Project Kraken Newsletter
Crime & Counter Terrorist Strategy
"Protecting the waters of the Solent"
Autumn 2010

Project Kraken

Update

Over the past few months we have continued to see the membership to Project Kraken increase significantly. I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Harbourmasters and marina management that have included information on Project Kraken in their annual packages that they send to their berth holders. If any marinas/harbourmaster office would like to include something, please e-mail project.kraken@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

I would also like to thank the marina/sailing clubs that invite Marine Unit Officers to attend and give talks to their members about the unit and Project Kraken as well as Crime Prevention advice.

Reports

We still continue to receive various Project Kraken reports following suspicious activity. It is very difficult to decide what is suspicious or out of place, but if you feel in the slightest bit uncomfortable about something you have seen then report it to Kraken. It may be the piece of the jigsaw that's needed. Let the Police decide if it's anything untoward, no one will criticize you if everything is in order. By us working together we can help combat and reduce criminal activity and we may even prevent a terrorist attack.

These are some examples of reports that we have received.

A RIB with two youths on board was seen to pull up to a pontoon, where two yachts were moored. They climbed onto the pontoon and were looking into one of the boats. When they were seen by the informant they made off. The description of the males were taken by police and passed on to the harbourmaster. There were no further reports in relation to this.

Police received a report of a boat that had anchored off the Isle of Wight, during an evening. Once it had anchored all it's lights were turned off. The police notified the coastguard and Marine Unit Officers made enquiries and looked into the incident. The informant was updated on the outcome of the enquiries.

Marine Crime Update

In the Project Kraken newsletter as part of the crime summary, arrests that have been made are included. Following some recent feedback there will now be a section included about any convictions in relation to marine crime.

In June this year two males appeared in court and were convicted, following arrests made after a Rib had been stolen from the Warsash area.

Earlier this year we circulated information on thefts that had occurred on the River Itchen and how Project Kraken reports had assisted in the arrests. The offenders have appeared in court and were convicted.

In our last crime summary you were notified of two males that were arrested for theft from boats at Ashlett Creek. These males have since appeared in court and were convicted for the offences.

Through a recent Project Kraken circulation we drew your attention to the criminal activity that had been occurring across Southampton Water. Following a police investigation there have been arrests made in relation to this. The offenders have also been linked to marine offences on the River Hamble. Currently the investigation is still ongoing.

We will continue to keep you updated on any convictions in relation to marine crime in Hampshire & Isle of Wight.

T: 0845 045 45 45
E: project.kraken@hampshire.pnn.police.uk
W: www.hampshire.police.uk/kraken

Project Kraken Newsletter

Crime & Counter Terrorist Strategy

"Protecting the waters of the Solent"

Crime Summary

September

Although this month the level of marine crime has been low, small outboard engines still seem to be a popular choice for thieves. These seem to have been stolen from the back of moored dinghies.

An Avon Jet Rib was stolen from outside the owner's property in Swanwick. Circulations have been done, but the RIB still remains outstanding.

Police were alerted to a suspicious boat that had been moored on the River Itchen. Enquiries were made into the boat, which had been stolen. The owner was traced and the boat returned to him.

A Seadoo 3D jetski was stolen from outside the owner's property in Calshot. The offender(s) attempted to steal a second one from the same address, however they were unsuccessful. The jetski still remains outstanding.

October

October saw very little marine crime, but did see the unusual theft of the racing buoys used by Lymington Royal Yacht Club!

An Avon 620 Rib fitted with a Yamaha 115hp outboard engine was stolen on its trailer from outside the owner's property in Beaulieu. The Rib & engine have been circulated, but still remain outstanding

A Rib fitted with a Yamaha 25hp outboard engine belonging to Beaulieu River Sailing Club was stolen from the public slipway. It was later recovered by the Royal Southampton Yacht Club.

November

November saw an increase in criminal activity across Southampton Water. Boats on mid-river moorings have been targeted with the offenders gaining entry to the boats and then stealing items from inside. The River Hamble subsequently experienced a similar spate of theft from moored boats. A police investigation was launched in relation to these incidents and the results of the prompt forensic examination of the boats proved fruitful. Two youths have been arrested and a substantial amount of property has been recovered. At this time the investigation is still ongoing.

