts anglers have fished, some to the south of St Bees have seen some codlings at night, numbers suggest plenty of feed at night close inshore along cliffs and beaches. Anglers I spoke to on piers have seen some small whiting, dabs and plaice, plenty of dogs about still, some suggesting every cast you get a dog. • <u>BAIT DIGGING:</u> Bait diggers and bait crabbers have been seen but not in the large numbers of previous years, some lugers had between 50 – 150, reports from the commercial side is anything from 200 – 500 lugs. • <u>OTHER DUTIES:</u> Officers have been assisting with duties on the North Western Protector on a number of occasions, to assist in boarding of fishing vessels, and general crewing, and at Flookburgh assisting officers to monitor the cockle fishery.
Haverigg Point – Arnside – IFCO Dixon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mussels – Up to 11 gatherers on spring tides on Foulney, apart from last spring tides in January when large export orders saw effort increase to in the region of 40 gatherers. • Cockles – bed closed early November due to compliance issues, reopened 21st January, including Newbiggin, bulk of effort at Newbiggin with over 40 gatherers some days, averaging at 20, relatively low daily gathering, with 100kg being a good days work. Very few targeting Flookburgh, with 7 gatherers some days. No reports of poaching when the beds were closed.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potting – 2 vessels working outside the district from Barrow, catch reports are moderate at best at this time of year. One vessel working inside the district from Barrow occasionally, although some pots have been brought in for the winter period, • Netting – no reports. • Angling- activity increasing due to cod showing up, usual areas remain popular. • Shrimping – very occasional sightings in the Leven channel/Flookburgh, catch reports poor, after a poor season.
Arnside – Lytham IFCOs Waltho and Burdekin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angling: Regular sightings of anglers across the district. Most of the angler sightings are focused in Morecambe and Fleetwood. Occasionally a couple of anglers have been seen fishing from Arnside down to New Barns Caravan Park. Anglers near Heysham reported catching small plaice and whiting but had caught few fish recently. • Shrimping: Two shrimping boats inspected using Zodiac Bravo in November. Both reported that they had never experienced such low numbers of shrimp than they had in 2018. • Bait digging: The most common area to see bait diggers has been Fleetwood with about 6-8 seen per patrol. • Sampling: Pilling cockle samples have been consistently collected every two weeks for Wyre Council. Ribble Training Wall mussel samples have been collected once per month for West Lancashire County Council.
Dee- Southport – IFCO Brownrigg, Taylor and Capper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued support at the Pilling, Flookburgh & Leven fisheries • Bay Protector has had her 5 year inspection and coding with no issues • The Cod fishery within the river Mersey and Liverpool Bay has been productive. Up to 9 Charter vessels and an array (15) of small recreational craft have been active in the area. • Routine shore and ATV patrols remain on going. No nets on the north Wirral coastline. 4 set nets observed and inspected along Ainsdale/Formby coastline. • Routine shore and ATV patrols remain on going. No nets on the north Wirral coastline. 4 set nets observed and inspected along Ainsdale/Formby coastline

General Update

Staff

- 5 members of staff attended the IFCA officer training course in Torquay. IFCO Burdekin was awarded officer of the course for his enthusiasm and interrogation of the course subject.
- Head of Enforcement attended the North West Rural Crime Conference and North West REMIT meeting. HoE continues to attend NIMEG meetings which are crucial in the coordination IFCA enforcement work across the country.

Body Worn Video Camera

Shore based officers received additional training in the use of Body Worn Video Cameras. The equipment enables IFCOs to record picture and sound evidence in any situation where it is considered to be appropriate to the circumstances which are encountered, during the course of their work. The use of digital picture and sound records could be critical to show exactly what

happened and what was said. It should help to avoid disputes, reduce the time taken to establish important facts and clearly show the truth of many matters.

