

RNLI COASTAL LIFESAVING PLAN

PLYMOUTH

Produced for consultation by the Plymouth Lifeboat Station RNLI Coastal Safety Team



RNLI COASTAL LIFESAVING PLAN

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INTRODUCTION

Objectives

To end preventable loss of life and to reduce incidents in the Plymouth and surrounding area:

- To increase awareness of everyday risks around water and how to stay safe.
- To reduce the risk to targeted groups.
- To increase awareness of the RNLI.

Location

Plymouth Lifeboat Station is located within the boundary of Millbay Marina. The Lifeboat covers an area approximately stretching Westward to Whitsand Bay and Eastward to Hope Cove and the tidal waters of the Rivers Tamar and Plym, North and North east along with their tributaries. The station is flanked by Looe Lifeboat Station to the West and Salcombe Lifeboat Station to the East. Plymouth Sound and its associated harbours, rivers and anchorages is considered to be one of the safest natural harbours in the UK. It attracts considerable numbers of visitors annually, many of whom are involved in water sports of one type or other. There are three marinas which contain a high proportion of dormitory vessels. The major water sport activities are diving, leisure boating, shore and charter boat angling. The Sutton harbour area is vibrant and contains many pubs and bars with little by way of safety facilities. Access to Sutton Harbour is by lock from approximately 3 hours after HW to 3 hours before HW. During the intervening period, access is free flow. The Rivers Tamar, Plym, Lynher and Tavy display extensive mud flats at low water so are attractive to bait diggers.

Emergency Assets

ALB – Severn Class “Sybil Mullen Glover”

ILB – Atlantic 85 “Annabel E Jones”

IRB - Arancia

Other Assets Likely to be Available to Call Upon

Plymouth Mountbatten Coastguard Rescue Team.

Tamar Coastguard Rescue Team.

Yealm Coastguard Rescue Team.

CG Helo Rescue 924

Bantham, Bigbury and Whitsand Bay Lifeguards (Summer Only).

MOD Police Marine Unit

Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service Camels Head Specialist Rescue Team

Sailing Club Rescue Craft

WHO IS MOST AT RISK?

The Risks 2008-2014 (DRI Scale)

The DRI scale is a way of analysing and measuring risk, developed by SISOORU to use statistical data to prioritise risk mitigation activities.

The DRI scale underpins the original Community Lifesaving Plans and when combined with analytical oversight and expert judgement gives a solid evidence base to plan against for risk mitigation activities.

The list below presents the activities that contribute to the DRI scale rating for Plymouth lifeboat station.

| Activity | % National DRI | Risk | Rank |
|---------------------|----------------|------|------|
| Sailing (Yachting) | 0.294 | VH | 1 |
| Scuba Diving | 0.217 | VH | 2 |
| Motorboating | 0.149 | VH | 3 |
| Commercial Fishing | 0.11 | VH | 4 |
| Day to Day Walking | 0.064 | VH | 5 |
| Swimming | 0.061 | VH | 6 |
| Kayaking/Canoeing | 0.058 | VH | 7 |
| Angling from a boat | 0.051 | VH | 8 |
| Water Play | 0.02 | H | 9 |
| Rowing | 0.006 | M | 10 |
| Windsurfing | 0.003 | L | 11 = |
| Paddle boarding | 0.003 | L | 11 = |
| Climbing | 0.002 | L | 13 |

Total % of National DRI is 1.1.038 which is **very high**.

Plymouth Lifeboat Station Launches - Categories from 2008 - 16

Total number of services: 904

People Rescued: 967

Lives Saved: 8

Lives Lost: 13

Launches to vessels

| Number | % of Total Launches |
|--------|---------------------|
| 541 | 60% |

Mechanical breakdown

| Number | % of Total Launches |
|--------|---------------------|
| 303 | 34% |

People in trouble

| Number | % of Total Launches |
|--------|---------------------|
| 250 | 28% |

Cut-Off by the Tide

| Number | % of Total Launches |
|--------|---------------------|
| 63 | 4% |

People missing

| Number | % of Total Launches |
|--------|---------------------|
| 27 | 3% |

People Injured

| Number | % of Total Launches |
|--------|---------------------|
| 84 | 9% |

False Alarm

| Number | % of Total Launches |
|--------|---------------------|
| 152 | 17% |

Plymouth Lifeboat Station Launches - Activity Analysis from 2015 - 17

*Joint launch by ILB/ALB/IRB counted as one service.

