

NWIFCA Quarterly Meeting

6th December 2018: 11.00 a.m.

**AGENDA
ITEM NO.
7**

HEAD OF ENFORCEMENT QUARTERLY REPORT – 1ST AUGUST TO 31ST OCTOBER 2018

- **Recommendation:** that the report is received

Introduction

Area Summary

The Area summary for the quarter is given in the table below:

Area	Summary Points
Haverigg Point – Burgh Marsh Point – IFCOs Thinnesen and Sparks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shrimps: landings have been poor throughout the quarter. Prices and effort have been low in comparison with other years • Trawling: trawlers which targeted nephrops for most of the quarter saw landings of thornback rays, up to 11 boxes on some days, 6-8 boxes of plaice, and 3 – 20 boxes of dogs • Potting: lobster & brown crabs catches reduced throughout the quarter, which is the norm for this time of year. Landings of whelks has been mixed with catches between 1 – 15 tonnes for 3 days fishing • Angling: fishermen in St Bees area made some good landings of bass. Codling & coley have been caught through the darker hours. Anglers on the piers have seen small whiting, dab and plaice being caught, and dogs being caught more readily • Bait diggers & crabbers: bait diggers have been seen in small numbers, reportedly taking between 50 – 100 at times, and more for the commercial gatherers of between 200 – 500. Crabbers only collecting between 30 – 60 crabs, enough for 2 days fishing • Other duties: included crewing the North Western Protector to assist in boarding operations and general familiarisation of the vessel
Haverigg Point – Arnside – IFCO Dixon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shrimps: returns show poor catches, smaller size than usual, and fishermen having to buy in shrimps from elsewhere to fulfil orders. • Potting: 2 vessels working outside the district from Barrow, 1 vessel working occasionally inside the district, catches moderate. • Netting: lower effort than usual from vessels that target bass, due to higher numbers of bass under MLS, occasional reports of 20kg plus hauls. • Angling: 2 licensed vessels targeting Bass occasionally with rods, abundance of schoolie bass under MLS made catching size difficult. Recreational vessels observed on cod/pollack marks west of Walney Island. Shore angling remaining popular, areas such as Newbiggin were busy with recreational bass anglers sport fishing with good results, very occasional reports of anglers retaining undersize bass. Many locations on Walney, coast road and Greenodd remaining popular.

Arnside – Lytham IFCOs Waltho and Burdekin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cockles: 5 Individuals given verbal warnings for gathering cockles at Morecambe. On-going patrols of all beaches and cockle beds in responses to intelligence received. • Heysham Flat Seed Mussel fishery, see update below • Angling: two people reported for foul hooking at Arnside. • Sampling has continued to take place for Wyre and West Lancs Borough Councils
Dee- Southport – IFCO Brownrigg, Taylor and Capper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on routine enforcement work surrounding the North Penfold Cockle Fishery • Assisted enforcement at the Pilling cockle Bed • ATV patrols along North Wirral • Joint RIB and Shore patrols with MMO, Merseyside Police and Mersey Port Health Authority. • 9 Angling boats are fishing the Mersey cod Fishery

General Update

Staff

- All enforcement officers completed job reviews with line managers
- One officer took paternity leave from the 20th September
- Two IFCO's completed B+E car and trailer training and test.

NWIFCA Byelaw 3

The following is relevant to Byelaw 3 during the quarter:

- The quarter saw the end of the closed season with respect to cockles and NW&NWSFC Byelaw 13A in the Southern district and CSFC Byelaw 18 in the Northern district closures being implemented by TSB at the meeting in August.
- The quarter saw the renewal of NWIFCA Byelaw 3 permits for the 2018/2019 year. The current Byelaw 3 numbers are:
 - gathering permits:108
 - Potential maximum for renewal:126

Permit holders can now pay by card over phone which has streamlined the process of issuing permits.

Accreditation Scheme

As previously reported NWIFCA are engaged in a pilot scheme for a national level fisheries enforcement course to create a level 3 Qualifications Curriculum Framework (QCF) in Fisheries and Marine Enforcement. HoE will has been appointed as a Quality Assessor for the scheme and will undertake training to complete a Level 3 Award in Assessing Occupational Competence.