The marine crimes across Southampton Water that have not been linked to the offenders arrested are being looked at separately.

T: 0845 045 45 45
E: project.kraken@hampshire.pnn.police.uk
W: www.hampshire.police.uk/kraken

If you do have any information in relation to any of the thefts mentioned in the newsletter or any marine crime, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Crime Prevention Advice

REMOVE IT, LOCK IT AND MARK IT

There is only one way to guarantee that your property will not be stolen from your boat and that is to **TAKE IT HOME**.

We understand that this is not always possible but try to look at your boat as you leave it and consider how it looks to a potential thief. Ensure attractive items you are leaving are out of sight or locked away.

Take a moment to consider how you would get into your boat if you were locked out. This is probably the way the thief will try, so improve your security with effective locks which will last in the marine environment.
Look at the equipment stored on your boat such as outboard motors and dinghies and use appropriate security devices to secure them.

There are many different types of alarm, far too many to cover here. Speak to other club members and boat users; discuss the pros and cons, what do you want it to do? If your system notifies you someone is on board your boat will you be in a position to respond to it?

We strongly recommend additional means of marking. We acknowledge that this will not stop your things being stolen but it increases the chances of us being able to return them to you. The important thing is to use a system which will allow the finder to identify you, such as a house or club post code or phone number but they must be current so remember to update them. Ensure that the marks are clearly visible and difficult to remove.

Support this by marking them out of sight, so that there is still something to check if the obvious marks are removed. Liquid marking systems are another effective means of marking property which could be considered.

Take photographs of your property, as they say a 'picture is worth a thousand words'

There is also some evidence to support the view that if property is clearly marked it is a less attractive item to sell. If the thief can't sell it – why steal it?

The other benefit to recording serial numbers and marking your items is the improved chances we have of prosecuting offenders. A number of recent prosecutions have rested on our ability to prove that the property is stolen. There is nothing more frustrating than having to return an outboard to someone because we can't prove it was the stolen one from your boat.

The culture of buying second hand goods is well established but please don't assume that the property is legitimate. Check out as much as you can about the property and the seller.

IF THE DEAL SEEMS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE IT USUALLY IS!

Feedback

Project Kraken is at this time very much a work in progress. We hope that the changes that have we have made to it so far have been found both beneficial and useful to you.

We always welcome feedback on Project Kraken, whether that may be feedback on incidents that you may have reported or suggestions on how we can improve the service that we provide through Project Kraken. If you would like to provide any feedback then please e-mail project.kraken@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

Morocco Alarmed over Rise in Cocaine Smuggling

Morocco is alarmed by the rise in the amount of cocaine being smuggled from South America to Europe though its territory, Moroccan Foreign Minister Taieb Fassi Fihri said Wednesday in Spain. "Today it is not soft drugs that are being trafficked between Africa and Europe. Today we are extremely worried by this flow of hard drugs like cocaine which come essentially from South America," International drug trafficking gangs ship the cocaine from South America by air or sea first to West Africa from where it is then transported to Morocco, the minister said. It is then flown from Morocco to Spain. "There are planes which regularly come to take cocaine from Morocco and take it to southern Europe, especially Spain." Last month Moroccan authorities announced they had dismantled a drug ring which they said had ties to Al-Qaeda's North African affiliate as well as Latin American drug cartels and which brought cocaine and marijuana from Colombia and Venezuela to Mali and on to Morocco and Europe. Morocco has long been a major source of the cannabis which is consumed in the European Union.
Source: AFP 11/3/10

KRAKEN: - This is a regular topic for Kraken newsletters especially with the nature of our coast and the multiple locations for clandestine landings.

Two Men in Harwich Ferry Quay Drugs Arrest

Two men wearing wetsuits have been arrested on suspicion of drug smuggling offences after being pulled out of a river in Essex. Police said the pair was reported to be in the River Stour, off Parkestone Quay, Harwich, near to the ferry Stena Britannica at about 0600 GMT. The two were pulled out on the Felixstowe side of the quay and taken to hospital for checks. Three other men found nearby in a vehicle were later arrested. All five have been arrested on suspicion of drug offences.

