



Annual Report 2021

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Chapter 1 - Message From the Head of Guernsey Coastguard

2021 was another challenging year due to the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. I am delighted that Search and Rescue capability was maintained despite these challenges and the Bailiwick is fortunate to be able to continue to call on a considerable number of Search and Rescue Assets which have remained at Guernsey Coastguards' disposal. These include three RNLI lifeboats, Channel Island Air Search, Civil Protection Volunteers and the Cliff Rescue team. These assets are supported and operated by volunteers and require continual fundraising efforts. I would like to thank everyone involved in their effort and enthusiasm in making these assets available all year round.

Guernsey Coastguard works alongside and shares best practice with the French Coastguard, Jersey Coastguard, and HM Coastguard in the UK. Regular meetings, peer reviews, and audits all shape Guernsey Coastguard's development and direction. In 2021 training and development which took place with all our neighbouring Search and Rescue and Coastguard organisations took place remotely, rather than through our traditional face to face meetings, but despite these necessary changes, the contact continued and was effective.

For much of 2021, pleasure boating was restricted to a 'Bailiwick Bubble' and this limited opportunities to travel further afield.

Proactive campaigns to reduce the risk of mariners getting into trouble and requiring our assistance continued.

Captain David Barker
Head of Guernsey Coastguard

Chapter 2 - Profile

2.1. Purpose

Guernsey Coastguard is the Search and Rescue arm of the States of Guernsey and staff from Guernsey Ports act as the duty Search and Rescue Coordinator and/or Director during an incident. Guernsey Coastguard and Alderney Coastguard together cover the Bailiwick's territorial seas and coastal areas. A continual peer review process ensures that training, standards and procedures conform to best practise and internationally recognised benchmarks.

2.2. Vision

Guernsey Coastguard provides a national 24-hour maritime and coastal search and rescue (SAR) emergency response service throughout the Bailiwick. Guernsey Coastguard works alongside the Coastguards of Jersey, the UK and France, the RNLI and other voluntary SAR organisations under established plans and procedures agreed by all parties.

2.3. Core Values

The core business of Guernsey Coastguard encompasses the following services:

- Provision of year around 24 hours a day Search and Rescue Coordination/Direction for the Bailiwick of Guernsey.
- Provision of periodic training exercises to test a variety of scenarios in the marine environment or on the Bailiwick's coastline.
- To operate Guernsey Coastguard in accordance with international treaties and best practice which have been extended into the Bailiwick. (SOLAS, UNCLOS, IAMSAR).
- Reduce the loss of life and suffering by providing SAR coordination facilities and expertise locally.

Other benefits that reinforce our values include:

- Safer and more secure environment for aviation and maritime related industries, commerce, recreation and travel.
- Availability of SAR resources for the provision of initial response and relief capabilities critical in saving lives in initial stages of emergency incidents and SAR operations in support of the emergency management system.

- Positive publicity through well-performed SAR operations.
- Opportunity for promoting cooperation and communication among states through SAR provision.

2.4. Relationship With Voluntary SAR Organisations

The Bailiwick is fortunate to have several SAR assets available to Guernsey Coastguard. Three RNLI lifeboats (two all-weather vessels and one inshore craft), a fixed wing aircraft (Channel Islands Air Search), Civil Protection Volunteers plus assets provided by Guernsey Law Enforcement. Guernsey Coastguard would like to thank the Bailiwick's voluntary Search and Rescue organisations and other third parties that tirelessly raise money, provide volunteers and equipment for air, land and sea-based assets for the Bailiwick.



Chapter 3 - Review Of 2021

3.1. Trend Analysis

Guernsey Ports staff also act as the Search and Rescue (SAR) Co-ordinators for Guernsey Coastguard for waters in the Bailiwick of Guernsey. Guernsey Coastguard staff provide search and rescue co-ordination and maritime information through Guernsey Coastguard on VHF Channels 16 and 20.

A continuous watch is kept on these Channels by staff at the Joint Emergency Services Control Centre (JESCC) based at Guernsey Police Headquarters. Guernsey Coastguard is also equipped to receive VHF DSC distress alerts and the Search and Rescue Co-ordinators are trained by the UK HM Coastguard using the SARIS search and rescue IT system.



