

# Ebb and flow

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## RNLI FACES FUNDING CRISIS AS IT URGES 'NO SAILING'

The RNLI has advised people not to take part in any water-based activity on or in the sea, to reduce the risk to the charity's volunteer crews and other emergency services.

The RNLI lifeboat service is still available but the charity says that every time a lifeboat crew is called to an incident, it puts additional pressure on RNLI volunteers and other front line emergency services, as well as potentially exposing them to Covid-19.

Gareth Morrison, Head of Water Safety at the RNLI, said: "We know people who live at the coast still want to exercise by the sea, but when you do this, please think of the potential impact of your actions on RNLI lifeboat volunteers and other emergency services. While you could be fully competent and never needed to be rescued, by

going out on the water you could encourage others who are less proficient to take part in similar activities.

"Since lockdown was introduced around the UK coast, our lifeboats have been called out all too often to rescue people. So if you do go for a walk or a run at the coast, please follow the RNLI's safety advice."

Gareth added: "Our lifeboat crews are still at the ready 24/7 – thanks to their own courage in a time of crisis, and the generosity of our supporters. Sadly, though, we can't arrange fundraising events, open our shops, or welcome people to lifeboat stations at the moment, which means our ability to fundraise has been severely impacted. This could be the biggest storm the RNLI has ever faced."



PHOTO: RNLI





## NEWS BRIEFS



### Electric avenue

Torqueedo and Spirit Yachts enjoyed a joint celebration after the 100,000th electric motor produced by Torqeedo was fitted into Spirit's flagship 111.

### Virtual art show

Marine photographer and berthing master at Portland Marina, Steve Belasco, has launched a virtual art show. <https://theexhibit.io/exhibition/sailing-away-from-the-lockdown>

### World Sailing

As the financial impact of the Olympic postponement is gauged by the sport's governing body World Sailing, it has placed almost all staff on furlough leave and has asked staff earning more than a certain amount take a 20% pay reduction until the end of the year.

### Topper Fusion

Topper International Ltd and Fusion Sailboats Ltd have joined forces. Part of the collaboration will see Fusion Sailboats' Fusion and Maverick models integrated as part of the Topper Topaz range.

### Gold anchors

A number of marinas have been celebrating after receiving the coveted five gold anchors handed out by the Yacht Harbour Association: MDL's Hamble, Hamble Point and Mercury Marinas all on the Hamble; and Premier Marina's Falmouth Marina.



### Round Ireland Race delayed

Organisers at Wicklow Sailing Club have postponed by two months the start of the biennial SSE Renewables Round Ireland Race, due to Covid-19 restrictions. The new start date for the 704-mile race will be Saturday 22 August 2020, subject to government guidelines. More than 40 entries from around the world have been received for the event, which was first held in 1980 and is regarded as the "Killimanjaro of Sailing".

### Falmouth Week plans for August

Falmouth Sailing Week organisers have said they continue to plan for the popular regatta, due to take place from 8-15 August. Online entry goes live in May. [falmouthweek.co.uk](http://falmouthweek.co.uk)

# 'Refugee' blue water cruisers turned away from port

Blue water cruisers have been barred from entering some foreign ports amid Covid-19 restrictions.

One sailor was met with a cocked rifle, while another described the situation as a ghastly game of musical chairs, with boats scrambling to find a port where they could tie up and provision.

At best new arrivals are being told to anchor in quarantine for 14 days before being allowed entry.

From east Africa, British sailors Terry and Mike, who are on a world cruise, reported: "On trying to enter Djibouti the navy demanded we leave and go back to India [across the Indian Ocean]. We said we have insufficient supplies. They pulled out an AK47 and cocked it. Mike said 'you may as well shoot me'. The official lowered his gun.

"We cannot go ashore and cannot get supplies. We hope the French military will assist us today with supplies. Yachts are all helping each other, even more than normal.

"We hope to be able to head to Ghalib as a safe marina for weather. At this stage they will let us in."

Certain ports are still receiving yachts on the basis of a 14-day quarantine but others appear to have simply shut up shop to leisure boaters.

Some harbours in China are now opening as restrictions there lessen.

There is a clear right of a foreign ship to anchor in coastal waters should it find itself in distress, as referred to in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Where safety of life is involved, the provisions of the SAR Convention should be followed. The right to stop and anchor does not, however, amount to a right to enter the internal waters or ports of a coastal state.

The RYA's advice is as follows: "Within the wider cruising community there are reports of boats being turned away from their chosen destination on arrival, therefore the advice is if you are safely moored and are allowed to stay, then it is advisable to do so."

Jess Lloyd Mostyn, author of our regular Blue Note column, who lives aboard her yacht, currently based in the Komodo Islands in Indonesia, said: "The timing of when this became real was pivotal as it was just at the moment that most boats start making the leap across the Pacific.

"Many left when this was just a distant murmur and then found themselves arriving in French Polynesia in the position of refugees.

"Someone in one of the sailing forums described the position as that of a truly horrible game of musical chairs, and so many boats were caught out scrambling for a place when the music stopped."