IFCA National training

In January the Association of IFCAs appointed Ian Jones as the National Lead Training officer for the IFCAs. The role of the training lead is to coordinate the officer training course, identify specific training needs of IFCA's and develop a competent and advanced officer training course.

Shore based IFCO's from NWIFCA are carrying a out a three day course in questioning and interview techniques in the near future. This will greatly increase the enforcement and investigation capability of the Authority's officers.

Bass Regulations 2019

The following relates to the management of Bass fishing for 2019. This information was published online on the 14th of February.

Recreational Fisheries

Recreational Fisheries (including from the shore) are limited to Catch & Release only from 1st February to 31st March and 1st November to 31st December 2019. Between the 1st of April and 31st of October recreational fishermen can land one fish per person per day.

Commercial Fishing

Fishing commercially for bass in 7a is prohibited during February and March 2019. From 1st April 2019 until 31st December 2019 the catch, retention, transshipment and landing of bass in the 7a, is only permitted if you have an authorisation from the MMO to do so.

All commercial fishing from the shore is prohibited

Subject to having an authorisation issued by your fisheries administration you are only permitted to catch and retain bass with the following gears:

- **fixed gillnets**
- **hooks and lines**
- **demersal trawls**
- **demersal Seines**

You are not allowed to catch and retain bass with any other gears, including nets that drift with the current or are capable of doing so.

A UK fishing vessel may only carry one authorised fishing gear on a fishing trip when retaining bass on board. If you fish using more than one of the permitted gears in a single calendar month the lowest of the catch limits for the gears will apply.

Catch limits are set out in the table below:

	Demersal Trawls	Demersal Seines	Hooks and Lines	Fixed Gillnets	All other gears (including drift nets)	Commercial shore fisheries
Fishery Restrictions	Closed February and March	Closed February and March	Closed February and March	Closed February and March	All bass catches prohibited	All bass catches prohibited
Maximum catch limit	Maximum 1% by weight of all marine organisms per day. Unavoidable by-catch of 400kg per two consecutive calendar months	Maximum 1% by weight of all marine organisms per day. Unavoidable by-catch of 210kg per month	5.5 tonnes per year	Unavoidable by-catch of 1.4 tonnes per year	All bass catches prohibited	All bass catches prohibited

Charter vessels

Regarding Charter vessels, if you have a licensed fishing vessel and have been issued an authorisation you can catch and retain bass in accordance with that authorisation, your fishing licence and this guidance.

Within ICES 7a from 1 April to 30 October 2019 if you do not have a licensed fishing vessel, not more than one specimen of European seabass may be retained and landed per recreational fisherman per day in the restricted area.

If you have a fishing vessel with a licence but without a bass authorisation you could still take recreational fishermen out to fish. From 1st April to 30th October 2019 not more than one specimen of European seabass may be retained and landed per recreational fisherman per day in the restricted area. However, no bass may be sold in relation to any recreational fishing.

Landing Obligation

The demersal landing obligation does not currently apply to bass in 2019. This means that you must discard all bass unless you have an authorisation and are fishing with the correct gear type for that authorisation.

During February and March 2019 all bass fishing is prohibited and bass catches must be returned to the sea. Fishers should take all reasonable measures to avoid and minimise bass discards.

Specific Fishery Report

Three specific fisheries were open during the quarter, included in the table below are the statistics relating to the management and enforcement of the fisheries;

- Newbiggin
- Flookburgh/Leven Cockle fishery
- Pilling Cockle Fishery

On the 21st of January, Authorisations for Byelaw 3 permit holders to fish by craam for cockles at Newbiggin and the Flookburgh/Leven Sands fisheries were issued as well as a partial lifting of the

byelaw13a of the Pilling Sands Cockle bed. There is no requirement to use a craam at Pilling Sands.

IFCO's have been heavily present at all fisheries. Due to the three fisheries being open and spread across either side of Morecambe Bay, officers have had to be drawn in from other areas to assist with good coverage. Ten fishermen arrived at the Pilling Fishery on the first day however due to the size, poor meat yield and EHO classification of "C" all gathering switched to the Newbiggin and Flookburgh fisheries. Steady levels of effort were observed with all gatherers complying with the regulations stipulated in the authorisation.