Leisure Boating

| Number | | | % of Total Launches | | |
|--------|------|------|---------------------|------|------|
| 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
| 39 | 41 | 41 | 48 | 46 | 38 |

Diving

| Number | | | % of Total Launches | | |
|--------|------|------|---------------------|------|------|
| 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
| 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 3 |

Leisure Angling

| Number | | | % of Total Launches | | |
|--------|------|------|---------------------|------|------|
| 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
| 3 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 4 | <1 |

Commercial Fishing

| Number | | | % of Total Launches | | |
|--------|------|------|---------------------|------|------|
| 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
| 7 | 11 | 7 | 9 | 12 | 7 |

Kayaking

| Number | | | % of Total Launches | | |
|--------|------|------|---------------------|------|------|
| 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
| 1 | 3 | 2 | <1 | 3 | 2 |

Persons in water/Stranded

| Number | | | % of Total Launches | | |
|--------|------|------|---------------------|------|------|
| 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
| 17 | 10 | 23 | 21 | 11 | 21 |

Surfing, Wind surfing and Kite surfing

| Number | | | % of Total Launches | | |
|--------|------|------|---------------------|------|------|
| 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | <1 | 0 |

Stand up Paddle boarding

| Number | | | % of Total Launches | | |
|--------|------|------|---------------------|------|------|
| 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
| 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | <1 |

Tombstoning

| Number | | | % of Total Launches | | |
|--------|------|------|---------------------|------|------|
| 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Swimming

| Number | | | % of Total Launches | | |
|--------|------|------|---------------------|------|------|
| 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Self Harming/Vulnerable/Missing Persons

| Number | | | % of Total Launches | | |
|--------|------|------|---------------------|------|------|
| 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
| 4 | 5 | 18 | 5 | 6 | 17 |

PWC/Jet Ski

| Number | | | % of Total Launches | | |
|--------|------|------|---------------------|------|------|
| 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
| 3 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 4 |

Hoax Calls/False alarms

| Number | | | % of Total Launches | | |
|--------|------|------|---------------------|------|------|
| 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
| 1 | 7 | 5 | <1 | 7 | 5 |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

Medical Evacuation/Episode

| Number | | | % of Total Launches | | |
|--------|------|------|---------------------|------|------|
| 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
| 4 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 2 |

PLANNED INTERVENTIONS

| <i>General Boating</i> | | | | |
|--|-------------|---|---|-------|
| Planned Interventions | Lead | Partnership Involvement | Resources | Ident |
| Promote boating safety through clubs and chandlers | CSO | Sailing and Motorboat Owners Clubs | Safety leaflets and presentation material. Volunteers | GB1 |
| Promote and carry out advice on board (AOB) in marinas, harbours and slipways | CSO | Cattewater harbour authorities, public slipway owners, marina owners | Flyers, checklists, DVDs, other RNLI and HM Coastguard material | GB2 |
| Promote and carry out advice ashore (AOS) | CSO | Marinas and Mooring Associations. Harbour authorities, Armed Forces Day | As above | GB3 |
| Life jacket clinics | CSO | Chandlers such as Force4, Marine Bazaar, Gael Force | RNLI life jacket clinic display material, leaflets and booklets Volunteers | GB4 |
| Display engine checklists and boat safety material at multiple locations | CSO | Training establishments Chandlers and clubs. Harbourmasters & Marina offices. Plymouth Piermaster | Checklists | GB5 |
| Coastal safety and PR events, "Calling for Help" seminars | CSO | Sailing Clubs, Rowing Clubs, Kayak Clubs, Angling Clubs, Dive Clubs, Mooring Association, Marinas | Roadshow, Gazebo, "Calling for help" and other safety display and demo material | GB6 |
| Issue leaflets providing safety advice to participants in all activities afloat | CSO | Harbourmasters Offices, Marina Offices | Publication issued by Harbour staff and Coastal Safety Team. Plymouth Waterways Guide | GB7 |
| Install lifejacket lockers in areas where dinghies are used to reach shore from moored boats | CSO/ALM | Beach and harbour authorities | Lockers and installers | GB8 |
| Lifejacket Clinics | CSA | Sailing Clubs, Rowing Clubs, Kayak Clubs, Angling Clubs, Dive Clubs, Mooring Association, Marinas | Lifejacket wear and choice posters, faulty lifejackets and components | GB9 |
| Post safety advice and local information on social media | CSA | Social Media sites | IT | GB10 |
| Slipway visits to encourage PFD wear | CSA and CSO | Slipway owners | Leaflets relating to PFDs | GB11 |
| Information Gathering | CSO and CSA | RNLI NCI | Data Collection Forms | DG1 |

