



# Marine Patrol 2023 Annual Report

## Sergeant Chad Schumacher

Contact Information

[Chad.Schumacher@mercergov.org](mailto:Chad.Schumacher@mercergov.org)

Desk:206-275-7920 Cell:206-992-3639

# Introduction

- The Mercer Island Marine Patrol has 22 Officers trained to operate the three vessels in its fleet. These Officers have all attended the Basic Marine Law Enforcement Academy and have continued their training since graduating through various courses:
  - Boat Search and Rescue
  - Boating Under the Influence Detection
  - Marine Collision Investigation
  - Marine Emergency Vessel Operator Course
- Sgt. Chad Schumacher began his third year in the Marine Unit as its lead, and Marine Patrol Officer Samuel Trudeau entered his second year in the unit.
- Sgt. Schumacher continues to teach for the State Park's Boating Program, and in February was sent to Sitka, Alaska to become an instructor for the Seated Battery of Field Sobriety Tests.



# 2023 Jurisdictions

- Mercer Island Marine Patrol continued its long-standing partnership with the cities of Renton, Bellevue, Medina, and Hunts Point. Starting this year, we began patrolling the waters of Yarrow Point.



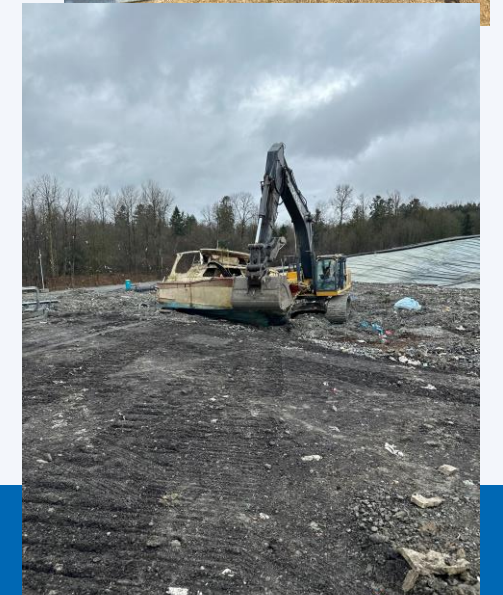
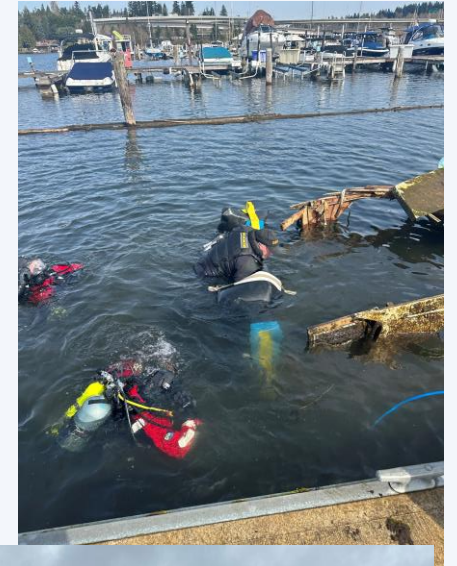
# Special Events 2023

- The Mercer Island Marine Patrol participated in multiple Special Events over the year.
  - April Pools Day and water Safety Event in Bellevue
  - Child/Teen Life Jacket Giveaway Event
    - Marine Officers handed out over 150 life jackets throughout the summer to children and teens in need of a life jacket. Life jackets were provided by the Washington State Parks Boating Program.
  - Operation Dry Water July 1-3
  - 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks in Bellevue and Seattle
    - Meydenbauer Bay drew a larger crowd than last year and will have the potential to see increased vessel traffic in the years to come as more local jurisdictions discontinue their fireworks shows.
  - Mercer Island Summer Celebration Fireworks
  - Medina Days Fireworks
  - Swim Across America
  - 2023 Sausage Pull
  - Seafair and Blue Angles Airshow
  - Battle of the Badges