After the project stalled because of lack of capacity for assessing those who were taking part, recently IFCA's agreed there should be a national post to co-ordinate all training nationally managed by the Association of IFCA's. Appointment to the post took place in November

Reports on open fisheries

Three specific fisheries were open during the quarter. Included in the table below are the statistics relating to the management and enforcement of:

- Heysham Seed Mussel Fishery
- North Penfold Cockle Fishery
- Flookburgh/Leven Cockle fishery

Activity	Cockles		Mussels		
	North Penfold	Flookburgh/Leven	Ribble Training Walls	West Kirby	North Morecambe Bay
Overall Attendance (from returns)	August: 228	October: 600	August: 1 September: 16 October: 3	August: 10 September: October:	August: 75 September: 135 October: 32
Av per day	August: 7	October: 25 (average for 24 days)	All too low to average.	Too low to average.	August: 2 September: 5 October: 1
No. inspected fishing	August: 282	October: 512	August: 0 September: 0 October: 0	August: 2 September: 0 October:	August: 0 September: 0 October: 13
No. MLS inspections	N/A	October: 229	August: 0 September: 0 October: 0	August: 2 September: 2 October:	August: 0 September: 0 October: 21
Days covered by IFCO's	12	October: 14	August: 0 September: 0 October: 0	August: 1 September: 1 October:	August: 0 September: 0 October: 2
Reported landings	August: 102,967kg	October: 72,806kg	August: 750kg September: 6,420kg October: 750kg	August: 6,000kg September: October:	August: 86,468kg September: 152,164kg October: 31,675kg
Man hours	August: 960	October: 2,747	August: 4 September: 62 October: 12	August: 0 September: October:	August: 265 September: 531 October: 123

Heysham Seed Mussel Fishery

The Heysham seed fishery, opened on the 23rd July and continued throughout the quarter. The authorisation remains in place until 31/12/2018 but activity ceased in early September with an interruption during the initial opening of the North Penfold Cockle fishery. Summary points below:

- Maximum attendance was around 20 per day gathering tended to focus on big tides
- The authorisation for 2018 did not specify an access route – Lancaster CC required access to be via the Battery.
- There were no complaints from local residents this year although some dog walkers were displeased at being excluded from the access slipway specified by LCC.
- Issues with support workers gathering on the bed from one operator were alleged and in one case a person working for a buyer was found gathering mussels without either a support worker or full gathering permit. A £500 fixed administrative penalty was issued and paid therefore discharging the offender of liability.
- IFCOs continued to sign export documents on behalf of the Fish Health Inspectorate.

North Penfold Cockle Fishery

From the 30th July to 31st August Byelaw 3 permit holders were authorised to remove size and undersize cockle from the North Penfold Fishery in the Ribble Estuary. Prior to the opening a multi-agency group was formed of all relevant authorities and enforcement bodies.

From the opening of the fishery IFCOs maintained a checkpoint system checking permits as fishermen accessed the fishery. No offences were detected during the period of the authorisation. IFCOs noted an escalation of tension between the two main buyers at the fishery who were aggressively competing to buy cockles being landed. In some cases this led to Byelaw 3 permit holders not feeling comfortable working on the beach and actually not fishing. This issue has been discussed with the GLAA and the relevant Police Authorities.

Flookburgh/Leven Island Cockle Fishery

On the 8th of October the Authority authorised all Byelaw 3 permit holders to gather cockles from the Flookburgh and Leven cockle beds by craam only. There was also a restriction on the size of jumbos which could be used under the authorisation, all jumbos were inspected by officers at the start of the fishery.

The fishery operated well initially with around 20-30 fishermen working the fishery. The price was high, £2.00 per kilo was offered by buyers. Good compliance with the authorisation was observed initially but towards the end of October gatherers breached the authorisation by using rakes. Several individuals had gear seized. PACE interviews were held at Morecambe Police Station. HoE is preparing sanctions. A further eight people were cautioned for being in possession of a rake in breach of the authorisation and PACE interviews and sanctions are being prepared.