| <i>Cliff Harbour & Coastal Path Incidents</i> | | | | |
|---|------------|--|------------------------------------|-------|
| Planned Interventions | Lead | Partnership Involvement | Resources | Ident |
| Information Signs on beaches and in harbour locations | ALM | Beach Owners, Plymouth City Council | | CI1 |
| RNLI Dog Walking leaflet warning of dangers to be displayed at beach cafes, local campsites and holiday parks | CSO & CSAs | Beach cafes, local campsites and holiday park owners | | CI2 |
| Distribute the above to individuals/families on beaches | CSO/CSA | Lifeguards. Face to Face Team | | CI3 |
| Free tide tables at Marinas | CSO/CSA | Marina Operators | Tide Tables | CI4 |
| HM Coastguard patrols providing advice and warnings of risk | HMCG | HM Coastguard | CRTs Mount Batten, Tamar and Yealm | CI5 |

| <i>Cliff Harbour & Coastal Path Incidents</i> | | | | |
|--|-----------------|--------------------------------|--|--------------|
| Planned Interventions | Lead | Partnership Involvement | Resources | Ident |
| YEV visits to schools to advise on beach and coastal safety, with focus on Tombstoning where appropriate | CSA/YEV | Youth Education Team | Crew and Lifeguard Uniforms, equipment and video. Interactive presentations by YEV | CI6 |
| Lifeboat Open Days | LOM, CSO & CSAs | | | CI7 |
| Dissemination of reports of potential hazards | CSA | QHM, Harbour Authorities | Local Notices to Mariners | CI8 |
| Issue throwlines to waterside bars and train selected door staff in the use. | CSO | Bar owners. | Throwlines | CI9 |

| <i>Missing Persons</i> | | | | |
|---|-------------|--------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Planned Interventions | Lead | Partnership Involvement | Resources | Ident |
| Liaise with Police/HM Coastguard if called upon to assist with search | CSO | Police HM Coastguard | ALB, ILB, IRB | MP1 |

| <i>Diving</i> | | | | |
|--|-------------|--|--|--------------|
| Planned Interventions | Lead | Partnership Involvement | Resources | Ident |
| Engage divers by presentations and face to face contact at dive sites, RIB launch sites, and clubs | CSA | Slipway owners, marinas, club secretaries | Dive club packs | DV1 |
| Face to face with individual divers/groups | CSA | PADI or BSCA | Safety cards and stickers | DV2 |
| Promote health check and medicals | CSO | Dive Shops, Mount Batten centre, Aquanauts | Stickers and stress balls | DV3 |
| Advice to visiting divers | CSO | Marinas and slipway owners | Local information Leaflets. Plymouth Waterways Guide | DV4 |

