

# Royal Navy rescue injured trawlerman

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**The combined efforts of a Royal Navy ship along with a Search and Rescue helicopter have helped to save the life on an injured fisherman in the Irish Sea.**

Whilst conducting routine Fishery Protection operations, HMS Mersey received an urgent call for assistance from the Irish Trawler Tit Bonhomme, who reported that one of the crew had suffered a serious head injury.



Irish Trawler Tit Bonhomme at Sunset with the Royal Navy Sea King ready to winch up the injured crewman  
[Picture: Royal Navy]

HMS Mersey immediately despatched two of her trained First Aid Team to help the skipper of the trawler treat the casualty. Led by Petty Officer Marine Engineering Mechanic Jason Carvil the medical team managed to stabilise the casualty and assessed that he was in need of specialist treatment.

HMS Mersey, equipped with a comprehensive communications suite, contacted the Falmouth Coastguard Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre and passed on all the details of the medical emergency.

The Coastguard then initiated an air rescue and a Royal Navy Search and Rescue Sea King helicopter from RNAS Culdrose scrambled into action.

With Mersey's First Aid team tending to the casualty, the Sea King closed on the vessel's position. By sunset, the casualty was being airlifted from the Tit Bonhomme by the Navy helicopter and rushed for medical attention ashore.



The medical team from HMS Mersey arrives on the scene  
[Picture: Royal Navy]

Lieutenant Luke Hayashi, HMS Mersey's Executive Officer, said:

"The Royal Navy's Fishery Protection Squadron is always ready to assist any Fishing Vessel in need of assistance. Although our primary duties require us to board and inspect Fishing Vessels we are all seamen and have a long tradition of helping fellow seafarers where possible."

In her primary role of Fishery Protection duties, HMS Mersey has the ability to spend up to 320 days a year at sea. Routinely, she is busy patrolling the British fishery limits, which expand out to 200 miles (322 km) from the UK shoreline, a task she carries out whatever the weather and time of year.



The injured crewman is hoisted into the Royal Navy Search and Rescue Sea King Helicopter  
[Picture: Royal Navy]

Working with the Maritime Fisheries Agency, Mersey is tasked to enforce national and EU legislation amongst fishermen by questioning and boarding fishing vessels operating within UK limits.

HMS Mersey is also ready to conduct other operations as directed by the Commander-in-Chief Fleet; these include Counter Drugs Operations, Search and Rescue, Integrity of UK Waters and Protection of Offshore Installations.

Similarly, the Sea King helicopters of the search and rescue squadron are ready to go whenever the need arises. Often operating in extreme weather conditions and at the limits of endurance and range, thousands of people owe their lives to the feats of bravery performed as routine events by the duty crews.