Shore Based Activity Report

A summary of shore based enforcement activity is given in the table below. Areas the IFCOs focused on this quarter were:

- North Penfold Cockle Fishery
- Pilling and Middleton Sands
- North Wirral and Dee Estuary
- Flookburgh Leven Sands Fishery
- Foulney Mussel Bed
- Heysham Flat Seed Mussel Fishery

Number of:	Haverigg Point – Burgh Marsh Point	Haverigg Point – Arnside –	Arnside – Knott End –	River Wyre – River Alt –	Mersey, Wirral and Dee
Shore patrols*	42	41	84		89
ATV patrols	1	11	12		9
ATV patrol hrs	2.92	19.21	19.83		16
ATV kms covered	27	179	139		246
Inspections under taken	270	437	144		269

*undertaken either by vehicle or on foot without using ATV

Maritime Activity Report

A brief summary of maritime enforcement activity during the quarter is given below. Full details of all patrols during the quarter are given within the tables below.

The new patrol vessel arrived in Whitehaven on the 5th July 2018.

The vessel was sailed from Holyhead to Whitehaven with Vice-Chairman Ron Graham accompanying the crew. On arrival NWIFCA member Tony Markley was waiting on the harbour to formally hand over the cheque for the purchase of the vessel to Holyhead Marine services.



The following two weeks the crew familiarised themselves with all the new equipment on the vessel.

On the 25th July 2018 as Members will be aware that we had the naming ceremony at Whitehaven harbour where the vessel was officially named by the HRH the Duke of Gloucester, along with a speech by NWIFCA chairman Paul Williams.

The vessel went into full service the following week and is performing well. In particular the new launch and recovery system (LARS) of the boarding RIB with officers on-board has greatly enhanced officer safety and efficiency of boarding operations. The future priority routine patrols, is for crew and science team to gain experience in planning and carrying out various scientific surveys and making the best possible use of the NWIFCA survey equipment.

Priorities/Patrols/ boarding's/and inspections statistics

- Patrol and monitor Plaice box area for compliance with byelaw 20
- 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 for compliance with EU legislation

- Input enforcement information and vessel activities into MCSS (Monitor and control surveillance system)
- Record data of nets
- Inspect nets for compliance with Byelaw 10 (3)
- Inspect vessels for compliance with EU fishing gear legislation
- 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 in both North Western Protector and Protector Bravo. The weather conditions have again this quarter been unsettled.

Patrols, boarding's and inspections of vessel's gear at sea using both North Western Protector and Protector Bravo, can be found in the table below. Compliance with byelaws and other EU legislation has on the whole been good, with only one verbal warning issued for a breach of byelaw 26.

The main areas of focus during the quarter were as follows:

Vessel	No of patrols	Patrol time (hrs)	Distance patrolled (nm)	Boarding's	Closings	Sightings	Static gear inspections
North Western Protector	16	115.42	1034	3	10	68	48
Protector Bravo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protector Gamma	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bay Protector	1	2.75	26	0	3	3	0
Zodiac Bravo	2	8.5	30.5	0	0	0	0
Totals for the quarter	19	126.67	1090.5	3	13	71	48

Sanctions, Infringements and Court Activity

There was no court activity during the quarter.

A total of 46 sanctions were applied during the quarter. See the table below.

Sanctions	Comments
Verbal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5 recreational gathering of cockles at Morecambe
Advisory Letters	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9 advisory letters issued for failure to supply returns
Official warning letters	12- Warning letters <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 11 for failure to supply B3 shellfish returns• 1 for fishing within the Heysham Bass Nursery Area
Home office Cautions	None
Fixed Administrative Penalty	15- FAPS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1- Fishing without a permit• 1 for Foul hooking• 2 for fishing whilst a permit suspension was in place• 1- Failure to supply returns• 10- Breach of the Flookburgh/Leven Authorisation
Permit suspension	3- Failure to supply returns
Prosecutions pending	2- Poaching of Cockles, Pilling Sands
Prosecutions	None