| <i>Gig Racing and Rowing Clubs</i> | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|--|-------------------------|--------------|
| Planned Interventions | Lead | Partnership Involvement | Resources | Ident |
| Visits to Gig racing clubs | CSO | Saltash Gig Club, Cattewater Gig Club, Tamar and Tavy Gig Club, Mayflower Offshore Rowing Club, Plymouth Amateur Rowing Club | Lifeboat Visits Officer | GR1 |

| <i>Leisure Angling</i> | | | | |
|---|-------------|--------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Planned Interventions | Lead | Partnership Involvement | Resources | Ident |
| Visits to Tackle Shops and local fishing marks. Devils Point, Mount Batten, Elphinstone, Mount Wise | CSO | Tackle Shops | Angling leaflets | LA1 |

| <i>Kayaking</i> | | | | |
|--|-------------|--------------------------------|---|--------------|
| Planned Interventions | Lead | Partnership Involvement | Resources | Ident |
| Promote kayaking safety through local clubs and groups using Coastal Safety Advisers and club officers | CSO | Plymouth Canoeing Association | Waterproof phone cases, leaflets and flyers. Identification stickers. | KY1 |
| One to one advice to kayakers at launch sites | CSO | | As above | KY2 |
| Refer clubs to National kayaking policy compiled by PPCA, BCU and RNLI | CSO | BCU, PPCA | | KY3 |

| <i>Dog Walking</i> | | | | |
|---|-------------|--|--------------------|--------------|
| Planned Interventions | Lead | Partnership Involvement | Resources | Ident |
| Vet practices and pet shops asked to post and circulate posters and have flyers available for customers | CSO | Pets at Home, Local Veterinary practices | Posters and flyers | DW1 |

| <i>Stand-up Paddle boarding</i> | | | | |
|---|-------------|--------------------------------|---|--------------|
| Planned Interventions | Lead | Partnership Involvement | Resources | Ident |
| Promote SuP safely through local clubs and groups using CSAs or club officers. Refer Clubs to safety info | CSO | | Waterproof mobile phone cases, Posters and flyers | SUP1 |

| <i>Joint Exercises</i> | | | | |
|---|-------------|--|------------------|--------------|
| Planned Interventions | Lead | Partnership Involvement | Resources | Ident |
| Joint exercises with ALB, ILB, HMCg (Helo?) MOD Police, NCI | CSO, LOM | Coastguard CRT, RNLI, Lifeguards, NCI, MOD | ILB, ALB | JE1 |

| <i>RNLI Awareness</i> | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--------------|
| Planned Interventions | Lead | Partnership Involvement | Resources | Ident |
| Visits to adult social groups, Residents, Moorings and Bertholder Associations | Lifeboats Visits Officer | Adult groups | IT and presentation material | RA1 |
| Lifeboat Open Day | CSO | Sutton Harbour | Safety, Station and Volunteering leaflets | RA2 |

Observations and Recommendations

Clearly, the greatest number of launches have been to leisure boats but taken in the context of the relative numbers involved, this is not disproportionately high. However, we need to address this issue and a program of targeted presentations and interventions would seem to be the way forward. Specifically, we need to increase our presence at slipways and launching sites, in addition to the traditional visits we make to organised gatherings. The second highest relates to persons in the water or stranded by tides. This is an area where we should have some influence as we have every resource required to address this issue in terms of educating the public. Specifically, we need to address our concerns to young people and having a Youth Education Presenter on the team will doubtless be of considerable value in this respect. Next highest is services to commercial vessels. Given the nature of local commercial activity i.e. deep-sea fishing, this represents a considerable challenge but does not appear disproportionately high given the risky nature of the activity. Fourth highest relates to launches in respect of individuals who are at risk of self harm or are missing and considered vulnerable and consequently outwith our control.

Interestingly, the problems surrounding the activity known as tombstoning cannot be quantified as there exists no specific data in this respect. However, it is known that there has been at least one death, and two other serious injuries caused by this activity in recent years. This knowledge is compounded by the fact that three local schools have asked for visits from the Youth Education Volunteer to present the dangers involved to pupils and there is considerable anecdotal evidence that the activity is on the increase. For these reasons, it has been highlighted as a potential intervention.