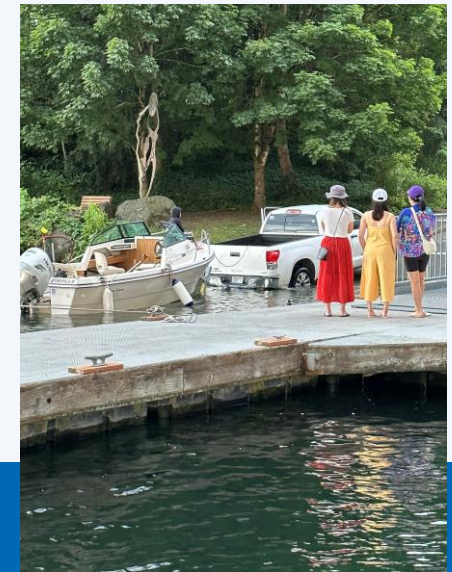
# Major Marine Project of 2023

- At the end of 2022, a half-sunk derelict vessel floated into the waters of Bellevue and Mercer Island. The vessel was beached just south of Newport Shores for safety and investigation by the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Ecology, and the Mercer Island Marine Patrol. Sgt. Schumacher was able to locate the owner of the vessel and serve Notice to Obtain Custody of the Vessel to the owner. After going to court and working with Washington State's Derelict Vessel Fund, the Mercer Island Police Department was able to gain ownership of the vessel. The vessel was raised out of the water by the Mercer Island and King County Dive Teams and placed on a trailer. The vessel was then transported to a local waste station for destruction.



# Activity Summary 2023

- May 27<sup>th</sup>- Marine Patrol responded to Groveland Park to assist in repairing a breakwater barrier that had broken loose. Temporary repair was made to the barrier to maintain safety for the swimmers at the beach.
- May 29<sup>th</sup> - Marine Patrol assisted a sinking vessel outside of Gene Coulon Marina. The vessel was towed back to the dock and successfully loaded onto its trailer.
- May 31<sup>st</sup> - One of the largest biomasses recorded by our unit floated into Meydenbauer Bay. Two Marine Patrol Vessels were able to clear the biomass from the area and place it into our log pen. Marine Patrol continued to receive multiple calls throughout the month to remove more biomasses from residences in all our jurisdictions.
- June 22<sup>nd</sup> – Marine Patrol assisted a vessel with a courtesy tow back to Magnuson Park from Medina waters.
- June 25<sup>th</sup> – Assisted Clyde Hill PD with a residential burglary at 0400 hours.



# Activity Summary 2023

- June 30<sup>th</sup> – Marine Patrol responded to 5 capsized kayaks just south of Clyde Beach with multiple people in the water. Patrol 11 was able to retrieve all the kayaks and people and transported them back safely to the REI rental center in Meydenbauer Bay.
- July 1<sup>st</sup> – Marine Patrol assisted the US Coast Guard with a warrant arrest on the water and assisted with the transport of the subject to a local jail.
- July 3<sup>rd</sup> – Patrol 11 conducted a vessel stop after determining that the offender's vessel was overloaded by 4 occupants. Officers researched the manufacturer's occupancy restrictions for the vessel and then made the vessel stop. The vessel was rented out of Lake Union without the owner's knowledge of how many occupants were onboard. The vessel's voyage was terminated and followed to the nearest dock where it was unloaded of its overloaded occupants. The renter of the vessel was cited on the scene and released.



# Activity Summary 2023

- July 16<sup>th</sup> – Patrol 11 responded to assist the Bellevue Fire Department with an overturned kayak. Patrol 11 contacted the kayakers and was able to right the kayak and get the occupants back in the kayak to continue their day.
- July 29<sup>th</sup> – Patrol 14 responded to a possible sinking vessel in Medina Waters. Officers located an overloaded vessel that had a dead battery. The vessel was towed to Mercer Island and the operator was cited and released.
- August 2<sup>nd</sup> – Patrol 11 and Patrol 14 responded to a sinking vessel by the East Channel Bridge with people in the water. Occupants were brought aboard Patrol 11 and Patrol 14 towed the vessel to the Mercer Island Boat Launch to de-water the vessel. No injuries to the occupants and the vessel was loaded onto its trailer.
- August 11<sup>th</sup> – Sgt. Schumacher and MPO Trudeau met with staff at the Renton Hyatt Regency to discuss challenges they were having with vessels staying at their dock overnight and past their 4-hour limit. Provided options for ways to help with their challenges and contacted vessel owners to advise that they could be trespassed from the property.





