

NWIFCA Quarterly Meeting

9th December 2016: 11.00 a.m.

**AGENDA
ITEM NO.
7**

HEAD OF ENFORCEMENT QUARTERLY REPORT – 1ST AUGUST TO 31ST OCTOBER 2016

Recommendations:

- That the report is received
- That the new format of the Enforcement report is approved

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"> • Trawlers had good catches of Thorn-back rays (top end being 13 boxes) - prices around £4.80 per kg • Quota issues with Cod have caused some vessels to move • Shrimp boats had an up and down month, some working the Scottish side (top end being 500 kg)- prices £2.80 & £3.20 per kg • Potting all but ended during the quarter • Around 12 licenced vessels were netting during the quarter • The beach netting remained closed during the quarter under CSFC Byelaw 10 • Anglers have been active over the quarter – particularly over the weekends
Haverigg Point – Arnside – IFCO Dixon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mussel gathering activity has reduced significantly over the quarter due to low stocks on Foulney. No activity on the Duddon occurred • Shrimping have struggled due to the small size of the shrimps • Very sporadic Bass catches for the boat sector – with some vessels seeing blanks • Shore based netting doing slightly better
Arnside – Knott End – IFCO Moulton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heysham seed fishery ran until mid-September • Shrimping continued through the quarter • Assisted with sampling of Cockles for classification of Pilling sands for Wyre council • Increased patrols at Heysham (NWIFCA Byelaw 5) over the height of the summer
River Wyre – River Alt – IFCO Walters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific effort has been put on MLS education in the Blackpool area over the summer • Shrimp tractors have been reasonably productive
Mersey, Wirral and Dee – IFCO Brownrigg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normal gathering of Bivalve molluscs on the N. Wirral coastline on the large tides • Angling sector been very active during the quarter

General Update

Staff

- All enforcement officers went through their appraisals
- Anthony Graham started on the 3rd October and is now running the day to day issuing of NWIFCA Byelaw 3 permits

- One officer was on paternity leave from the 19th September

NWIFCA Byelaw 3

The following is relevant to Byelaw 3 during the quarter:

- Byelaw 3 returns for the quarter are reported in Annex A
- 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 2016/2017 year. The current Byelaw 3 numbers are:

- 96 issued
- 22 that could be renewed
- 3 waiting list spaces under offer
- A total of 121 at time of writing

All permits are now being issued via the new database and in a plastic credit card format. The only compliance issues with respect to the permit renewal were the official warning letters for changes of address alluded to in the sanctions section below.

Inshore VMS

Inshore Vessel Monitoring System (iVMS) has been on the national agenda for some time. The current indications are that the implementation of iVMS will be done nationally by DEFRA via a Statutory Instrument (SI) – if ministerial approval is secured. The intention of the iVMS system is to provide coverage for under 12m vessels which are not captured by the VMS requirements within the control regulations (1224/2009).

Further developments are dependent on the following:

- Ministerial approval for the approach
- Securing of EMFF funding for the iVMS implementation
- Decisions on how many/which of the 2700 under 12m vessels in the fleet will be required to carry iVMS are still to be taken

Bass

The species continues to maintain its high media profile and the recent developments are jointly contained in the science report.

Accreditation Scheme

As previously reported NWIFCA are engaged in a pilot scheme for a national level fisheries enforcement course - a level 3 Qualifications Curriculum Framework (QCF) in Fisheries and Marine Enforcement.