Market demand has meant that on spring tides gatherers have switched from gathering cockles at Newbiggin and Flookburgh to gathering mussels from the Foulney mussel bed. The only enforcement action taken by IFCO's has been for the landing of undersize mussel from the Foulney mussel bed. After investigation the appropriate sanction was a fixed administrative penalty.

The issues previously experienced from widespread breaches of the regulation through the use of rakes have not been detected by IFCO's during this period. At the time of writing the Pilling cockle bed shellfish classification has increased to a Class B therefore increasing its value. It is anticipated that much of the effort at the Flookburgh and Newbiggin fisheries from Southern permit holders will switch to Pilling.

Activity	Pilling	Flookburgh/Leven	Newbiggin	Ribble Training Walls	Foulney
Overall Attendance (from returns)	Jan: 14	Nov: 104 Dec: Jan: 46	Jan: 145	Nov: 2 Dec: 0 Jan: 0	Nov: 75 Dec: 23 Jan: 112
Av per day	Jan: Too Low	Nov: Dec: Jan: 4	Jan: 13	Nov: Too low Dec: 0 Jan: 0	Nov: 3 Dec: Too Low Jan: 4
No. inspected fishing	Jan: 27	Nov: 52 Dec: Jan: Not logged	Jan: Not logged	Nov: 0 Dec: 0 Jan: 0	Nov: 0 Dec: 0 Jan: 15
No. MLS inspections	Jan: 13	Nov: 52 Dec: Jan: Not logged	Jan: Not logged	Nov: 0 Dec: 0 Jan: 0	Nov: 0 Dec: 0 Jan: 0
Days covered by IFCO's	Jan: 2	Nov: 1 Dec: Jan: Not logged	Jan: Not logged	Nov: 0 Dec: 0 Jan: 0	Nov: 0 Dec: 0 Jan: 1
Reported landings	Jan: 1,217kg	Nov: 11,272.5 kg Dec: Jan: 3,231 kg	Jan: 12,956 kg	Nov: 450 kg Dec: 0 Jan: 0	Nov: 61,709 kg Dec: 18,010 kg Jan: 88,532 kg
Fishing hours	Jan: 46	Nov: 422 Dec: Jan: 194	Jan: 649.5	Nov: 8 Dec: 0 Jan: 0	Nov: 194 Dec: 81 Jan: 458

Sanctions, Infringements and Court Activity

There was no court activity during the quarter.

A total of 3 sanctions were applied during the quarter. The table below summarises these;

Sanctions	Comments
Verbal	None
Advisory Letters	None
Official warning letters	2 for vessel infringements within the district
Home office Cautions	None
FAPs	1 FAP for mussel failing MLS inspection
Permit suspension	None
Prosecutions pending	2- Poaching of Cockles, Pilling Sands Court date 7 th March
Prosecutions	None

Shore Based Activity Report

A summary of shore based enforcement activity is given in the table below.

Number of:	Haverigg Point – Burgh Marsh Point	Haverigg Point – Arnside	Arnside – Knott End -	River Wyre – River Alt	Mersey, Wirral and Dee
Shore patrols*	46	35	44		77
ATV patrols	0	21	4		5
ATV patrol hrs	0	24.74	5		7.5
ATV kms covered	0	198	42		136
Inspections under taken	74	377	4		79

*undertaken either by vehicle or on foot without using ATV

Maritime Activity Report

A summary table of Maritime patrols is provided below in Annex A. Due to weather conditions and officers being tasked to cockle enforcement duties there have been little opportunity for sea patrols using the RIBs. This is highlighted in the lack of stats for Zodiac Bravo, Protector Gamma and single patrol for Bay Protector.

A full activity report is provided in Annex B.

