



MARITIME SEARCH & RESCUE

30th September - 2nd October 2025
Utilita Bowl, Southampton, UK

CONFERENCE PRODUCER'S INTRODUCTION

*On behalf of Navy Leaders, it is our great pleasure to welcome you to the 2025 edition of the **Maritime Search and Rescue (MSAR) conference**.*

In an era where maritime challenges are becoming increasingly complex and multifaceted ranging from natural disasters and vessel emergencies to humanitarian crises and the impacts of climate change, our collective mission to save lives at sea has never been more vital. Maritime Search and Rescue stands at the forefront of global emergency response, requiring continuous adaptation, innovation and international cooperation.

This conference brings together an exceptional community of professionals, experts and stakeholders from across the maritime domain. It serves as a vital forum for collaboration, knowledge sharing and strategic dialogue. Over the next three days, we will explore the evolving landscape of maritime SAR through engaging panel discussions, insightful keynote presentations and real-world case studies.

Together, we will examine the latest technological advancements, operational best practices and frameworks for interagency and international coordination. Whether addressing the integration of unmanned systems, enhancing real-time communication across borders, or refining training protocols, each session is designed to support the advancement of global SAR readiness and resilience.

Your presence and participation are critical to the success of this mission. We encourage you to share your experiences, exchange ideas, and contribute to shaping the future of maritime search and rescue. The connections forged here, both formal and informal, will strengthen our shared capacity to act swiftly and decisively when lives are at stake.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment, professionalism and dedication to saving lives at sea. We look forward to a productive, collaborative and inspiring conference ahead.

Thomas Gardner
Conference Producer

SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS



PRE-EVENT PASS COLLECTION & DRINKS RECEPTION | MONDAY 29 September 2025

LOCATION: CONFERENCE FOYER

1800 - 2000 – **Pre-event pass collection, informal drinks reception and exhibition set-up**

- Meet the Navy Leaders team and other conference delegates at our welcome drinks reception
- Collect your badges, conference guides and any other required information
- A relaxed and casual evening that will save you time at registration on Tuesday morning

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DAY ONE: TUESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

STRATEGIC CHALLENGES AND GLOBAL COLLABORATION

This opening plenary day will explore how we are responding to the new challenges of modern maritime search and rescue operations. The new challenges bring the opportunity to leverage technology on new platforms or integrate on existing ones, build stronger military-civilian and international cooperation to strengthen resilience to the challenges of mass rescue operations.

0800 – *Badge collection and registration*

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0850 – *Chair's introduction*

Brian Johnson CBE, (Former) Chief Executive Officer at Maritime and Coastguard Agency



SESSION ONE | MILITARY-CIVILIAN COLLABORATION AND INTEROPERABILITY

Military-civilian collaboration and interoperability in maritime search and rescue (MSAR) ensure a unified, efficient response to emergencies at sea by leveraging the strengths of both sectors. Through joint training, shared communication protocols, and coordinated operations, military and civilian agencies can reduce response times and save more lives. Building trust, aligning procedures, and investing in interoperable systems are critical to strengthening this partnership across national and international waters.

0900 – Host nation opening address: Shared waters; shared duty
Rear Admiral (ret'd) Peter Sparkes, Chief Executive, RNLI



0925 – Building joint resilience: Means of strengthening joint maritime rescue capabilities
HOSTED BY Baltic Workboats AS



0950 – Baltic resilience: Polish perspective on MSAR challenges

- Priorities and modernisation for Polish MSAR service
- The challenges of marine wind farms and GNSS signal interference
- International cooperation

Kamil Woźniakiewicz, Maritime Search and Rescue Mission Coordinator, Polish Maritime Search and Rescue Service



1015 – Morning coffee and networking
Hosted by ROHDE & SCHWARZ UK Ltd.



SESSION TWO | INNOVATIONS IN RESCUE OPERATIONS

Innovations in rescue operations, such as drones, robots, AI, and satellite communications, have greatly improved the speed, safety, and coordination of emergency responses. These technologies enhance situational awareness, enable access to dangerous or remote areas, and ultimately help save more lives.