In particular there is a concern about those visitors who engage in "single-handed" activities such as stand-up paddle boarding, surfing, kayaking, para-gliding and even dog-walking; there's also concern regarding divers who arrive in the area trailing their own boats sometimes without any experience of diving other than on inland waters and therefore quite unprepared for the effects of tidal streams. By comparison the dive boats are licenced and skippered by professionals. Those operating out of Plymouth are usually very well prepared and equipped and have comprehensive local knowledge.

Trailer Sailers also present some issues in so far as many exhibit little knowledge of safety practices. Particularly at risk are those who arrive in the area from elsewhere and launch from slipways. Often, they are impatient to get on the water so tact needs to be employed if we are to not alienate them from the outset. We should target the following issues:

- Lack of lifejackets
- Lifejackets not fitted correctly
- Young persons on board
- Inadequate clothing and local knowledge

PFD wearing surveys reveal a disappointing number of water users, around 35-40%, are not wearing lifejackets or buoyancy aids. This is most noticeable, but not exclusively, within groups of young persons using high speed craft. The figure varies in direct proportion to the weather conditions, i.e. in fine weather, PFD wear reduces. Experience dictates that water users often react badly to approaches by CSAs trying to encourage PFD wear so perhaps a soft approach with appropriate literature might be most productive.

Lifejacket Clinics carried out by trained advisers reveal disturbing facts. On average, 25% of the lifejackets checked would not have functioned as intended, the owners of which were unaware of the shortcomings. A further 50% displayed minor faults which in themselves would not have prevented the device from working but could produce failures in the long term. Only 25% were found to be without fault. These figures indicate that lack of care is prevalent.

ANNEX A

| <i>RNLI Coastal Lifesaving Plan – Data Base</i> | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Facility | Contact | Address | Phone | Email | Website | Ident |
| <u>Commercial</u> | Ben Squires | Plymouth Boat Trips | 01752 253135 | info@plymouthboattrips.co.uk | | CI2 |
| <u>Fishing</u> | Ben Squires | Plymouth Fishing Charters | 01752 253135 | info@plymouthboattrips.co.uk | | LA1 |
| <u>Associations</u> | | | | | | |
| <u>Boatyards and Marinas</u> | | | | | | |
| <u>Chandlers</u> | Marine Bazaar | Sutton Road PL4 0HE | 01752 201023 | | | GB1 |
| | Force 4 Chandlers | Queen Anne's Battery Marina | | | | GB1 |
| <u>Holiday Sites</u> | | | | | | |
| <u>Pubs and Bars</u> | The Dock | King Point Marina | 01752 253555 | info@thedockplymouth.co.uk | | CI1 |
| <u>Vets</u> | Companion Care | Unit A2, Friary Retail Park | 017582 235140 | | www.companioncare.co.uk | CI2 |
| <u>Others</u> | Boathouse Cafe | Commercial Wharf Barbican PL1 2NX | 017582 600560 | info@boathousecafe.co.uk | | CI1 |