Annex B

Patrol Vessel	Patrol Date	Patrol Time (hrs)	Distance (nm)	Area Covered	Risk/ Purpose	Sectors Covered	No. Boardings	No. Closings	No. Sightings	No Static gear Inspections
North Western Protector	02.08.18	7.67	90	Sellafield, Ravenglass & Walney	Potting & netting activity Bass compliance	- Cumbria Coast MCZ - St Bees Head Voluntary Code of Practice	0	0	0	0
North Western Protector	03.08.18	7.5	21	West of Whitehaven	Potting & netting activity	- Cumbria Coast MCZ - St Bees Head Voluntary Code of Practice	0	0	0	0
North Western Protector	13.08.18	5.0	50	St Bees Head/W of Whitehaven	Potting, netting & trawling activity	- Cumbria Coast MCZ - St Bees Head Voluntary Code of Practice	0	0	1	0
North Western Protector	20.08.18	7.0	100	Black leg rock, St Bees Head, W of Whitehaven	Potting, netting & trawling activity	- Cumbria Coast MCZ - St Bees Head Voluntary Code of Practice	0	5	5	0
North Western Protector	21.08.18	6.0	60	NW corner, Maryport, Workington, Harrington	Potting & netting activity	- Cumbria Coast MCZ	0	0	2	0
North Western Protector	22.08.18	10.67	100	Ravenglass, Walney	Potting & netting activity Bass compliance	- Morecambe Bay EMS	0	0	1	0
North Western Protector	29.08.18	5.0	70	NW corner, Maryport	Potting, netting & trawling activity	- Cumbria Coast MCZ	0	0	6	0
North Western Protector	30.08.18	11.25	101	Walney	Potting activity	- Morecambe Bay EMS	1	0	13	23
North Western Protector	06.09.18	3.83	30	Harrington, Workington, Maryport & St Bees	Potting, netting & trawling activity	- Cumbria Coast MCZ - St Bees Head Voluntary Code of Practice	1	2	3	5
North Western Protector	24.09.18	4.0	32	NW corner	Trawling activity	- Cumbria Coast MCZ	0	3	3	0
North Western Protector	01.10.18	12.0	130	St Bees, Selker, Walney, Shell Flats	Potting & netting activity Bass compliance	- Cumbria Coast MCZ - Shell Flat SAC	0	0	8	0
North Western Protector	10.10.18	3.0	17	W of Whitehaven	Potting, netting & trawling activity	- Cumbria Coast MCZ	0	0	5	0
North Western Protector	17.10.18	8.5	75	NW corner & prawn grounds	Trawling activity	- Cumbria Coast MCZ	0	0	4	0

North Western Protector	18.10.18	8.5	70	Silloth, Maryport, Workington, W of Whitehaven	Potting, netting & trawling activity	- Solway Firth EMS - Cumbria Coast MCZ	1	0	12	20
North Western Protector	19.10.18	7.0	48	NW corner, Maryport & Workington	Potting, netting, trawling activity	- Solway Firth EMS - Cumbria Coast MCZ	0	0	4	0
North Western Protector	31.10.18	8.5	40	NW prawn grounds	Trawling activity	- Prawn pitch	0	0	1	0
Total	16	115.42	1034				3	10	68	48

Patrol Vessel	Patrol Date	Patrol Time (hrs)	Distance (nm)	Area Covered	Risk/ Purpose	Sectors Covered	No. boarding	No. Closings	No. Sightings	No static gear inspections
Bay Protector	26.09.18	2.75	26	River Mersey & Liverpool Bay	Recreation charter angling	Liverpool Bay SPA	0	3	3	0
Total	1	2.75	26				0	3	3	0

Patrol Vessel	Patrol Date	Patrol Time (hrs)	Distance (nm)	Area Covered	Risk/Purpose	Sectors Covered	No. of Boarding	No. of Closings	No. Of Sightings	No of Static gear Inspections
Zodiac Bravo	09.08.18	3	13	Heysham Skeer	Survey	Heysham Flat EMS NWIFCA byelaw 5	0	0	0	0
Zodiac Bravo	14.08.18	5.5	17.5	Heysham Skeer	Science inspection	Heysham Flat EMS NWIFCA byelaw 5	0	0	0	0
Total	2	8.5	30.5				0	0	0	0