

## **Project Kraken – Winner of International Award**

Project KRAKEN, the force's maritime strategy developed to improve safety and security in the Solent by harnessing the 'eyes and ears' of the maritime community, has received a prestigious international award.

The European Association of Airport and Seaport Police (EAASP) recently presented ACC David Pryde with a shield and certificate in recognition of the tremendous strides the project had taken across the force area in engaging the maritime community to report any suspicious activity on the Solent.

In presenting the award, EAASP president, ACC John Donlon, said: "The executive committee were impressed that the project had now progressed nationally through the essential engagement with the local community and the creation of information leaflets and DVDs. "This highlights the vital contribution that the public can make in being made aware of and the reporting of suspicious activity around possible criminal and terrorist activity within the maritime domain. As a European association we are only too pleased to recommend Project Kraken as good practice across Europe." ACC Pryde, on receiving the award, said: "This award is recognition for the tremendous efforts the constabulary places in addressing maritime policing within the Solent. We are very aware that the local community can play an essential part in reporting information thus making the Solent a difficult operating environment for the potential terrorist and serious criminal."

Since its launch in 2007, Project Kraken has now become an essential element of ACPO's Police National Maritime Security Strategy with forces all across the country now adopting Kraken as a template for the reporting of suspicious activity within their portal areas. ACC Pryde, who holds the national ACPO Maritime Planning and Operations portfolio said: " Kraken is seen as an excellent template which can be replicated across each UK force area that has a coastline. The success of our project was the catalyst in promoting its use nationally and we can now say that the majority of UK coastal forces now have Project Kraken in place which is testament to our work locally."

Following a recent visit to the UK by the US Coastguard to complete national port inspections, the coastguard submitted a report to the Department of Transport (Transec) on their findings and identified three areas of UK national best practice in portal security. Project Kraken was one of those and details of the project will now be added to the US Coastguard website.

Membership of Project Kraken is free, with new members receiving an introduction pack which contains newsletters and merchandise. In addition members receive a quarterly newsletter providing a summary of local, national and international incidents of interest. Anyone interested in finding out more or joining Project Kraken should visit the Kraken website at:

[www.hampshire.police.uk/kraken](http://www.hampshire.police.uk/kraken)

Details of the EAASP can be found at: [www.eaasp.net](http://www.eaasp.net)