ANNEX B

| <i>Plymouth Events 2018</i> | | | |
|--|--|---|----------------------------|
| Event | Date/Time | Details | Ident |
| Social Media | Various | NR to input event details as agreed | GB10 |
| Social Media | 17 March | RNLI Video about wearing lifejackets posted on local fishing social media 16 th March. | GB10, LA1 |
| Dinner Presentation | 23 March | RWYC Lifeboat Visits Officer to undertake | GB1 |
| Place safety posters at strategic locations | 12 April | Posters located at Yacht Haven | GB1 |
| School Visit Hyde Park Juniors | 17 April | Beach and Coastal Safety Presentation | C16 |
| 1 st Stonehouse Scouts | 23 April | Beach and Coastal Safety Presentation | C16 |
| School Visit Hyde Park Juniors | 24 April | Beach and Coastal Safety Presentation | C16 |
| School Visit Pennycross School Assembly | 30 April | Coastal Safety Danger of tombstoning | C16 |
| School Visit Hyde Park Juniors | 1 May | Beach and Coastal Safety Presentation | C16 |
| Marina Open Day | 5 May | Yacht Haven | RA1-2 GB9 |
| AOB Visit | 5 th May | Yacht Majic Yacht Haven | GB2 |
| AOB Visit | 5 th May | Yacht No Name Yacht Haven | GB2 |
| Walkham Valley Scouts and Cubs | 10 May | Beach and Coastal Safety Presentation | C16 |
| Visit, School of Creative Art | 17 May | Beach and Coastal Safety Presentation | C16 |
| Berth holder Meeting | 19 May | Mayflower Marina | GB1 |
| New Berth holder Meeting | 26 May | QAB | GB1 |
| Education Visit 1 st Stonehouse Scout Group | 4 th June | Coastal Safety | C16 |
| Junior Lifeskills Visit | 5 th June | Presentation to 2 schools beach safety >100 year 6 pupils | C16 |
| Marina Open Day | 9 June | QAB Marina | GB1, GB2, GB3 GB9 |
| Lifejacket Clinic | 9 June | Sutton Harbour Marina | GB9 |
| Junior Lifeskills Visit | 12 June | Presentation to 2 schools beach safety >100 year 6 pupils | C16 |
| AOB Visit | 13 June | MV Primrose. Elphinstone Slipway | GB2 |
| Ladies Helm Day | 17 June | Mayflower Marina | GB1, GB2, GB3 |
| AOB Visit | 17 June | SV Colvic 27 | GB2 |
| Armed Forces Day | 30 June | Plymouth Hoe | RA2 |
| Safer Diving Launch | 27 th June and 3 rd July | Mount Batten Centre | DV3 |
| School Visit Kings School | 12 July | 30 Year 2 children – beach and coastal safety | C16 |

| | | | |
|--|-----------------------|--|----------|
| School Visit Plymstock School | 13 th July | Assembly presentation, coastal safety > 300 pupils | C16 |
| Lifeboat Open Day | 22 July | Sutton Harbour | RA2, JE1 |
| Family Day | 27 July | Babcock Marine, HM Dockyard | RA2 |
| National Fireworks Championship | 8/9 August | Provided safety advice afloat | GB2 |
| Seafood Festival | 16 September | Barbican | RA1 |
| Joint Exercise | TBA | Plymouth Coastguard Team and ALB/ILB | JE1 |
| Meeting RNLI/HMCG Joint Community Safety Project | 25 September | CSO and CRO Keith Dare-Williams | JE1 |
| Roadshow and Lifejacket Clinic | 8 September | King Point Marina | GB2 |
| Lifejacket Wear Survey | 14 July – 9 September | Various Locations | DG1 |
| Presentation Saltram Rotary | 18 September | Staddon heights | RA2 |
| Meeting RNLI/HMCG Joint Community Safety Project | 25 September | CSO and CRO Keith Dare-Williams | JE1 |
| Presentation national MENSA gathering | 5 October | Work of the RNLI volunteers | RA2 |
| Compton Scout Troop | 5 October | Coastal Safety and work of the RNLI volunteers | C16 |
| Lifejacket Clinic | 21 October | Rowing Coaches National training event | GB9 |
| | | | |

ANNEX C

Summary of Incidents leading to Lifeboat launches

| Category | Mean Percentage 2015-2017 | Ranking |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------|
| Leisure | 44 | 1 |
| Person in Water/Stranded | 18 | 2 |
| Commercial | 9 | 3 |
| Self Harm/Vulnerable/Missing | 9 | 3 |
| Diving | 4 | 4 |
| False Alarm | 4 | 4 |
| Angling | 3 | 5 |
| PWC | 3 | 5 |
| Medevac | 3 | 5 |
| Kayaking | 2 | 6 |
| Surfing (inc.Wind and Kite) | <1 | 7 |
| Paddleboarding | <1 | 7 |
| | | |

ANNEX D

Graphical Representation of Incidents leading to Lifeboat launches

