

October 2021

OP WAVE-BREAKER PATROLS HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT

Between April and September this year we have been running Operation Wave-Breaker. This saw additional targeted patrols each weekend across the Essex coast to tackle anti-social behaviour on the water. We increased our presence at locations known for suffering from PWC (jetski) related ASB such as Steeple Bay on the River Blackwater and Point Clear on the River Colne. We have conducted joint patrols at locations such as Southend to not only enforce local bylaws but also engage and educate users of the water.

Between May and September, as part of our Wave-Breaker patrols, the team conducted;

- 29 deployments
- 135 stop checks
- Spent 202 hours on the water
- 73 PWCs stopped
- 4 PWC riders reported for Court action

This is in addition to our usual shore and water patrols.

This summer we saw an overall reduction in reports of

PWC ASB across the coast. That said, there is still an issue and we will continue working with our partners to reduce this and increase safety on the water for everyone.

We have seen some shocking reports of behaviour this year including a photo of a PWC racing through the Colne Barrier at speed with a small child with a dummy in it's mouth!

We stopped a PWC near Maldon where the rider had no idea how to ride his craft safely and ended up colliding with us. Twice! When told to turn the engine off, they replied, "I don't know how".



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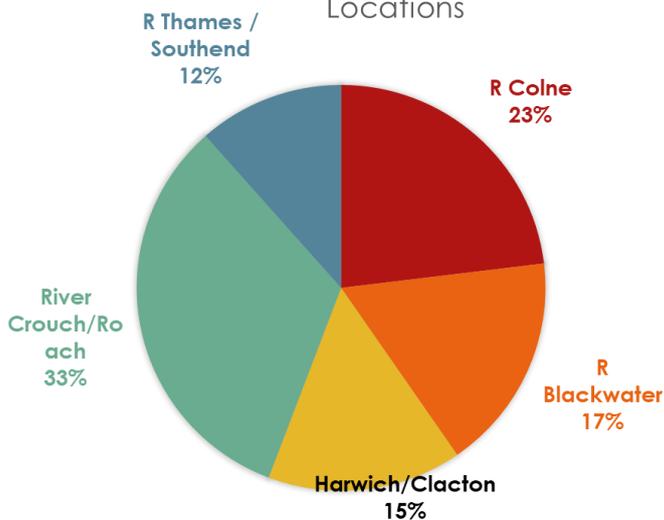


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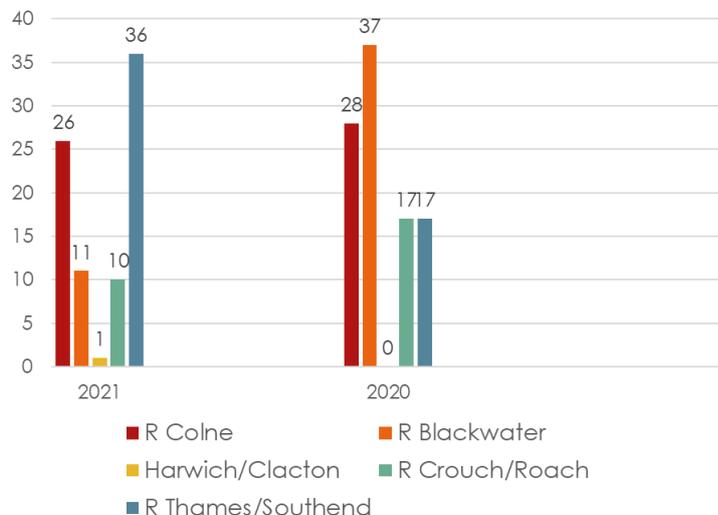
**IN AN EMERGENCY
ALWAYS CALL 999**

Operation Wave-Breaker Figures

Percentage Of Time Spent In Locations



PWC ASB Totals For Each Area 2021/2020



- ▶ We received 99 reports of PWC ASB in 2020
- ▶ There were 84 reports of PWC ASB in 2021
- ▶ Southend/R Thames saw a significant rise in PWC ASB
- ▶ The River Colne saw a very slight reduction
- ▶ The River Blackwater/Maldon has seen a significant reduction in PWC ASB
- ▶ The Rivers Crouch/Roach saw a reduction in PWC ASB
- ▶ Harwich/Clacton saw a rise from 0 last year to 1 this year

- ▶ There was a significant spate of PWC ASB in March and June on River Thames /Southend
- ▶ Overall the River Thames/Southend has had the highest number of PWC ASB with 36 reports
- ▶ Harwich/Clacton had just 1 report of PWC ASB at Dovercourt Bay
- ▶ The River Colne (Brightlingsea/Point Clear) continues to suffer with ASB but did see a reduction in August compared to June and July
- ▶ The River Blackwater/Maldon has had a fairly low level compared to other areas
- ▶ The River Crouch continues to suffer with PWC ASB, particularly at Hullbridge. However, also lower than other areas

Our RHIB was signed off for use in July after a significant re-fit. This has made a huge difference to our patrol time and allowed us to cover more areas during a shift.