1100 – Introductory overview from the UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency

- Overview of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency
- Current Operations
- Future Outlook

Lord Simon Stevens, Maritime Coastguard Agency Chair, Maritime and Coastguard Agency



1115 – Enhancing Maritime SAR and LE Operations with Real-Time Situational Awareness

- SAR-Optimized Tools: Automated search patterns for faster, more accurate rescues.
- Secure, Interagency Coordination: Encrypted data sharing for operational security and collaboration across agencies.
- Live Operational Visibility: Real-time integration of navigation, thermal imaging, and marine cameras for command-level awareness from the vessel to the command center.

Joseph Abeyta, LCDR, USCG (retired), Director of Business Development, **TeledyneFLIR Maritime Inc. / Raymarine**



1140 – Climate change and adaptation in MSAR

Caroline Jupe, Chief Executive Officer, **IMRF**



1215 – Lunch and networking
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SESSION THREE | MASS RESCUE OPERATIONS: CHALLENGES AND INNOVATIONS

Mass Rescue Operations (MROs) present unique logistical, operational, and coordination challenges, often involving large numbers of people in distress, limited response time, and complex multi-agency involvement. This session will explore the critical difficulties in executing MROs at sea, including communication gaps, resource allocation, and maintaining safety during high-pressure scenarios. It will also highlight recent innovations in planning tools, vessel coordination systems, and aerial support, such as UAS integration and AI-driven decision-making that are transforming the effectiveness and speed of mass rescue responses.

1345 – Surface asset suitability framework for 21st century challenges

- Understanding modern MRO demands
- Gaps in current SAR capabilities
- Proposed framework for surface asset effectiveness for MROs

Captain Matthew Schanck, Chairman, **Maritime Search and Rescue Council**



1410 – Beyond capacity: leveraging technology to increase SAR capacity **HOSTED BY TIDALIS**



1435 – Mass rescue operations in the Mediterranean: Lessons learned and their application in other contexts **Orlando Max Avis,** SAR Outreach Manager, **SOS Mediterranee**



1500 – *Afternoon coffee break and networking*

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SESSION FOUR || GLOBAL MSAR CHALLENGES AND FUTURE ROADMAP

Maritime Search and Rescue (MSAR) operations face escalating challenges, including rising traffic, climate impacts, and limited resources. Addressing these requires stronger international cooperation, standardized protocols, and cutting-edge technologies. This session will explore key operational challenges and propose a strategic roadmap for building a more resilient and coordinated global MSAR response.

1545 – Impact of military conflict on SAR

Admiral Viktor Sudarev, Director of Maritime Search and Rescue Service, **State Enterprise Maritime Search and Rescue Service**



1610 – Enhancing maritime surveillance from the shore

Hosted by EASAT



1635 –Global SAR system review

- Introduce the first global review of maritime SAR systems
- Examine current capabilities and future challenges
- Showcase the diverse maritime SAR landscape
- Encourage collaboration and innovation across the sector to address future needs

Steve Wills, Project Manager and SAR Specialist, **IMRF**



1700 – Chair's closing remarks

Brian Johnson CBE, (Former) Chief Executive Officer at Maritime and Coastguard Agency



1700-1900 – *Drinks reception*

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DAY TWO: WEDNESDAY 1 OCTOBER 2025**OPERATIONAL RESILIENCE**

Operational resilience in maritime search and rescue defines the ability of SAR systems and teams to maintain effective performance under pressure, adapt to changing conditions, and recover quickly from disruptions. It is achieved through robust training, flexible logistics, reliable technology, and continuous evaluation of procedures to ensure readiness in all scenarios.

0800 – Badge collection and registration

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0850 – Chair's introduction

Brian Johnson CBE, (Former) Chief Executive Officer at Maritime and Coastguard Agency

**SESSION ONE | THE FUTURE OF MSAR PLATFORMS**

The next generation of MSAR platforms must be adaptive, interoperable, and resilient to ensure mission success in increasingly complex scenarios. Integration of advanced technologies, modular designs, and cross-domain capabilities to meet evolving maritime threats and rescue demands. Emerging platforms will blend uncrewed systems, AI-driven sensors, enhanced communications, and hybrid propulsion with traditional assets to extend reach, reduce response times, and improve situational awareness.