Bermuda Smugglers Floating Drugs with GPS

Drug smugglers are flying under the radar by dropping floating packages at sea to be picked up by local fishing boats. Customs officials believe criminals are using global positioning satellite (GPS) technology to direct vessels to shipments tossed from the sides of passing yachts. The method is one of the biggest loopholes in Bermuda's border protection efforts.
William Pearman, assistant collector of Customs, said: —Bermuda is surrounded by water. —A fishing vessel can go to Challenger Banks unchallenged and return unchallenged. We need to look beyond the immediate entry points. It doesn't take much to import a shipment of drugs — you don't have to go through the controls because you can bypass them."
Source: Bermuda Sun 11/28/10

Three Dutch held in Spanish Drugs Raid

Spanish police have seized 20 tons of hashish from a Dutch-flagged fishing boat off the coast of Morocco, and arrested three Dutch nationals on board, Spain's customs service said Friday. It was "the biggest maritime operation against drug traffickers in the last 10 years," the service said in a statement.
Customs agents spotted the 40-metre boat the "Nancy-II" on Thursday in international waters off the coast of Morocco. It was intercepted, with the authorisation of the Dutch government, and the three people on board, were arrested. The vessel was then brought to the southwestern Spanish port of Cadiz.
Since early September, Spanish police have seized more than 12 tonnes of hashish in four operations, most of it at sea.
Source: AFP 11/12/10

KRAKEN: - The continued threat from drug smugglers into the UK persist; the south coast and especially the busy waterways around the Solent and the Isle of Wight are particularly vulnerable.

T: 0845 045 45 45
E: project.kraken@hampshire.pnn.police.uk
W: www.hampshire.police.uk/kraken

Project Kraken Newsletter
Crime & Counter Terrorist Strategy
"Protecting the waters of the Solent"

Suspected stowaway found in Falmouth sea

A teenager found in the water off Falmouth is believed to have stowed away onboard a ship to smuggle himself into the country. At around 4pm yesterday the man was pulled from the sea in Falmouth Bay and taken into Falmouth Docks having apparently jumped from a ship.
Police officers were called and they arrested the man on suspicion of immigration offences, on behalf of the UK Border Agency. He was then taken to Truro's Royal Cornwall Hospital, where he is being assessed for possible dehydration and malnutrition.
Police are continuing their investigation into what has happened, including a search of the vessel involved to determine whether any there are any other stowaways. A police spokesman said: "The arrested male is believed to be a Cameroon national, aged 17 years. If he is subsequently found to be younger, he will be placed into the care of social services initially, otherwise, the UK Border Agency will assume responsibility."
There is still a question mark over whether a second person jumped from the ship, after the 17-year-old claimed his friend who had been with him was missing. Falmouth coastguards launched a search involving the town's all-weather and inshore lifeboat, as well as a helicopter from RNAS Culdrose, but they were stood down at around 8.20pm yesterday.
Source: Falmouth Packet 11/27/10

British Couple Kidnapped by Somali Pirates Freed After 1 Year

A British couple kidnapped off their private yacht by Somali pirates more than a year ago were set free Sunday, ending one of the most drawn-out and dramatic hostage situations since the rash of piracy began off East Africa.
Paul and Rachel Chandler looked relaxed and smiled through a small ceremony held in the Somali town of Adado after their morning release.

Cambridge River Raiders Target Houseboats

River raiders have struck at houseboats moored in Cambridge. A warning has been issued to boaters after the break-ins, which come after a spate of thefts from rowing clubs on the River Cam. Boaters are now feeling vulnerable after the thieves stole two Honda generators worth more than £700 each.
Camboaters, an organisation for river boat residents, has issued a warning after two houseboats moored next to Jesus Green swimming pool were raided over the weekend. "We do have a special police number to call and a dedicated officer who keeps an eye on things. But when you have a lot of your stuff out on show, as it were, you will be targeted, I suppose."
Thieves took two portable generators and a laptop. The thefts happened between 5pm and 6pm on Monday. Earlier, a warning was issued after rowers were hit by a £4,000 theft.
Source: Cambridge News/ 14USC89.com 11/7/10

KRAKEN: - This is exactly the sort of behaviour that Project Kraken is designed address, with all suspicious activity being reported and investigated.

T: 0845 045 45 45
E: project.kraken@hampshire.pnn.police.uk
W: www.hampshire.police.uk/kraken