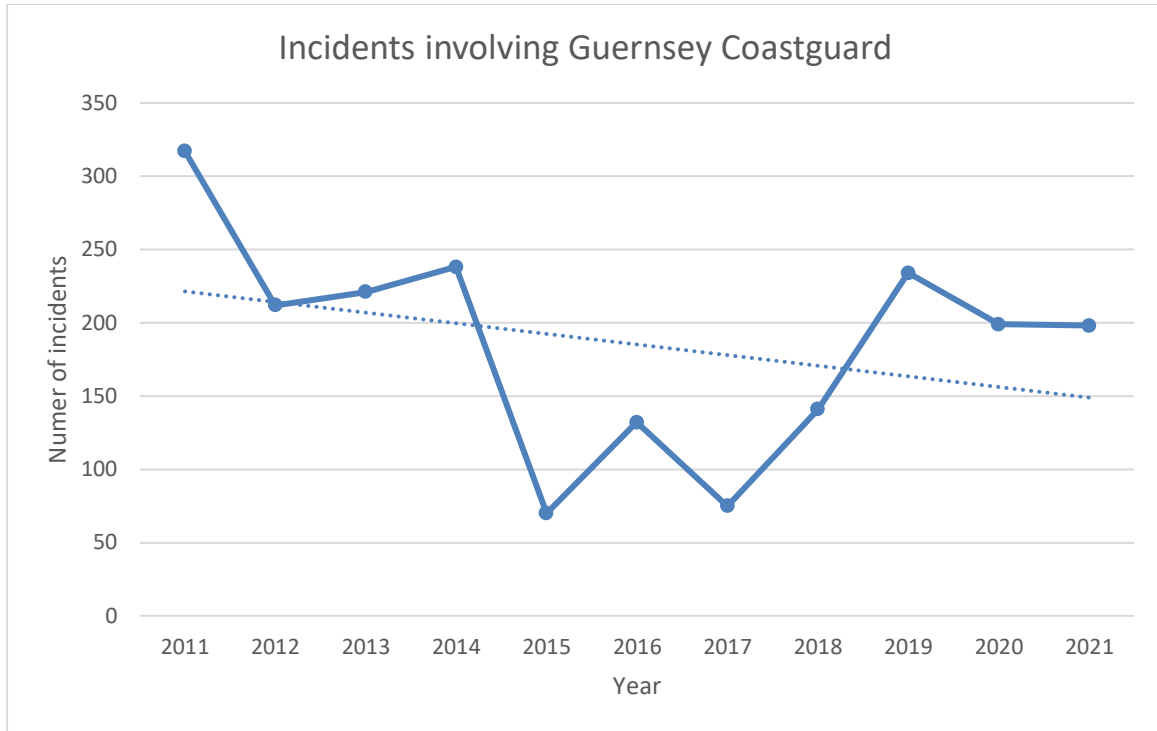
There were 198 incidents involving Guernsey Coastguard in 2021, this was one case fewer than in 2020. This represents a very slight downward trend compared to the 2019 peak of 234. The most common incident type was 'tow assistance' with 40 cases reported over the year. The next highest category of incident was 'monitor' with 25 cases by coastguard operators at JESCC. There were 19 medical cases in the year which make up the top three incident types. The full report types can be found in the table below.

OFFICIAL

| Coastguard Incidents | 2020 | 2021 |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| | | |
| Vessel Taking on water/Sinking | 6 | 6 |
| Overdue Vessel | 2 | 3 |
| Tow assistance | 31 | 40 |
| Monitor | 26 | 25 |
| Vessel Unsure of Position | 0 | 1 |
| Man Overboard/Person in Water | 18 | 16 |
| Person(s) Stranded/Cliff Rescue | 9 | 15 |
| Vessel/PWC/SUP/Kayak/Other in Difficulty | 4 | 10 |
| Diver Emergency | 1 | 2 |
| Medical | 16 | 19 |
| General | 12 | 12 |
| EPIRB/ELT/PLB/SART/121.5MHz Alert | 10 | 7 |
| Flare Report | 13 | 6 |
| Spoken word Mayday/Pan Pan | 3 | 0 |
| Object at Sea | 22 | 11 |
| Navigational Hazards/Pollution | 9 | 14 |
| Missing Person/Suicidal Person | 16 | 11 |
| Aircraft Emergency | 1 | 0 |
| | | |
| Total Number of Incidents | 199 | 198 |
| Total Number of Persons at Risk | 347 | 1048 |

Source: Guernsey Coastguard

The chart overleaf illustrates the ten-year trend for all incidents pre and post creation of Guernsey Coastguard in 2015.



Source: Guernsey Coastguard

3.2. Operation Trident



The Royal Navy's explosive ordnance disposal team based at Portsmouth was requested to assist after a Second World War unexploded device was found 548 metres off the White Rock in May 2021.