0900 – **Frontex's maritime activities, cooperation and support to SAR**

- Maritime operations and tasks by Frontex
- Maritime situational awareness, EUROSUR
- European cooperation on coastguard functions
- Support to SAR

Kari Loukkaanhuhta, Head of Programs and Policies Unit, Frontex

FRONTEX

0925 – **Designed for Real SAR Needs – Not for the Brochure**

- How to ensure SAR vessels meet real-world demands – not just technical specs
- Why true collaboration between users and builders leads to purpose-built SAR vessels
- How made-to-order, proven-design platforms reduce risk and accelerate delivery

Mika Klapuri, Sales Manager, Kewatec Shipyards



0950 – **A look into the future of SAR-vessels operating in the Nordic with volunteers in mind**

- The development of new SAR- vessels
- Operating with volunteers in mind
- Connectivity, simplicity, performance and mission driven

Lars Samuelson, Chief Executive Officer, **Swedish Sea Rescue Society**



1015 – *Morning coffee and networking*
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SESSION TWO | UAS & HELICOPTER INTEGRATION IN MSAR OPERATIONS

The integration of Uncrewed Aerial Systems (UAS) and helicopters in maritime search and rescue (MSAR) operations enhances situational awareness, search efficiency and response speed. UAS can rapidly cover large areas, relay real-time imagery, and access hazardous environments, complementing the manned capabilities of helicopters in extraction and medical response. Coordinated use of both platforms requires interoperable systems, clear communication protocols, and joint training to maximise mission success.

1100 – **UAS integration within MSAR**

Sam Williams, HMCG Programme Change Manager, **HMCG**

David Scott, UKSAR UAS Operations Manager, **Bristow Helicopters**



1150 – **Uncrewed and crewed: Bridging technology and tradition to develop aerial SAR**

Cannon Technology



1215 – *Lunch and networking*
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SESSION THREE | MARITIME SURVEILLANCE

Maritime surveillance presents a unique challenge, due to vastness of the seas and oceans, changing tides and weather patterns and increasingly jammed and denied GNSS areas located to conflict areas. The response efforts are made increasingly difficult focusing on identification techniques, legal considerations, and improving communication between response agencies, this session will discuss how we can improve maritime surveillance.

1345 – **IORIS in support of SAR operations**

- Introduction to the Indo-Pacific Information Sharing Platform (IORIS)
- Value of IORIS for operational agency and regional level
- Case studies and application

Martin Cauchi-Inglott, Director, **CRIMARIO**



1410 – Surveillance and identification technologies**HOSTED BY HEFRING****1435 – ICE-SAR's rescue vessel renewal programme****Bjorn Gunnarson**, Maritime SAR project manager, **ICE-SAR****1500 – Afternoon coffee break and networking****SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE****SESSION THREE | SAR IN EXTREME CONDITIONS**

Conducting Search and Rescue operations in extreme weather conditions requires specialised strategies, tools and training to overcome challenges like limited visibility, harsh environments, and increased risks. This session will explore how innovative technologies and coordinated approaches can improve SAR effectiveness and safety in severe weather scenarios.

1545 – NATO Submarine Rescue System

- International collaboration for submarines rescues
- Key stages of submarine emergency response
- Initial indications of submarines in distress
- Interaction between naval and civilian authorities
- Conduct of submarine rescue

Commander Chris Baldwin, Senior rescue element commander and operations officer, **NATO Submarine Rescue System****1610 – SAR in the Extreme: Canadian Capabilities and Challenges in the Arctic Zone**

- Arctic SAR Challenges
- Canadian Solutions
- Exercise and Validation

Captain Douglas Gardner, Aeronautical SAR Coordinator, **JRCC Halifax****1635 – Survival times in cold water**

