



IR66

MARINE OPERATIONS

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POLICY

1. The Delta Police Department (Department) will establish a marine unit, either within the Department or in partnership with other single or multiple agencies, to:
 - a) conduct marine patrols in the Fraser River between the communities of Delta and Richmond, and the waters of the Georgia Straight and Boundary Bay that are contiguous to the shorelines of each community; and
 - b) attend calls for service, community events and marine related incidents in the two communities.
2. The Marine unit shall be administered and supervised by the Deputy Chief of Operations or their designate.
3. The Department Marine Unit shall comply with all applicable statutory standards and requirements necessary to operate in a safe manner.

REASON FOR POLICY

4. To ensure public safety in and around Delta’s adjoining shorelines and waters.



5. To ensure that all marine operations are conducted in compliance with statutory safety standards and requirements.

RELATED POLICIES

IR65 – Marine Incidents

PROCEDURES

General

6. The Department Marine Unit will function in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the Department and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Richmond Detachment, respecting Joint Marine Patrols.
7. The Department, in cooperation with the Richmond Detachment of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (Richmond Detachment), will participate in a Joint Forces Operation (JFO) that uses Richmond Detachment's asset, a 7.3 metre Zodiac Rigid-Hull Inflatable Boat (RHIB).
8. This JFO is called the Joint Marine Unit (JMU).
9. The JMU falls under the command of the Deputy Chief of Operations, or their designate, who will be the JMU Coordinator.

Purpose

10. The purpose of the JMU is to:
 - a) enhance public awareness of a police water-borne presence, thereby decreasing the use of local waterways as a transportation avenue by criminals due to the fear of increased risk of interdiction;
 - b) increase pleasure craft inspections, reducing incidents of ill-prepared or ill-equipped boaters, or impaired operation of motor vessels, or the use and transport of stolen vessels;
 - c) increase shoreline patrols, thereby reducing water-accessed property crimes and an increase in the recovery of stolen property and vessels;



- d) increase active enforcement of offences contrary to the *Federal Contraventions Act*; thereby making the waterways safer;
 - e) decrease marine response times by reducing, to a degree, the necessity for callout; and
 - f) potentially save lives by having a crew of professionals able to respond quickly to rescue local boaters in distress.
11. In addition the JMU will support other police, provincial and federal agencies such as, but not limited to, the following:
- a) Vancouver Police Department;
 - b) New Westminster Police Services;
 - c) the Canadian Border Services Agency;
 - d) the Canadian Coast Guard;
 - e) the Department of Fisheries and Oceans;
 - f) Transport Canada; and
 - g) British Columbia Ambulance Services.
12. In respect to Transport Canada the JMU will conduct enforcement, or offer support under:
- a) the Small Vessel Regulations and Collision Regulations of the *Canada Shipping Act*, and
 - b) the *Marine Transportation Securities Act* regarding any increase in Marine Security levels due to threats or acts of terrorism (MARSEC levels range from 1 to 3 with 1 being normal operating standards).

Standards of Operations

13. The marine asset of the Richmond Detachment hereafter referred to as 'the vessel,' will be made available for the use of marine patrols, attending calls for service, and for community events within the geographic marine boundaries of the two communities. These boundaries are recognized as:
- a) the North Arm of the Fraser River to roughly the Pattullo Bridge;



- b) the Georgia Straight, including the University of British Columbia properties to the south end of Point Roberts, USA, and extending into the Georgia Straight a distance necessary for either safe navigation, or further in response to a call for service or training requirement; and
 - c) the Canadian waters of Boundary Bay and through the USA waters of Boundary Bay for ingress and egress, via the Strait of Georgia.
14. The vessel will be operated by suitably trained (see 'Training Standards' below) RCMP members and will take aboard either / or Richmond and Delta members in execution of these patrols. A minimum crew of two police officers (including operator) is required for calls for service and patrols; 3 to 5 members is preferred. No civilians will be allowed onboard except during rescue operations.
 15. Selected Department members will be trained to RCMP standards to participate in the Marine Shifts.
 16. Reserve Constables may also be trained to participate as additional crew members, and to conduct shoreline safety inspections.
 17. A schedule will be created to conduct marine patrols within the two jurisdictions. This schedule will be agreed upon by both parties and will be flexible to allow change.
 18. Richmond Detachment will provide the vessel for calls for service for the Department wherever possible; excluding times when the vessel is in for servicing or when in use for other RCMP related duties and is not feasible to assist.
 19. Both agencies will work together on community projects, criminal interdictions and other suitable projects that have a mutually beneficial outcome to both agencies.
 20. Any incidents that necessitate a statement to the media will be addressed by the lead agency, with review offered and approval obtained from the other agency, prior to release.

Training Standards

21. The vessel is an RCMP asset and will remain so. Therefore, participants in the program will be required to meet the RCMP standards.



22. The following courses currently apply:
- a) to participate as crew (no Delta member will be allowed on board the vessel without first having completed the below two courses):
 - i) Water Safety Course (RCMP – 1 hour), and
 - ii) Small Vessel Regulations Enforcement Course (Transport Canada – 2 hours);
 - b) advance crew training and training for Reserve Constables conducting shoreline inspections:
 - i) Pleasure Craft Safety Inspection Course (Transport Canada – 8 hours), and
 - c) to operate the vessel:
 - i) Basic Water Transport Course (RCMP – 5 days), and
 - ii) Advanced Water Training Course (RCMP – 4 days).

Deployment

23. Members assigned to the vessel will wear General Duty gear with the exception that they will wear the approved baseball cap rather than the peaked forage cap.
24. Members will attend Marine Patrol shifts fully prepared for all types of weather.
25. The vessel is equipped with CSA approved, Law Enforcement Personal Floatation Devices (PFD). All members will immediately upon arriving at the RCMP Steveston Boat House, put on a PFD. The PFD will be worn at all times while on the dock or the vessel, on any other dock, or shoreline, and only remove the PFD when the Marine Patrol is concluded and they are immediately leaving the dock.
26. It is recommended that any member still using belt-keepers remove them immediately upon exiting their vehicle at the dock. The inability to divest oneself of the duty belt, even when wearing a PFD, has caused the death of police officers in other jurisdictions. The new Velcro belt system is the preferred system.



27. The vessel uses the Marine Call Sign of R18M90 and has been christened 'Fraser Guardian.'
28. During the primary pleasure craft season, considered to be the months of May through September, the JMU Coordinator will establish a schedule, in conjunction with the RCMP Marine Coordinator, that uses staff from the Community Policing Branch, the Operational Support Branch and Patrol to cover the scheduled Marine Shifts.
29. During the off-season months of October to April, Marine Patrols will be at the discretion of the RCMP, based on man-power and weather. The vessel operator will contact the Platoon Staff Sergeant to acquire a Department team member.
30. A JMU Log has been developed. The purpose of this log is to track the activities of the JMU and to record statistics. The senior Department member on board any Marine Patrol will submit a completed JMU Log to the JMU Coordinator upon the completion of the shift.

*Revised Dates:
N/A