# Activity Summary 2023

- August 5<sup>th</sup> – Patrol 14 responded to a sinking vessel on the Bellevue/Renton border. Officers arrived and were able to tow the vessel until Renton Fire arrived and took over the tow back to Gene Coulon Marina.
- August 11<sup>th</sup> - Patrol 11 responded to the I-90 Bridge for a report that someone had jumped off the bridge. Patrol 11 responded and was unable to locate anyone in or under the water. DOT employees stated that the person was picked up by another vessel and headed south towards Andrew's Bay, where they located the vessel in question and spoke with the jumper.
- August 14<sup>th</sup> – Patrol 14 responded to a disabled vessel that was being pushed into the I-90 floating bridge by the wind. Officers were able to secure a tow line to the vessel and safely tow it to the owner's dock.
- August 18<sup>th</sup> – Assisted two occupants with a capsized sailboat outside of Gene Coulon Marina.
- August 18<sup>th</sup> – Sgt. Schumacher noticed a vessel owner walking to his vessel tied to the docks a Gene Coulon Marina with multiple buckets in his hands. The owner then started bailing water out of his vessel. The owner was contacted, and Patrol 11's fire pump was utilized to de-water the vessel. The vessel was then towed over to the boat ramp to be put on its trailer.



# Activity Summary 2023

- August 18<sup>th</sup> – A Cozy Cove resident ran out of gas in their PWC and was towed back to their residence.
- August 27<sup>th</sup> – Patrol 11 spotted a children’s birthday party and tied up to the dock to hand out stickers to everyone and allowed the children to come aboard Patrol 11 for a quick tour.
- September 2<sup>nd</sup> – Marine Patrol responded to Andrew’s Bay to assist Seattle Police Harbor Unit and Seattle Fire Department with the search for a missing swimmer. The swimmer was eventually located safely onshore.
- September 22<sup>nd</sup> – Located an adrift vessel floating against the East Channel Bridge. The vessel was returned to its owner in Bellevue.
- October 23<sup>rd</sup> – Patrol 11 responded to a structure fire along the shoreline on Mercer Island. A boat house and two vessels were on fire at the dock of the residence. Patrol 11 worked with Mercer Island Fire, Bellevue Fire, and Eastside Fire and Rescue to extinguish the flames.
- November 2<sup>nd</sup> – Assisted a Mercer Island resident with a dead sturgeon that floated onto their beach. Arranged for NOAA and Fish and Wildlife Biologists to come to do a necropsy before the 6-foot sturgeon was sunk in the lake.



# Seafair 2023

- Mercer Island again partnered with surrounding agencies to provide public safety and BUI enforcement on Lake Washington.
- Over the course of the weekend, 23 people were arrested for Boating Under the Influence throughout 400+ vessel contacts:
  - 5 arrests resulted in a blood draw.
  - 2 arrestees booked into jail.
  - Highest BAC reported was a 0.400
- No major injuries or deaths were reported.
- No Officer injuries or patrol vessels damaged.



# 2023 Statistics

- 785 hours our vessels were on the water patrolling or responding to emergency calls.
  - 1,690 Officer hours spent on the water patrolling or responding to calls.
  - 42 hours our Officers spent conducting ramp inspections before vessels took to the water making sure they had all the necessary safety gear for the vessel.
- 304 vessel safety inspections completed.
- 587 calls for service
  - 237 vessel stops
  - 105 people/vessel assists
  - 56 logs removed due to navigational hazard
  - 12 Search and Rescue calls
- 28 “No Wake” buoys replaced throughout our jurisdictions
  - 6 new buoys were placed in areas to help keep vessels away from shores and to slow down vessel traffic.



# Looking ahead to 2024

- Patrol 14 gets new engines.
  - In January, Patrol 14 will go into the shop to have new engines put in as part of our replacement cycle for the vessels.
- Officers attending Boat Operator Search and Rescue Course
  - Four Marine Patrol Officers will be attending a week-long on-the-water search and rescue course in Tacoma to learn search patterns, inter-agency cooperation techniques, and record-keeping of completed searches.
- Officer Tranter will attend the Basic Marine Law Enforcement Academy in April.
- MPO Trudeau accepted a position with the Renton Regional Fire Authority, and Officer Luis Paz will join the unit as the next Marine Patrol Officer.
- Continue our work on our ongoing vessel replacement project.
- Officers attending Boating Under the Influence training.
  - Officers will be attending a course to learn the Seated Battery of the Standardized Field Sobriety Tests. Officers will be able to utilize these tests both on and off the water to detect operators of vessels and drivers of vehicles that are under the influence.









Please feel free to call or  
email me with any  
questions you have.  
Thank you.