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The Background Quality Report for this publication can be found [here](#).

Statistical Bulletins Series 5 gives information on different activities of the UK Armed Forces, including Military Search and Rescue, and the activities of the Royal Navy Fishery Protection Squadron within British fishery limits.

Bulletin 5.01 is an annual publication which provides information on the number of vessels boarded by the Royal Navy Fishery Protection Squadron within British fishery limits, and convictions arising from the boarding of vessels.

This edition gives statistics for financial years 2006/07 to 2012/13, with a base year of 2000/01, and updates figures released in UK Defence Statistics 2012 Chapter 7, which provided statistics up to 2011/12.

Key Points and Trends

- In 2012/13, 898 vessels were boarded by the Royal Navy Fisheries Protection Squadron, the lowest annual figure for at least 28 years. This is a 36% decrease compared to 2011/12, which was the highest figure for six years.
- The large reduction can be partly explained by the following:
 - a. The Marine Management Organisation asked the Royal Navy (RN) to reduce the number of patrol days to be delivered, from 650 in 2011/12, to 560 in 2012/13, to which the RN agreed.
 - b. The RN were unable to deliver 24 of the agreed 560 days as a result of defects and mechanical issues with the three Fishing Patrol Vessels.
- By 30 May 2013, there had been 10 court convictions resulting from the 898 boardings in 2012/13.

Further Information

Defence Statistics welcomes feedback on statistical products. If you have any comments or questions about this Statistical Bulletin or about our statistics in general, you can contact us as follows:

- Phone Defence Statistics (Web Development and Surveys) 020 7807 8792, or mil: 9621 78792.
- Email DASA-enquiries-mailbox@mod.uk
- Visit our website at www.dasa.mod.uk and complete the feedback form there.

If you require information which is not available within this or other available publications, you may wish to submit a Request for Information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to the Ministry of Defence via the following link:

<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/ContactUs/FreedomOfInformationInformationRequest.htm>

Other contact points within Defence Statistics are:

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Please note that these email addresses may change later in the year.

Contents

		Page
	Further Information	2
	Symbols and Conventions	4
	Introduction	5
Table 5.01.01	Number of vessels boarded by the Royal Navy Fishery Protection Squadron within British fishing limits, each financial year	6
Table 5.01.02	Convictions arising from the boarding of vessels by the Royal Navy Fishery Protection Squadron within British fishing limits, each financial year	6
	Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations	7

Tables marked as **NS** are National Statistics. Those without are Official Statistics but have not been badged as National Statistics. Details are provided above individual tables.

Symbols and Conventions

Symbols

}	categories merged for some years
	discontinuity in time series
~	fewer than five
*	not applicable
..	not available
p	Provisional
r	Revised
rp	revised but still provisional
e	Estimate
–	Zero or rounded to zero

Italic figures are used for percentages and other rates, except where otherwise indicated.

Revisions

There are no regular planned revisions of this Bulletin. Amendments to figures for earlier years may be identified during the annual compilation of this Bulletin. This will be addressed in one of two ways:

- i. where the number of figures updated in a table is small, figures will be updated and those which have been revised will be identified with the symbol "r". An explanation for the revision will be given in the footnotes to the table.
- ii. where the number of figures updated in a table is substantial, the revisions to the table, together with the reason for the revisions, will be identified in the commentary at the beginning of the relevant chapter / section, and in the commentary above affected tables. Revisions will not be identified by the symbol "r" since where there are a large number of revisions in a table this could make them more difficult to read.

Occasionally updated figures will be provided to the editor during the course of the year. Since this Bulletin is published electronically, it is possible to revise figures during the course of the year. However to ensure continuity and consistency, figures will only be adjusted during the year where it is likely to substantially affect interpretation and use of the figures.

Abbreviations

See Glossary.

Introduction

Background

The Royal Navy Fisheries Protection Squadron is the oldest front line squadron in the Royal Navy. It has three River Class Fishing Patrol Vessels covering UK waters, and one Offshore Patrol Vessel (Helicopter) stationed in the Falkland Isles. The River Class Fishing Patrol Vessels cover the fishery limits of England, Wales and Northern Ireland – an area that covers over 80,000 square miles of sea, and stretches up to 200 miles from the coastline. These vessels can be used for a number of operations from fire-fighting to disaster relief operations.¹

Context

The main users of this data will be those interested in Ministry of Defence (MOD) activities, especially MOD support for fishery protection. This is most likely to be the media, politicians and the general public who are situated in areas with a fishing industry.