NWIFCA's involvement is as follows:

- The HoE will soon complete training as a Quality Assessor (QA) – a level 3 Award in Assessing Occupational Competence.
- Three IFCOs (IFCOs Brownrigg, Sparks and Walters) will be taken through units 1 and 2 (see below)

To appraise members of the scheme some summary points are below:

- Centre for Marine Environmental Compliance Training (CMECT) hosts the scheme and is run by the MMO
- The scheme is being developed between the MMO, IFCA and Skills for Justice (SfJ) to meet High Level Objective 5 (good governance)
- The National Inshore Marine Enforcement Group (NIMEG) are the policy making body for the scheme – which the HoE attends

The scheme consists of the following units:

- Unit 1 – Understand Fisheries and the Marine Environmental Legislation
- Unit 2 – Understand Fisheries and Marine Enforcement Powers
- Unit 3 - Conduct Fisheries and Marine Enforcement Inspections
- Unit 4 – Conduct Fisheries and Marine Enforcement Investigations

The intention is 90% of all IFCOs and MEOs to have completed the scheme within three years.

Landing Obligations

The table below gives species (and gears) which will be subject to discard plans under the landing obligations within the IFCA district in 2017:

Gear	Species	Applicable to	Exemptions
Trawl/seine	Hake	All using specified gear	No
Gill/trammel/hook and line	Hake	Those meeting threshold	No
Trawls/seines/pots and traps	Nephrops	Those meeting threshold	Pot/creel catch can be discarded Catch from trawls can be discarded
Trawls and seines	Haddock	Those meeting threshold	None

More detail on the application of the threshold, and what that threshold will be are yet to be published.

Specific Fishery Report

Two specific fisheries were open during the quarter:

- Heysham seed fishery
- S. America, Perch/Black dredge fishery

S. America and Perch and Black Scar Dredge Fishery

The fishery finished during the quarter with the authorisations issued in July and fishing having started on the 12th July. An extension to the S. America authorisation was agreed by TSB on the 9th August. Perch/Black scar was authorised on the 27th August.

In summary:

- 4 vessels were authorised for the S. America fishery (3 who normally prosecute the fishery and one under 10m vessel not previously authorised)
- All four of these vessels fished to varying degrees following the typical pattern of fishing over slack tides

- Initial fishing was good with good catches of clean seed being found – especially between the 12th – 14th July
- Two vessels applied for authorisations to fish Perch/Black scar – with only one vessel fishing on the 7th September

The following total tonnages were removed:

- S. America –2700.9t
- Perch/Black scar – 60t

Compliance was good with the only sanction required being an official warning letter issued in response to a vessel failing to report out of the fishery on the 25th August.

Heysham Seed Mussel Fishery

The Heysham seed fishery, which had opened on the 25th July, continued during the quarter. While the authorisation remains in place activity ceased on the bed in early September. Summary points below:

- Attendance at the fishery was around 20 per day as a maximum
- Activity was sporadic due to the soft shell of the stock and temperature affecting market conditions
- Gathering tended to focus on big tides – with some gathering of size mussels on the very large tides
- The authorisation for 2016 did not specify an access route – Lancaster CC required access to be via the Battery as opposed to Oakley road as it was in 2015
- There were no issues with complaints from local residents etc. this year
- There were significant compliance issues with respect to the exclusion zone – see the sanctions section below
- The last point continues to be discussed with respect to further management measures

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:

- The Heysham seed authorisation
- Shore based inspections of potting and netting landings
- A number of the ATV patrols are IFCOs assisting with the cockle (and mussel) survey programme and shellfish hygiene sample runs
- Patrols with respect to angling were also increased as is normal in the summer months

Number of:	Haverigg Point – Burgh Marsh Point	Haverigg Point – Arnside –	Arnside – Knott End –	River Wyre – River Alt –	Mersey, Wirral and Dee
Shore patrols*	42	57	33	31	53
ATV patrols	2	12	9	6	5
ATV patrol hrs	4.72	22.5	16.6	19.2	10.25
ATV kms covered	27	198	116	84.25	114
Inspections under taken	158	83	107	10	163

*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 in Annex B below.

