

RAFCC News: September 2019

These articles were previously published in the CAYF newsletter,
www.cayf.org.uk

Havengore Bridge: Manual Operation

QuinetQ are pleased to confirm that they will be manually operating Havengore Bridge to allow passage for marine traffic on:

- Saturday 28 & Sunday 29 September
- Saturday 12 & Sunday 13 October
- Saturday 26 & Sunday 27 October

The bridge will be operated in accordance with the MOD byelaws and so will be **staffed for 2 hours either side of high tide, during daylight hours**. The manual lifting and lowering process may take a little longer than the automated process so we would appreciate your patience and co-operation.

Further dates may be added subject to demand and resourcing considerations.

Trawling in the River Roach

We have been advised by the Crouch Harbour Authority via Mathew Smith, Biosecurity Manager, that vessels licenced by the Marine Management Organisation, UK Government for fishing operations only in the River Roach private beds are:

- * The Audacity S U 156
- * Paul Patrick H1103
- * Trojan MN103 ,
- * Matty Jay LO541

Any unusual vessels towing any fishing gear should be reported to the Crouch Harbour Authority, IFCA Fisheries and Matthew Smith as Biosecurity Manager on 07889316677 approved by CEFASS UK Government.

More on the Havengore Bridge Issue

The Following update was received from Mick Sharp Shoebury Watermans Association and RYA Rep for Southend Interclub Group.

With the recent long term failure of Havengore bridge and no short term solution, strong representation was made by myself, Ken Wickham representing CAYF regarding the impact on the recreational boating community and from Steve and Nigel on how business was being affected in Wakering and Suttons boat yards.

It was acknowledged that good progress had been made on communicating the failures to mariners and that improvements had been made in signage, on site response, procurement of parts and improving maintenance skills. It was also acknowledged that there had been reliability improvements in the early part of the season. But the recent failure in July shows just how fragile things are.

We were introduced to a recently appointed Hydraulics Engineer who has been tasked to investigate, and recommend a design modification for a long term fix to the Hydraulic control unit that keeps failing. It was described that the unit is fine through the first stage of operation but is designed to go into a 'slow' function as the bridge nears closure and this is where it is failing.

The fix may not be completed in the near future and vessel owners should plan for the longer passage to and from the Crouch but keep alert to any changes in the bridge operational status.

We reiterated how the failures were impacting on recreational and commercial users and I stated that September/October is the time of year that vessel owners plan to make their way through the bridge for essential maintenance work and winter storage. We discussed the possibility of having a few weekends identified where the bridge could be operated with staff on site to attend to any failures but it seems that with the current fault this may not be possible.

Nicky Uden, QinetiQ's Communications officer, will keep me informed on progress and I ask that you let her know if you or anyone else representing your club wishes to receive latest updates directly in order that you can pass the latest info onto your membership.

I have also offered to be a point of contact for bridge keepers to call me out of hours should the bridge fail in future and I will endeavour to pass on this information to Interclub members where I can. The bridge keeper will still inform traditional stakeholders out of hours for radio broadcasts (PLA, Crouch Harbour Authority, Coastguard etc)

We do believe the QinetiQ team are doing their best to solve a difficult problem, and they have raised the effort required, but we now need a long term solution with a detailed implementation plan to secure this important navigational route.

Mick Sharp

Chairman Shoeburyness Waterman's Association and RYA Focal Point Southend Interclub

mob : 07548 568656

Oyster Layings in the River Roach

An application has been received by the CHA for oyster bags to be placed in the River Roach marked by withies .