

Summer 2022

## GEARING UP FOR A BUSY SUMMER

Over the last few months our team has been busy completing training in time for the busy summer months including RYA Day Skipper practical courses and Yacht Master Theory courses.

With the recent protests around the various oil terminals in Essex, our team has been fully committed to providing support along the River Thames corridor to both other departments in our organisation as well as working closely with our colleagues at the Port Of London Authority.

While down there, we have also had the opportunity to carry out some joint training with our colleagues from Border Force.



Border Force RHIB Practicing A Lock-On Tactic Alongside Our Launch

Despite this we are preparing ourselves for another busy summer period, ensuring that we continue to keep everyone safe along our coast and waterways. This includes our Operation Wave-Breaker which will run from May to September.

We will again be attending local marine community events and regattas as well as club events. Please get in contact with us early to arrange our attendance.



The Alert IV Making Her Way Past Tilbury (photo from twitter)



For up-to-date information about **Coronavirus (COVID-19)** in Essex, please check [essex.gov.uk/coronavirus](https://essex.gov.uk/coronavirus)\* and make sure you **#StaySafeEssex**

[thurrock.gov.uk](https://thurrock.gov.uk)

\* in **Thurrock**, please check [thurrock.gov.uk/coronavirus](https://thurrock.gov.uk/coronavirus)

[southend-on-sea.gov.uk](https://southend-on-sea.gov.uk)

or in **Southend-on-Sea**, please check [southend-on-sea.gov.uk/coronavirus](https://southend-on-sea.gov.uk/coronavirus)

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[essex.police.uk](https://essex.police.uk)

**IN AN EMERGENCY  
ALWAYS CALL 999**

## Ship Boardings

Another of our responsibilities includes boarding vessels entering our waters and gathering any intelligence that can be passed to the National Maritime Information Centre and our partner agencies such as Border Force.

Last week we boarded this beautiful cruise liner that was entering the Thames Estuary on her way to berth next to HMS Belfast.

We were welcomed aboard and had the opportunity to speak with the Captain and his crew on the bridge about issues such as how modern day slavery affects the cruise industry, signs to look for and who to raise any concerns to.

Our team are trained to be able to board ships of all different sizes whether they are moving or at anchor and in calm or choppy seas.



We also board smaller vessels to establish their route and ascertain if there are any risks associated with the passage they are on. Again, any information of relevance is acted on or passed to the relevant agency for development.

We recently intercepted this boat after our suspicions were raised around her route. It turned out the vessel was being delivered by a crew from the south coast

We were also joined on this particular occasion by the team from BBC Look East who were with us to learn more about our work and see first-hand what we do.



We are a team of Essex Police Officers based at Burnham on Crouch who have responsibility for Policing the entire coastline of Essex from Mistley in the North right round to Crayford Ness on the border with the Metropolitan Police as well as the inland waters.

The team consists of 1 Sgt and 5 Pcs, however we are supported by 2 Special Constables and are able to utilise 12 marine reserve officers from across the force when required.

We have a 42ft launch (Alert 4), a 24ft RHIB (Sentinel) and also have joint use of a Seadoo PWC (jet ski) which Maldon District Council purchased for us to patrol on.

We conduct patrols both on the water and land and our primary focus is -

- ◆ Ensuring the coastal and inland waters of Essex are safe for everyone to use
- ◆ Reducing Marine related crime and tackling water based anti-social behaviour
- ◆ Being visible in our Marine Community
- ◆ Engaging with our Community to ensure we understand their concerns and act accordingly to resolve them

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Including Essex inland waterways



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## East Of England Paddle Sports At Osea Island

Attending Community events is a significant part of our job and we are really pleased to announce that we will be supporting the ever-growing East Of England Paddle Sports Club this year. The popularity of paddleboarding and kayaking has increased over the last couple of years and has made the water more accessible to so many more people.

Last week we attended the Round Osea Island event organised by the club where we were warmly received and had the chance to meet so many of our Marine Community. We are really looking forward to their next events.



## Maldon 999 Services Day



There was a good turn out to the Maldon 999 Services Day last month. We took our Maldon District Council PWC along to try and draw in the crowds but as always, it was the Essex Police Dogs who were the stars of the day.

Members of the public were able to learn more about the different capabilities of Essex Police, discuss their concerns affecting the Marine Community and discuss keeping safe on the water.

## Op Wave Breaker

On 2nd May our Operation Wave Breaker patrols started up again and it wasn't long before a PWC rider was stopped in the River Colne at Brightlingsea/Point Clear due to the manner of their riding.

The rider was reported to the local council with a view to court action being taken.

As with last year, we aim to keep our waters safe for everyone to use and as such, will take every opportunity to support prosecutions for those who put other's safety at risk.

ASB on the water is one of the main issues affecting the Marine Community and our team is committed to tackling it. However, we need to know about it and we do need to know via the correct channels so that we can build an accurate picture of where our hot-spots are along the coast.

To report Anti-Social Behaviour on the water you can call 101 or use the live-chat on our website.

Always call 999 in an emergency.



## Migrant Vessels

Over the last few weeks we have had several reports of large RHIBs being found washed up on the Essex Coastline. These have been vessels which have been used for migrant channel crossings.

When these large vessels are located by the authorities in the channel, the occupants are removed and the vessels are marked up with a reference number before being set adrift. Unfortunately there isn't always the capacity to recover the vessels and so the reference number on the side of them allows them to be paired up with a specific incident when they are located washed up on the shore.

If you find one of these vessels either on the shore or afloat, please always ring 999.



## Our 5 Top Tips For Staying Safe On The Water

### 1. *Wear a Lifejacket or Buoyancy Aid*

Wearing a lifejacket will help keep you afloat in an emergency. Consider what would happen if you fell in the water and couldn't get back to your boat/board/PWC...

### 2. *Tell someone on the shore where you are going and how long you expect to be out there*

If you found yourself in trouble and were unable to contact help, having somebody ashore to raise the alarm if you don't return when expected could be the difference between life or death

### 3. *Take a phone with you*

Waterproof phone cases are available from various outlets including from your local RNLI store.

### 4. *Check the tides and weather*

Knowing the local tides and weather forecast can prevent you getting caught out on the water. Various web sites provide daily tide times and weather forecasts. You can also find the information at your local Harbour master's office.

### 5. *Ensure your kit is working and reliable*

Taking the time to check your kit for damage and ensuring the safety systems work before you go out on the water will prevent you finding out it isn't when you need it most.

**If in doubt—don't go out!!**



**Digital 101**

You can report non-emergency crime by calling **101** or by using **Digital 101**, our quick and easy to use online service that's available at any time.



**Digital 101** is available on the Essex Police website: [essex.police.uk](https://www.essex.police.uk)



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BILL**