After only a couple of days back on the water, the RHIB and her crew came to the rescue of a person in distress in the water at Holland on Sea. This resulted in PC Paul Rawson being awarded a Chief Constable's Certificate of Merit for his actions.

A few days later, Sentinel was back in action again when she came to the rescue of two paddle-boarders on the River Colne who had been caught out by the tide and weather.



WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?

River Colne - PC Paul Rawson — Over the last 3 months we have been working closely with local councillors and the Harbour Master at Brightlingsea to reduce Anti-social use of launch points on the river Colne. We are currently finalising plans to control access to Stone Point (Point Clear) and hope to have this in place prior to next season.

We continue to work with Colchester Borough Council and have successfully prosecuted persons using the river in an anti-social way, which in turn has helped to reduce reports Anti-Social Behaviour. We are also developing plans for a Public Space Protection Order for the river and plan to run a pilot scheme in 2022 for Water Safety Awareness as an alternative to prosecutions, this will hopefully include a proposed Code of Conduct for River users.

We have been working closely with our Community Policing Teams, including joint Street Meeting at Rowhedge and hope to have more of these in the coming months. We will also be training members of our CPT on how to spot and deal with Anti social behaviour on the water to increase our ability to deal with these type of incidents.

Clacton/Harwich - PC John Perry—Since the last circulation we have been busy with community engagement events at Ha'penny Pier with Border Force, Royal Harwich Yacht Club inter club AGM, Harwich Haven Authorities Swim safe program at Dovercourt, Joint patrols with Clacton Beach Patrol promoting water safety, North Essex boat jumble and a brief appearance at the Harwich Sea Shanty festival before being diverted to an incident on the Orwell.

We have been conducting patrols and training during the hours of darkness and look forward to conducting more joint patrols and training with our partners in Border force, HM Coast guard and the RNLI. Despite the winter we shall continue our patrols by land and sea, but should you see anything that looks suspicious please let us know, no matter how large or small.

You will see us joining our Community Policing Teams at events around the county over the coming months, so come along and express any concerns you may have. These events will be promoted on the @EPmarine Twitter account along with the Essex Police – Tendering District Facebook page.

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IN AN EMERGENCY
ALWAYS CALL 999

As the nights close in and we look to lay up vessels for the winter please consider additional security measures, whether that be outboard locks, removing engine cowling's, security marking, hasp & staples on hatches, removing items that others could easily remove, installing alarms/trackers etc. If you would like more information with regards to security advice, please contact us. Earlier in the month I received information of a stolen vessel from North of the county and within the same duty, located and recovered the vessel due to the vessel being appropriately marked and photos of the vessel being provided.

Southend/River Thames - PC Ian Newling—

The last few months have seen a decline in reported Anti-Social Behaviour along the Thames with the weather playing a big part in this. Looking forward to next Spring/Summer, I am preparing plans to increase the Marine Police visibility on the water using our newly refitted Rhib and a PWC that has been kindly donated by Maldon District Council. I will also be increasing the number of joint patrols with our partners from Southend Pier and Foreshore and the Port of London Authority as a collaborative effort to reduce the number of Anti-Social incidents that are reported.

As we are all aware there has been record numbers of migrants crossing the channel this year, fortunately the numbers found in the Thames Estuary are low. However, in the last few months there has been a slight increase of related activity. Please could I ask you all to report any sightings or suspicious activity whether on land or water immediately to the Coastguard on "999", including quantities of marine equipment floating in the water or on the shoreline that looks out of place.

Rivers Crouch and Roach - PC Dawn Wood —

This year we have continued to work closely with the Crouch Harbour Authority to try and keep the river safe for everyone. We have had some reports of water based anti-social behaviour in the area of Hullbridge and so increased our presence in the area to tackle it. Overall this year we saw a reduction in the number of ASB reports for the Crouch and so next year we will be working hard to continue that downward trend. I would ask you all to make sure that all reports of ASB are reported to us either via 101, the do-it-online portal on the Essex Police website or if deemed an emergency/risk to life—999. Lastly, please take some time to check that your boats and equipment are secured safely over the winter months.



