

NWIFCA Quarterly Meeting: 15th March 2018: 11.00 a.m.

**AGENDA
ITEM
6**

PATROL AND ENFORCEMENT QUARTERLY REPORT – 1st November 2017 TO 31st January 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 IFCOs Thinnesen, Sparks and Sirkett	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational anglers have reported poor catches from piers. • Licenced potting vessels have had varied landings from 10 crabs up to 1.5 boxes per day. • Intertidal netters have reported small landings of cod, Pollock, herring and mullet. • January has been very quiet due to the weather for all fishing.
Haverigg Point to Arnside IFCO Dixon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity at the Flookburgh Cockle fishery has been well documented. The fishery has been continuing to operate steadily. • Long periods of adverse weather have hampered netting vessels. Any reports showed poor catches of cod, thornback and turbot. • Two vessels potting from Barrow are fishing outside the district. • Average catches of cod, whiting and plaice have been reported by anglers. Barrow Docks and West of Walney are proving popular. • No Mussel gathering recorded due to a lack of large clean stock.
Arnside to Knott End IFCO Waltho	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sample runs concluded for the Knott End mussel beds due to insufficient stock. • Pilling Fishery has been busy with up to 30 Byelaw 3 permit holders present. • Landings have been of a good size from inspections completed. • Occasional shrimp activity was seen before the festive period. • There has been no other recorded vessel activity
River Wyre- River Alt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patrols have been limited in this area due to a staff vacancy. • Mussel fishing detected on Ribble training wall before Christmas.
River Alt to River Dee- IFCOs Brownrigg, Taylor & Capper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint patrols with Mersey Port Health Authority along the North Wirral Coastline. • Adverse weather has hampered the use of Bay Protector. • Low level cockling and musselling was seen across the Wirral area. • Sporadic intertidal netting has been observed in the area. • Routine patrols focusing on rod angling.

General Update

- Five IFCO's attended the Torquay enforcement training course in January. The week long course gives officers a strong footing in marine fisheries enforcement and allows them to be issued with their warrants to carry out their core functions as officers.
- Byelaw 26/27 permits for the estuarine boxes expired on the 30th of November.

- Officers have been renewing safety certificates and completing training during the quieter winter months.
- The Intel project has been continuing with IFCO Waltho taking over as the Intel Officer based in Carnforth. Bi Weekly tasking & Coordination meetings are held and monthly meetings across the Northern Marine Area. This is leading to strategically led tasking of officers on intelligence led enforcement.
- IFCO Sirkett who is based in Whitehaven has been appointed permanently and will be completing training as an engineer.
- IFCO's Brownrigg and Sparks are progressing through the Officer Accreditation Scheme.

NIMEG

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

- Amongst which all organisations agreed to use personal checks for new IFCO recruits.
- All attendees were in agreement that all IFCA's should use standardised compliance forms such as fisheries inspection forms and manual of guidance forms for producing prosecution case files.
- It was recommended that organisations incorporate formal cautions into their sanctions policy.

Health and Safety

Operations Manager and Head of Enforcement held a meeting with the Authority's H&S contractor in January. Discussions centred on the continued process of risk profiling the activities of NWIFCA.

A number of risk assessments have been reviewed and amended when required in this quarter and it was decided to develop a spreadsheet to log any lone working to check the buddy system was being utilised.

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

Legislative changes

EU BASS regulations 2018

The European Union Council regulation 2019/120 was published in January fixing for this year the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks in Union waters. Within the regulation article 9 imposes the regulations on fishing for European seabass *Dicentrarchus labrax* for this year.

The following measures are included and apply to commercial vessels that have been issued authorisations (having demonstrated recorded catches between July 2015 and September 2016);

- No Bass fishing using any gear in February and March.
- Vessels using demersal trawls are limited to unavoidable by- catches not exceeding 100kg per month and 1% of the weight of the total catches of that day.
- Vessels using hooks and lines are not to exceed 5 tonnes per year.
- Vessels using Fixed gillnets are limited to unavoidable bycatch not exceeding 1.2 tonnes per year.

