

[Arrow report published](#)

News story

Grounding of a ro-ro freight ferry in thick fog while entering Aberdeen Harbour, Scotland.



Our investigation report into the grounding of the Isle of Man registered ro-ro freight ferry Arrow while entering Aberdeen Harbour in restricted visibility on 25 June 2020, is now published.

The report contains details of what happened and actions taken: [read more](#).

Published 2 July 2021

[Be safe this summer when swimming near water structures](#)

With the summer holidays approaching, the Environment Agency is reminding people to take care while swimming near its structures.

The Environment Agency owns and maintains assets, such locks and sluices, in many locations across East Anglia's river network and on the coast. Swimming too close to them can be dangerous and could lead to serious injury or even death. It is also an offence.

Paul Separovic, Waterways Team Leader at the Environment Agency, said:

We work to advise on the safety risks connected with our river structures in partnership with local councils and landowners.

Throughout the summer period, we see people put themselves at risk by ignoring advice and swimming in dangerous places, which can have serious, even tragic, consequences.

The Environment Agency looks after many structures that keep waterways safe, navigation channels clear and properties protected from flooding.

The structures carry warning signs that outline the impact of strong currents, underwater structures and sudden changes in depths, which can all pose a serious risk to even the most experienced swimmers.

Those who ignore the warnings are not only potentially putting their lives at risk but also committing an offence that could lead to a day in court and a fine of up to £1,000.

Jumping or diving off the assets – which include weirs, sluices, locks and pumping stations – is strictly prohibited and could cause serious injury.

Tips for staying safe around rivers:

- don't jump or dive in as the depth may vary and there can be unseen hazards
- don't go in near weirs, locks, pipes, and sluices. These and some other water features are often linked with strong currents
- inland waters can be very cold, no matter how warm the weather. Those going into cold water can get cramp and experience breathing difficulties very quickly
- keep an eye out for boat traffic – boaters, especially on larger vessels, can find it very hard to spot swimmers, and propellers cause severe life changing and life threatening injuries every year

Parents and guardians can help keep children in their care safe by:

- teaching them to swim and educating them about risks and where it is safe to go swimming
- warning them not to go into the water alone, or unsupervised
- ensuring they know where their children are and what they are doing

- supervising them closely when near any open water

Drowning can occur very quickly, even in shallow water, and the key to keeping safe is to take all necessary precautions to avoid getting into difficulty in the first place.

Experience shows it is often young people who get into trouble while swimming in open water that contains hazards, particularly in and around structures such as locks, weirs, and bridges. Unexpectedly cold waters or strong currents can also catch bathers off guard.

Further information

An offence is being committed when swimming within 36 metres of Environment Agency structures.

On Anglian navigations, there is a Public Right of Navigation, which only applies to registered users, to pass and repass via a craft and does not include swimming.

For further details about the dangers of wild swimming, follow guidance from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents and the Royal National Lifeboats Institute.

For reducing the risk of illness when swimming in open water see guidance from the Environment Agency and Public Health England:

[JEF defence ministers set direction for cooperation on northern European security](#)

JEF Ministers gathered in Helsinki, Finland today to set the roadmap from which the JEF's 10 northern European nations will evolve to tackle shared threats.

The JEF is a multinational force made up of 10 like-minded, northern European nations; the UK – as Framework Nation – together with Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden.

Today ministers also signed a detailed military directive which will provide the necessary operational and logistical guidance to enable the JEF to deploy quickly and effectively in response to joint threats to global security.

Since becoming fully operational in 2018, the JEF has continued to adapt to

address modern security challenges, including the increasing number that are appearing below the threshold of conflict.

This directive will provide the overarching policy framework within which the JEF can evolve as a concept and operate as a rapidly deployable force to meet the reality of these challenges.

Defence Minister James Heapey said:

In an increasingly anxious neighbourhood like-minded partners must show solidarity.

The Joint Expeditionary Force exemplifies partnership in action, as a unique coalition of capable and willing neighbours ready to operate in every domain and respond to crises throughout the region.

Today's meeting provided a platform for fruitful discussion between ministers and officials and allowed them to explore how its members could use multiple government and military levers during a sub-threshold crisis scenario, with these sorts of threats becoming more prevalent in the JEF's area of interest.

In a more uncertain, more competitive age, Mr Heapey reaffirmed to the JEF nations that the UK will continue to make a decisive contribution to global security, following the Defence budget being boosted by £24bn and the Defence Command Paper outlining the vision for transforming our Armed Forces.

Following maritime integration activity in the Baltic Sea in March, the JEF nations will put this adaptation into practice later this year for Ex JOINT PROTECTOR 21.

What is the JEF?

The JEF is a multinational force made up of 10 like-minded, northern European nations; the UK – as Framework Nation – together with Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden.

The nations all share a commitment to democracy, human rights and the rule of law as well as a long history of operating together. We also share a determination to global and regional peace and maintaining the security of northern Europe.

The JEF is able to operate wherever in the world any two of its members choose to deploy together. Particular focus is on the High North, the North Atlantic and the Baltic regions, where the JEF can complement national as well as NATO's deterrence posture in the region. It is designed to be as flexible as possible and has utility across a broad spectrum of operational activities, including humanitarian assistance and Defence diplomacy.

[eAlert: 1 July 2021 – England Woodland Creation Offer series](#)

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[TRA response to government decision on steel safeguards](#)

Press release

The TRA has responded to the government's decision on the UK's steel safeguard measures.



On Wednesday 30 June, the Secretary of State for International Trade announced her [decision on the steel safeguards case](#). The government's decision:

- accepts the Trade Remedy Authority's recommendation to extend the safeguard measure across 10 steel product categories for a further 3 years
- revokes from today 4 of the 9 steel product categories recommended for revocation by the TRA and
- provides for a 12-month extension of current protections for five of the

nine product categories recommended for revocation by the TRA

In the TRA analysis, the 5 product categories concerned had been recommended for revocation on the basis of insufficient evidence of an import surge into the UK (categories 6, 12, 16 and 17) or insufficient evidence of serious injury to UK industry (category 7).

TRA Chair Simon Walker said: "The TRA has been set up by statute to provide impartial recommendations to government, based on careful analysis of the available evidence. In this case, as for all our investigations, we have worked within the trade remedies legal framework set out in UK legislation and regulations. But it is for ministers to make the final decision."

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