Annex A

Vessel	No of patrols	Patrol time (hrs)	Distance patrolled (nm)	Boarding's	Closings	Sightings	Inspections
North Western Protector	12	92.75	746	5	13	38	6
Protector Charlie	5	3.41	13	Included in the NWP's statistics above			
Bay Protector	1	2.50	8	0	5	7	3
Totals for the quarter	18	98.66	767	5	18	45	9

Annex B

Patrol Vessel	Patrol Date	Patrol Time (hrs)	Distance (nm)	Area Covered	Risk/ Purpose	Sectors Covered	No. Boarding	No. Closings	No. Sightings	No. Inspections
North Western Protector	01.11.18	9.25	55	Workington, Whitehaven	Potting & netting activity Bass compliance		0	3	5	1
North Western Protector	02.11.18	6	117	Silloth, west of Workington	Potting & netting activity	- Solway Firth EMS - Cumbria Coast MCZ	1	1	2	1
North Western Protector	22.11.18	5.75	50	St Bees, Workington, Maryport, Harrington	Potting, netting & trawling activity	- Cumbria Coast MCZ	1	3	7	1
North Western Protector	04.12.18	4.00	30	West of Whitehaven to St Bees	Potting activity	- Morecambe Bay EMS	0	0	3	0
North Western Protector	05.12.18	12.00	96	West of Whitehaven, Selker, Haverigg Point	Potting, netting & trawling activity	- Cumbria Coast MCZ - Drigg SAC	0	0	3	0
North Western Protector	12.12.18	2.33	8	Saltom Bay	Trawling activity	- Cumbria Coast MCZ	0	0	0	0
North Western Protector	09.01.19	19.17	80	Prawn pitch	Potting & netting activity	- Cumbria Coast MCZ	1	1	7	1

North Western Protector	10.01.19	8.33	50	North west corner	Potting, netting & trawling activity		0	0	0	0
North Western Protector	11.01.19	7.67	75	Selker, north Walney	Trawling activity	- Cumbria Coast MCZ - Drigg Coast SAC - Morecambe Bay SAC	0	0	2	0
North Western Protector	23.01.19	5.5	60	Workington, Maryport	Potting, netting & trawling activity	- Solway Firth EMS	2	0	4	2
North Western Protector	24.01.19	6.25	65	Sellafield, Ravenglass, Haverigg Point	Potting, netting, trawling activity	- Drigg Coast SAC	0	4	4	0
North Western Protector	30.01.19	6.5	60	Workington, Maryport, north west corner	Potting, netting, trawling activity	- Solway Firth EMS	0	1	1	0
Total	12	92.75	746				5	13	38	6

Patrol Vessel	Patrol Date	Patrol Time (hrs)	Distance (nm)	Area Covered	Risk/ Purpose	Sectors Covered	No. Boarding	No. Closings	No. Sightings	No. Inspections
Protector Charlie	01.11.18	0.5	2	West of Workington	Potting activity	Included in North Western Protector's statistics above				
Protector Charlie	02.11.18	0.5	2.5	West of Workington	Potting activity	Included in North Western Protector's statistics above				
Protector Charlie	22.11.18	0.33	3	Workington	Potting activity	Included in North Western Protector's statistics above				

Protector Charlie	09.01.19	1.16	2.5	West of Whitehaven	Potting activity	Included in North Western Protector's statistics above				
Protector Charlie	23.01.19	0.92	3	Workington	Potting & Trawling activity	Included in North Western Protector's statistics above				
Total	5	3.41	13							

Patrol Vessel	Patrol Date	Patrol Time (hrs)	Distance (nm)	Area Covered	Risk/Purpose	Sectors Covered	No. boarding	No. Closings	No. Sightings	No. inspections
Bay Protector	05.01.19	2.5	8	Liverpool Bay	Recreation charter angling	Liverpool Bay SPA	0	5	7	3
Total	1	2.5	8				0	5	7	3