Data Sources

The data in this table are provided by the Marine Management Organisation from the UK Monitoring, Control and Surveillance System, and are extracted and collated manually.

Data Quality

Both the Marine Management Organisation and the Royal Navy have undertaken quality control on the data provided in this table. The data have also been subjected to sense checks by Government Statisticians.

¹ <http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/Operations/Enduring-Operations/UK/Fishery-Protection>

Table 5.01.01

Number of vessels boarded by the Royal Navy Fishery Protection Squadron within British fishing limits, each financial year

This shows the activities of the Royal Navy Fishery Protection Squadron operating within British fishery limits under contract to the Marine Maritime Organisation (MMO). Boardings carried out by vessels of the Scottish Executive Environment Directorate and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland are not included.

The data in this Table are outside the scope of National Statistics since they have not been put forward to the UK Statistics Authority for assessment.

	2000/01	Number of Vessels						
		2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Vessels boarded	1 603	1 335	1 309	1 102	1 201	1 399	1 408	898
by sea areas ¹ :								
North Sea	627	343	367	306	338	411	417	169
Bristol Channel, Celtic Sea, English Channel, Irish Sea and Western Approaches	976	992	942	796	863	988	991	729

Source: Marine Management Organisation

1. The Faroes, Rockall and West of Scotland are not covered by the Royal Navy Fishery Protection Squadron.

Table 5.01.02

Convictions arising from the boarding of vessels by the Royal Navy Fishery Protection Squadron within British fishing limits, each financial year

Convictions arising from Royal Navy boardings are convictions of infringements detected by the Royal Navy Fishery Protection vessels in that year operating under contract to DEFRA. Figures may change retrospectively as some cases may not be heard in court until a year or more after the initial Royal Navy boarding.

In financial year 08/09, the Marine and Fisheries Agency introduced the Fisheries Administration Penalty (FAP). This has streamlined the penalty process, and has removed the necessity for most of the crews of vessels that would previously have been sent to Court from actually having to attend Court, where they would probably have been convicted. Convictions from 2008/09 onwards are based on the number of offences addressed by the Courts that resulted in a Court conviction, not the number of fishing vessel crews that attended Court. That is, the same fishing vessel crew could be required to attend Court for one or more offences to be heard and each offence would count separately.

The data in this Table are outside the scope of National Statistics since they have not been put forward to the UK Statistics Authority for assessment.

	2000/01	Number of Convictions						
		2006/07	2007/08	2008/09 ¹	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Convictions arising from boardings	48	53	57	30	10	29	17	10
by nationality:								
Belgium	4	10	19	5	3	1	2	2
Denmark	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eire	4	10	6	-	1	3	3	1
Faeroes	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
France	8	14	16	12	1	14	6	6
Germany	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Netherlands	6	4	-	2	-	3	2	1
Spain	-	-	-	3	1	1	2	-
United Kingdom	20	15	16	8	4	5	2	-

Source: Marine Management Organisation

1. From 2008/09, these figures include Fisheries Administration Penalties.

Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations

DEFRA Department for the Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs. DEFRA is the ministerial department responsible for policy and regulations on environmental, food and rural issues.

FAP Fisheries Administration Penalty.

FPV Fishing Patrol Vessel.

MMO Marine Management Organisation. The MMO is an executive non-departmental public body (NDPB) established and given powers under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. It has a wide range of responsibilities including managing UK fishing fleet capacity and UK fisheries quotas and responding to marine emergencies alongside other agencies.

RN see **Royal Navy**.

Royal Navy The sea-going defence forces of the UK, including ships, submarines, and Naval aircraft and their personnel, but excluding the Royal Marines and the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Service (RFA). From 1 April 2000 the Royal Navy incorporated Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service (QARNNS).

Squadron In the Naval Service (i) a group of vessels, normally commanded by a Commander; (ii) a group of naval aircraft, normally commanded by a Commander; (iii) a group of particular personnel, such as divers, commanded by a Commander; (iv) a group of Royal Marines on board ship or an amphibious assault group, normally under the command of a Lt Col (Royal Marines); (v) a sub-unit of the Special Boat Service, normally commanded by a Major (Royal Marines) or Lieutenant Commander (Royal Navy).

In the Army, a sub-unit of some regiments, normally commanded by a Major.

In the Royal Air Force (i) a unit of a number of aircraft larger than a Flight and smaller than a Group; (ii) a unit of personnel, including sub-units of the RAF Regiment. An RAF squadron is usually commanded by a Wing Commander.