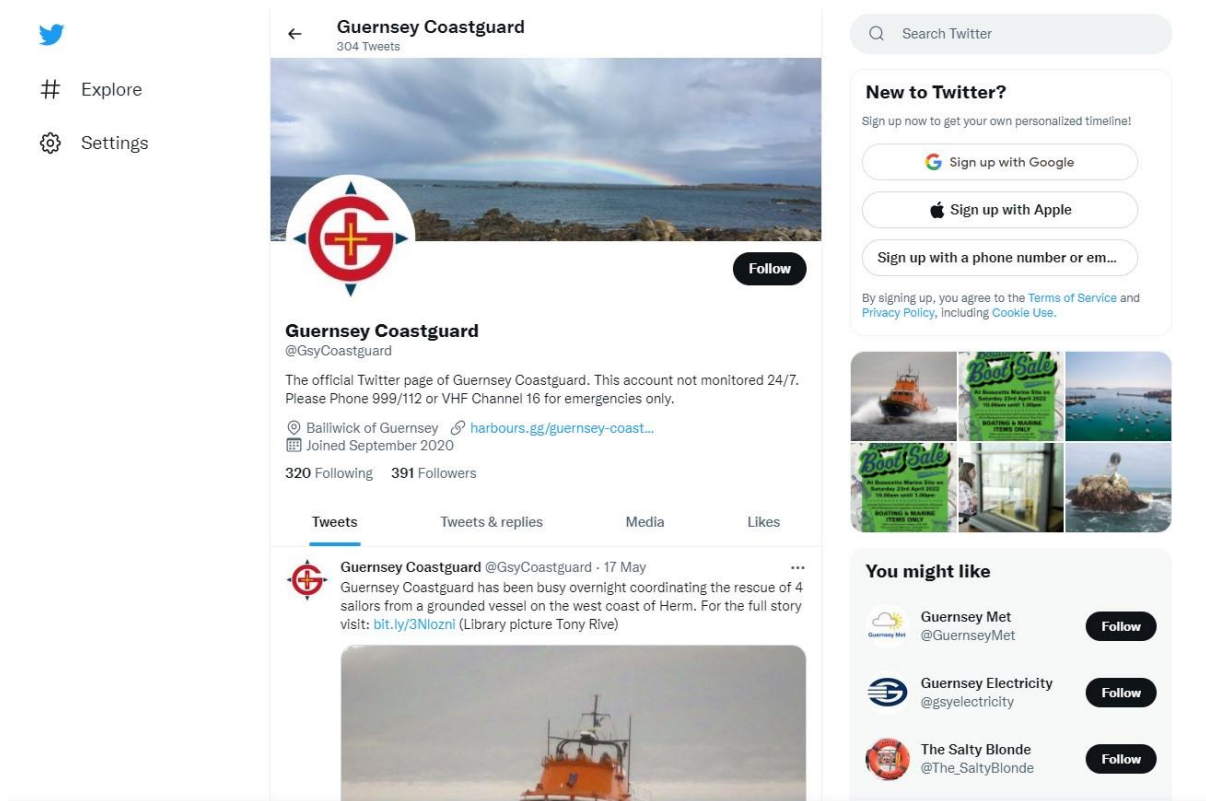
A 200-metre maritime Exclusion Zone was in place around the device which was located near the mouth of St Peter Port Harbour. Guernsey Coastguard worked with Bailiwick Law Enforcement to coordinate the operation to dispose of the device.

A team of local divers discovered the ordnance during a routine dive in the area and it had lain on the seabed undisturbed for over 70 years. A second device was also discovered in the area and was disposed of by the Royal Navy shortly afterwards.

Guernsey Coastguard encourages the reporting of such objects found at sea, or on the Bailiwick's coastline so these objects and devices can be safely and securely disposed of in a proper manner. Guernsey Coastguard also appreciates and very much thanks the Royal Navy's bomb disposal dive team for their help in neutralising the devices.

Chapter 4 - Stakeholder Engagement

Guernsey Coastguard is always looking to improve how it engages with commercial operators, mariners, local boat owners and Search and Rescue organisations whenever possible.



Picture: Twitter/Guernsey Coastguard

Guernsey Coastguard staff regularly engage with marine organisations and other interest groups in meeting the needs of the Bailiwick. Guernsey Coastguard regularly liaises with Jersey and Alderney Coastguards in the Channel Islands. The French and UK HM Coastguards are also involved in planning for future SAR incidents that could involve most if not all these services.

To broaden that engagement, 2021 saw the first year of Guernsey Coastguard’s own social media operation. Coastguard has been pleased with the level of engagement on the Facebook and Twitter social media platforms. These channels help the Coastguard to reach new audiences and share the vital work of voluntary SAR organisations carry out on a regular basis.



Picture: Facebook/Guernsey Coastguard

Chapter 5 - Contact Details

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Email: guernsey.coastguard@gov.gg

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