Our team provided support at the Clacton 150 Flight Display in August

River Blackwater - PC Daren Chambers -

We were really pleased to see the Blackwater getting back to near normality this summer. Events were back on and it was great to see people enjoying the water.

The latest addition to our fleet – a PWC/Jet ski (very kindly provided by Maldon Council) is already bringing substantial benefits to our operational capabilities and you may have seen us on the local news and in the local papers! We are really enjoying engaging with responsible local PWC users and providing information about the local bylaws to less experienced riders. Information about the bylaws on the River Blackwater can be found on most slipways, but if you would like more detailed information please feel free to contact me.

I am really pleased to report a reduction in the reported incidences of antisocial behaviour on the water compared to this time last year. We are however, currently in the process of prosecuting 2 PWC riders and 1 powerboat owner for breaking bylaws on the River Blackwater and Tollesbury fleet. I would like to thank everyone that has been in contact with us to report issues, please keep doing it so together we can make the water a safe place to be.

During the winter months I will be attending some land based community events. We publicise these on Twitter, so if you'd like to meet us and find out more please about the Marine Unit to would like to discuss any marine issues then please do come along.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

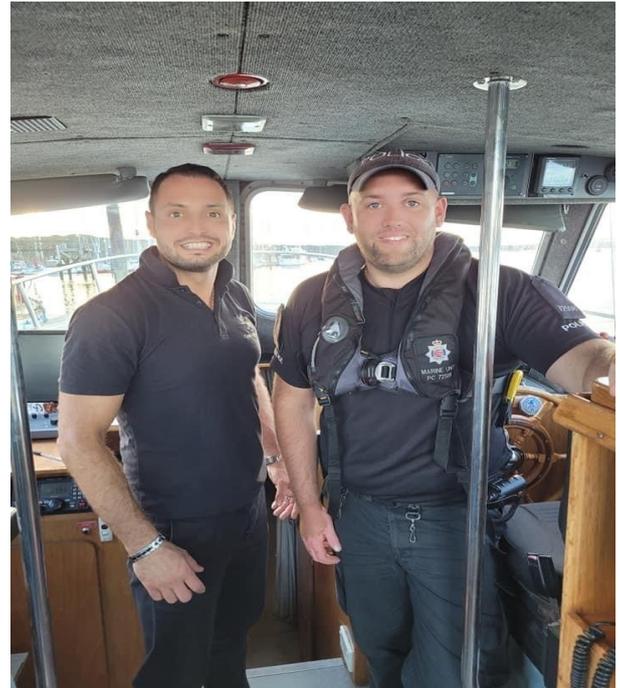
Community Engagement is one of the most important aspects of our role. It affords us so much, from the chance to hear your views and concerns to providing you with reassurance, advice and an insight in to our role and capabilities. Here are some of the events we have attended in the last couple of months—



Clacton 150 Flight Display



Lakeside 999 Emergency Day



Pc Perry at the Royal Harwich Yacht Club AGM



PCs Newling and Chambers visit Caroline Community Radio

Over the next few months keep an eye out on our twitter page for further events including the Colne Yacht Club Fireworks on 4th Nov and a Community Street Meet at Ha'penny Pier, Harwich on 13th Nov with Tendring community Policing Team.



DOG WALKING SAFETY ADVICE

It's probably not something that immediately springs to mind when you think of water rescues but in 2017 there were 91 RNLI launches to dog walking incidents around the UK coast.

The RNLI have provided the following safety advice when walking your dog at the coast -

- *Keep me on a lead if we're close to cliff edges or fast flowing rivers.*
- *If I go into the water or get stuck in mud, don't go after me. Move to a place I can get to safely and call me - I'll probably get out by myself.*
- *If you're worried about me, call 999 or 112 and ask for the Coastguard.*

This month we caught up with the RNLI crew at Harwich. They came out for a trial of our RHIB before showing us around their fantastic Severn Class Lifeboat. Impressive doesn't come close to describing both their vessels and the dedication and bravery of the crew there. The Severn Class boat is celebrating 25 years of service and Harwich was the first Station to receive one back in 1996. In another more recent first for the station, Di Brown has taken up the helm of this very same craft as the first female coxswain of an RNLI all-weather lifeboat. We have organised some joint training over the coming months and have been able to assist them on some of their shouts recently.



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)



If you, or anyone you know, is interested in protecting and serving Essex, you can follow us on social media, or search #FitTheBill

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