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

- 'Solway Protector' focused on inspections of potting compliance (CSFC Byelaws 25 and 26) and CSFC Byelaw 20 (Plaice box)
- 'Protector Bravo' was focused on potting compliance (CSFC Byelaws 25 and 26)
- 'Bay Protector' carried out two patrols focused on angling activity in the Mersey estuary
- 'Protector Gamma' was not used during the quarter. The vessel did successfully go through its annual coding inspection
- 'Zodiac Bravo' was not used during the quarter and is currently in long term storage pending use

Vessel	No of patrols	Distance patrolled	Time on patrol	Boarding's	Closings	Sightings	Static gear inspections
Solway Protector	10	490.9	61.41	0	32	52	0
Protector Bravo	3	119.9	9.17	1	25	27	24
Protector Gamma	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bay Protector	2	84	6	0	0	7	0
Zodiac Bravo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals for the quarter	15	694.8	76.58	1	57	86	24

Sanctions, Infringements and Court Activity

There was no court activity during the quarter.

A total of 22 sanctions were used during the quarter. The table below summarises these.

Sanctions	Comments
Verbal	13 in total: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 in relation to Byelaw 3 returns compliance • 5 in relation the Heysham authorisation • 1 in relation to an unmarked set net in the Rossall area
Advisory Letters	1 in total: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In relation to one undersized Bass in Silecroft area
Official warning letters	8 in total: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 in relation to Byelaw 3 change of address • 4 in relation Heysham authorisation • 1 in relation to S. America dredge authorisation – failure to report out of the fishery
Home office Cautions	None
FAPs	None
Prosecutions pending	None
Prosecutions	None

Annex A

Beds fished within the district	• 4
Number permit holders who fished	• 35
Tonnage gathered	• 296t (296,001kg)

Annex B

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
Solway Protector	18/08/16	5.75	60.5	Selker/Prawn pitch/Workington	Nephrops activity & static gear	B20 plaice box	0	17	17	0
Solway Protector	23/08/16	2.75	11.4	West of Whitehaven	H&S risk assessments		0	0	0	0
Solway Protector	24/08/16	6.33	59.7	Prawn pitch/Blackleg Rock/Workington	Nephrops activity & static gear	B20 plaice box	0	11	11	0
Solway Protector	10/10/16	14.00	74.6	Fishery patrol & survey	Mussel survey - Silloth	B20 plaice box & Solway Firth EMS	0	0	0	0
Solway Protector	11/10/16	6.83	52.0	Prawn pitch/ Workington	Nephrops activity & static gear	B20 plaice box	0	1	1	0
Solway Protector	12/10/16	6.00	68.6	W of Sellafield/ Blackleg Rock/ Whitehaven/Maryport/ Workington/Parton	Nephrops activity & static gear	B20 plaice box	0	3	3	0
Solway Protector	15/10/16	5.00	56.00	Prawn pitch/Selker/ Workington	Nephrops activity & static gear	B20 plaice box	0	0	9	0
Solway Protector	25/10/16	7.33	74.0	Prawn pitch/ West of St Bees	Nephrops activity & static gear	B20 plaice box	0	0	10	0
Solway Protector	26/10/16	4.75	18.1	Scallop Bank	Trawling for scallops		0	0	1	0
Solway Protector	28/10/16	2.67	16.0	South west of St Bees Head	Nephrops activity & static gear	B20 plaice box Cumbria Coast MCZ	0	0	0	0
Total		61.41	490.9				0	32	52	0
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	17/09/16	4	70	Ravenglass to Maryport	Static gear, bass	Cumbria Coast	1	25	27	1

Bravo					activity	MCZ				
Protector Bravo	11/10/16	2.25	23.6	Sellafield to Workington	Static gear, bass activity	B20 plaice box & Cumbria Coast MCZ	0	0	0	10
Protector Bravo	13/10/16	2.92	26.3	Whitehaven to Workington	Static gear & bass activity	B20 plaice box	0	0	0	13
Totals		9.17	119.9				1	25	27	24
Bay Protector	28/08/16	3	50	River Mersey	Angling activity		0	0	2	0
Bay Protector	13/10/16	3	34	River Mersey & Liverpool Bay	Angling activity		0	0	5	0
Totals		6	84				0	0	7	0