



**Introduction from ACC Steve Watts  
Chair of the Solent Portal Maritime Security Group.**

“Project Kraken is an initiative which engages our partner agencies, local communities and users of the Solent in the fight against terrorism and serious crime. The purpose of Project Kraken is to create a hostile environment for potential terrorists looking to disrupt the everyday lives and safety of those who live, work or travel through the Solent Portal. Through enhanced counter terrorist awareness and a promotion in the exchange of information, the Solent Portal can continue to be a safe place to live, work and relax for all.”

**OP. KRAKEN REQUIREMENTS:-**

Vessels using the Solent area should be alert for persons filming, photographing, drawing or loitering in areas of critical infrastructure. These areas include but are not limited to bridge footings, anchorages, and elements of maritime-related structures such as power plants, refineries, iconic structures, and transportation facilities. Terrorist surveillance and reconnaissance of critical infrastructure is an integral part of attack planning. Reports of suspicious maritime behaviour are essential in identifying potential terrorist activity and possible targets. At this time there is no way of knowing how many suspicious incidents go unreported.

**EXAMPLES OF THE NEED FOR PROJECT KRAKEN:**

**U.S. COASTGUARD COMMENT**

Rear Adm. Brian Salerno said:-  
“The 8,000 smaller foreign vessels that make about 60,000 U.S. port calls a year, as well as the 17 million recreational boats in the United States, come and go largely unseen unless an aircraft or Coast Guard boat happens to be in the vicinity. What we do not have is full coverage, as far as ships that are operating along our coasts which are under the 300-ton threshold. Such vessels could carry nuclear substances or other dangerous material, transport terrorists seeking to enter the United States, or even be used as weapons themselves as in the 2000 suicide bombing against the USS Cole. The “visibility” of small vessels is not adequate; we have some maritime awareness gaps. There are some things we don’t see, if it’s occurring outside a port area we probably won’t see it.”

**OP. Kraken:** - This is a fair summary of the current position in the Solent. Therefore the extra eyes and ears of the maritime leisure industry are essential in fulfilling this gap.

**WARSHIP INTERCEPTS £29M DRUG**

Cocaine worth nearly £30m has been seized for the second time in six weeks by the warship HMS Ocean. Smugglers who were collecting bales of the drug from the sea after an airdrop abandoned the packages when RN helicopters appeared on Sunday. The ship also seized £28m worth of cocaine in the region in May. HMS Ocean has been tracking aircraft suspected of smuggling drugs out of South America.

**OP Kraken:** - This is an example of the varied and innovative methods used to smuggle drugs past law enforcement agencies. It also highlights the importance of efficient partnership working between agencies and the public.

**COCAINE HAUL ‘LARGEST EVER’**

The Guardia have seized £135m of cocaine from the sea off the south-west coast of Ireland. A man has been arrested in connection with the haul - thought to be the largest ever seized in the history of the Irish Republic. It was found off the coast of Cork as rescuers searched for a man believed missing from a capsized dinghy. Witnesses to the sea rescue reported seeing 50 packets of white powder floating in the water.

Police are now searching for two men they believe were waiting with a van on the shore for what now appears to be a massive cocaine consignment from the Caribbean. One man, rescued from the sea, has been arrested under drugs trafficking legislation.



**OP Kraken:** - This could have been brought in and discharged from a “mother ship” or an ocean going boat or yacht. This increasingly is the routing for vast amounts of drugs entering Europe. It is also used for human trafficking.

Maritime Threat Level:

Low

Moderate

Substantial

Severe

Critical