It is prohibited to commercially fish for seabass from the shore.

Recreational fisheries for seabass are catch and release only for the entire year.

Enforcement will be carried out by NWIFCA Officers in accordance with the compliance directive supplied by the Marine Management Organisation.

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	West Kirby Mussel	Ribble Training Wall Mussels
Overall Attendance (from returns)	Nov- 67 Dec- 5 Jan- 6	Nov- 784 Dec- 447 Jan- 413	Nov- 110 Dec- 157 Jan- 283	Nov- 14 Dec- 18 Jan- 7	Nov- 9 Dec- 16 Jan- 10
Av per day	<1	18	6	<1	<1
No. Inspected fishing	Nov- 4 Dec- 1 Jan- 0	Nov- 263 Dec- 133 Jan- 66	Nov- 0 Dec- 14 Jan- 92	Nov- 0 Dec- 1 Jan- 1	Nov- 0 Dec- 0 Jan- 0
No. MLS inspections	Nov- 0 Dec- 1 Jan- 0	Nov- 218 Dec- 84 Jan- 33	Nov- 0 Dec- 14 Jan- 70	Nov- 0 Dec- 1 Jan- 0	Nov- 0 Dec- 0 Jan- 0
Tides Covered by IFCO's	Nov- 1 Dec- 1 Jan- 0	Nov- 16 Dec- 5 Jan- 5	Nov- 0 Dec- 2 Jan- 5	Nov- 0 Dec- 1 Jan- 1	Nov- 0 Dec- 0 Jan- 0
Reported landings	19,306kg	387,613.5kg	119,117kg	24,800kg	3,914kg
Man Hours	392	7872.5	2437.5	64	108

West Kirby and Thurstaton Mussel Fishery

Science surveys identified a large stock of undersize mussels at the end of the summer. A small amount of good size mussel was identified in some deep gullies. A significant amount of interest was received regarding this stock as there is a good market demand for size mussel. 11 Dee transitional permits have been issued based on the criteria that fisherman could demonstrate that they had fished mussels in the Dee Estuary. Fishermen have accessed the fishery for limited catches throughout the winter.

Cockle Fisheries

Pilling Cockle fishery

Effort at the Pilling cockle fishery began to increase through the festive period with upwards of 30 Byelaw 3 permit holders prosecuting the fishery each day. Minimum landing size inspections conducted by IFCO's have encountered good size cockle.

Flookburgh Cockle Fishery

The Flookburgh cockle bed has seen the most consistent effort throughout this cockle season. Effort has continued regularly with a dip in the New Year as market forces leaned towards the Pilling fishery. IFCO Dixon has maintained a good level of cover at the fishery inspecting permits and conducting minimum landing size inspections

Leasowe Cockle Fishery

The Leasowe cockle bed has only seen sporadic interest from Byelaw 3 permit holders through this quarter. Far less landings have been reported than the other commercial beds. This is

believed to be because of the thinning of the bed. It is thought that the cockle stock may re aggregate in the spring.

Byelaw 3 returns

- Submission of Byelaw 3 returns dropped significantly in the autumn
- As a result there has been a significant compliance drive in November and December.
- 15 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). Two Official Warning Letters were issued in January.
- Sanctions have been escalated from advisory letters to official warning letters. There are 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.
- Anthony Graham 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.

Sanctions, Infringements and Court Activity

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

Sanctions	Comments
Verbal	
Advisory Letters	19- All for B3 returns
Official Warning Letters	14- All for B3 returns
Home office Cautions	
FAPs	
Permit Suspension	1- B3 returns
Prosecutions Pending	
Prosecutions	Rafal Swaitek- Fined <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £200 for obstruction • £250 for Byelaw offence • £30 victim surcharge • £1800 costs • £2280 total

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 and Leasowe
- Shore patrols surrounding beaches at St Bees

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