



C. A. Y. F. Newsletter

This is an occasional newsletter from the Crouch Area Yachting Federation for affiliated Clubs, issued only when there is something of interest to tell your members. Designed to be pinned on noticeboards

Issue 3, April 2016

Crouch and Roach Rivers proposal to become a SPA ?

Natural England have just submitted plans for consultation for designating the Outer Thames Estuary including the Crouch and Roach as a **Special Protection Area** (SPA). In the detail of fine print is the inclusion of the Crouch and Roach estuaries up to Mean high water level, overlapping the existing Crouch and Roach SPA in the intertidal data, to provide SPA coverage for common terns. An adjoining map of affected area clearly shows the whole of the Crouch and Roach and tributaries will be affected by the SPA.

What is the significance to us as leisure boat users?

The answer from the Eastern Region RYA advisers are: Having looked through the conservation package for the original SPA, which they are extending, we seem to come under 'abrasion' which includes 'boating, anchoring and trampling' but the waters already covered include areas where there is a lot sailing activity and as far as I know the SPA has not had any impact on us to date. This proposal was considered carefully at the pre-consultation stage when we established that the change of status would not result in restrictions for recreational boating. The issue has not come back for this formal consultation stage.

With these designations the problem is determining what measures could be taken and we were satisfied last year that there were none affecting us.

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/492897/outer-thames-estuary-summary.pdf [Outer Thames Estuary SPA: consultation summary](#)

A map of the Crouch and Roach affected areas can be found here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/493244/ote-foulness-extension-map.pdf

This is a consultative paper info at so you can make your views known before by **21 April 2016**

Havengore Routes

In CAYF we are getting increasingly concerned about the future of the Havengore and Potton Bridges opening for navigation. We have anecdotal evidence from local fishermen that increasingly the bridges are being closed even when the MOD **are not** firing on the ranges. The reason given is that the ranges are firing.

- As reported in earlier newsletters we took the matter up at ministerial level of the MOD to no avail.
- We also submitted the facts to Mark Francois MP with more success. He wrote to Steve Wadey OBE the CEO of QuinetiQ (the contractor appointed to run the Foulness Ranges). QuinetiQ replied that they take the down time of the bridges seriously, however they have to shut the bridges occasionally for maintenance. Navigation of the Potton fairway is not considered part of the MOD

Byelaws only Havengore Creek although they do now consider that they are responsible for Potton and Havengore Bridges.

- We have raised the downtime of the bridges at the March RYA Eastern Region Committee and requested it be taken up at the RYA Council on our behalf to protect this ancient navigational route.
- Our neighbouring Club Associations in Southend and the Blackwater have been requested to publicise our concerns to their member clubs, and urge use the Havengore route whenever they can.
- It is evident that the MOD and their contractors have not moved their position. We would be interested for any proof they are not operating the range with consideration to the sailing community. We urge clubs use the route if boats are suitable, and please log and report any incidents especially if it is found shut when there is no firing.

Safeguarding Children

The RYA are running a 1 day safeguarding children course from 10:30-13:30 on 16 April 2016 at the Royal Harwich Yacht Club cost £15.00 info and booking here:<https://www.rya.org.uk/projects/event-booking/Pages/booking-form.aspx>

CHA NOTICE TO MARINERS 13/2016 Oyster Nursery Farm – Devils Reach, River Roach

Mariners are advised that the works to install floating cages at the newly positioned Oyster Nursery Farm in Devils Reach have now been completed.

Paglesham Pontoon and the Yard Moorings are still not operational and not to be used by visiting craft until further notice. The new owner wishes at this time to stop any visitor landing at Paglesham for operational reasons.

Risk Assessments

Clubs are reminded to send their risk assessments to Elaine at the Crouch Harbour Authority elaine@crouchharbour.org.uk if they haven't yet done so.

The Department of Transport Port Marine Safety Code requires all harbour authorities to ensure that risk assessments are carried out by event organisers. TheCHA in agreement with the RYA proposes 3 categories of risk assessment.

- **Major** likely to have a major impact on the harbour, requiring special arrangements agreed with the CHA and if necessary the emergency services in advance
- **Medium** one having a noticeable impact on the harbour but does not need to consider special arrangements
- **Minor events.** Having little or no impact on the harbour and with minimal risk to non participants for which a 12 month risk assessment form can be used

The Heads of the River Combined Clubs Committee recently compiled examples of a medium and minor risk assessment for their clubs with Capt Robarts the CHA Adviser. These will be publicised on the CHA website and are on CAYF website for clubs to guide and adapt for their own use as they think fit.

CAYF Officers representing your interests in 2016

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