

Welcome to Kent marine update

This newsletter, provided by Kent Police, gives the latest information on property that has been stolen from Kent's marine community and the surrounding areas.

Kent Police works with partners including the Port of London Authority, Medway Port Authority, Maritime Coastguard Agency and Local Councils to patrol Kent's waterways and keep the county's marine community safe.

If you have any information that you would like us to include in future editions of this newsletter, please contact the Kent Police Marine Unit on 01622 798565 or email 8182@kent.pnn.police.uk

Harassment of marine wildlife

Over the past few weeks there have been incidents of Marine Wildlife being harassed by vessels. This can include merely being too close to wildlife or actually chasing the animals. Sadly we have also had several seals deliberately mutilated and killed in the Thames Estuary.

This is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and action will be taken against anyone who interferes or harasses a wild animal. Kent Police has a dedicated officer for wildlife crime issues, Sergeant Andy Small, and he can be contacted on 01622 690690. If you have any information about the seal deaths or wish to report an incident of animal harassment, please contact Sergeant Small or Sergeant Mark Wigston.

Find out what's happening in your community

For safety advice and information, the latest crime statistics, details of your neighbourhood policing team or to find out how we are taking action to deal with priorities in your area, visit the Kent Police website: www.kent.police.uk

For all enquiries and non-urgent crime reports, call **01622 690690**.
In an emergency, if a crime is in progress or life is in danger, call **999**.

Operational and Community Engagements

Operation Badge

This month we again carried out this operation to intercept vessels in the Thames, in conjunction with the Essex Police, UK Border Agency and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. During the operation, officers boarded a number of craft to speak to the owners. This operation will be conducted on a regular basis to ensure our waters are safe and crime-free.



Future Events

Maidstone River Festival – 31 July

Officers from the Marine Unit will be at this year's Maidstone River Festival, an annual event for the past 25 years or so which attracts large numbers of vessels and spectators.

Emergency Services Day – 7 August

Officers from the Marine Unit will be at the Littlestone Emergency Services day at the Littlestone Lifeboat Station. This multi-agency event attracts large numbers of people and runs between 10am and 4pm.

Whitstable Harbour Day – 14 August

This will be a static display with the opportunity to meet some officers from the unit and find out a bit more about what we do.