- Determinants of survival time on immersion in cold water
- Survival time estimations and SAR
- A new tool: in-water mass casualty triage

Professor Mike Tipton MBE, Chairman, **National Water Safety Forum****1700 – Chair's closing remarks****Brian Johnson CBE**, (Former) Chief Executive Officer at Maritime and Coastguard Agency**1700-1900 – Drinks reception****SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE**

DAY THREE: THURSDAY 2 OCTOBER 2025**TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION**

Advancements in technology are transforming maritime Search and Rescue (SAR) operations, enabling faster, more efficient, and safer rescues. This session will explore innovations such as unmanned aerial systems (UAS), AI-driven decision-making tools, and enhanced communication platforms that are improving situational awareness, coordination, and response times in maritime rescue missions.

0800 – *Badge collection and registration*
SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE

0850 – *Chair's introduction*
Brian Johnson CBE, (Former) Chief Executive Officer at Maritime and Coastguard Agency

**SESSION ONE | UTILISING DATA & INCREASING CONNECTIVITY FOR OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS**

In an era of rapidly expanding access to global data, the ability to harness advanced technologies and foster adaptive behaviours is critical to informed decision-making. This presentation explores how enhanced data analysis and robust information networks can transform operational effectiveness and resilience. By leveraging these tools, we can not only streamline future operations but also make life-saving interventions in real time. As the complexity of global challenges increases, our capacity to interpret and act on data will define the success of tomorrow's missions.

0900 – **Next generation technologies in MSAR operations**
Heidi Clevett, Head of Technology Team, HMCG



0925 – **Understanding domain geography to minimise risk and maximise response capability**
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0950 – **MASS: Automation at Sea: How unmanned systems are shaping the future of MSAR**

- Autonomous and remotely operated ships will impact the maritime SAR system
- Different operational procedures may be required
- Rescue of people from the sea may require new technologies

Roland Mckie, IMO Representative and SAR Advisor, IMRF



1015 – *Morning coffee and networking*
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SESSION TWO | OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES

As we move to increasingly joint, multinational and multi domain operations the need to understand how best to collate, interpret and disseminate situation awareness effectively is paramount.

1100 – Combating Normalcy Bias: Cognitive Biases in Search and Rescue Decision Making

- SAR decision-making often relies on incomplete or misleading information, leading to cognitive biases.
- Normalcy bias causes responders to overlook or downplay abnormal signs
- This presentation highlights real-world cases and practical steps to reduce bias in SAR decision-making.

Matthew Mitchell, Chief Executive Officer, **International Association of Search and Rescue Coordinators**



1125 – The difficult task of conducting SAR in remote Arctic regions (Greenland)

- Lack of resources and infrastructure in the Arctic.
- Close corporation with the tour operators and civilian authorities.
- Better guidance to the tour industry about what service they can expect and especially not expect from JRCC Greenland

Captain Flemming Hybel Madsen, Deputy Commander Joint Operations Centre, **Danish Joint Arctic Command**



1150 – SAR near offshore renewable energy

- Summary of current considerations of SAR within windfarms and other renewables sites
- Update of recommendations from Exercise Blyth
- Research opportunities for further advancement of understanding
- Working with organisations such as IASARC

Pete Lawson, Interim Head of Operational Procedures, **HMCG**



1215 – Lunch and networking

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SESSION THREE | TOMORROWS CHALLENGES

As global threats evolve, search and rescue operations will have to take place in increasingly hostile environments with increasing frequency. Both regional conflicts and global warming will increase the need for search and rescue operations and mass rescue operations.

1345 – Resource allocation: Maximising the effectiveness of assets under increased demand

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1410 – Panel Discussion: Taking action

Matthew Mitchell, Chief Executive Officer, **International Association of Search and Rescue Coordinators**

Pete Lawson, Interim Head of Operational Procedures, **HMCG**

Matthew Schanck, Chairman, **MSAR Council**



1500 – Chair's closing remarks

Brian Johnson CBE, (Former) Chief Executive Officer at Maritime and Coastguard Agency



Conference end