



All-Weather Lifeboat, at 10.40pm on 27 May 2020

Shortly after their ninth online weekly training exercise Swanage's volunteer crew were asked to launch the Shannon class all-weather lifeboat to assist Weymouth lifeboat and other assets search for an over-due spear fisherman in the vicinity of Portland Bill.

The lifeboat joined several other assets under the on-scene command of Weymouth lifeboat, including 2 warships, helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft. The assets were assigned search patterns computed at the National Maritime Operations Centre (NMOC) which covered a large area south and east of Portland Bill.

Our own initial search area started ESE of Portland and took just over 1.5 hours to complete. The second search pattern roughly covered a further 25nm², which this took a little less than 5 hours to complete at searching speeds.

At the end of this pattern the search efforts continued utilising tender craft from cruise ships Britannia and Queen Mary working with Weymouth inshore lifeboat, meanwhile Swanage lifeboat and her crew were released to return to base after over 9 hours at sea and nearly 100nm covered. All at Swanage lifeboat station hope for a successful conclusion to the search.



This year, Swanage's lifeboats have responded to 3 incidents together.

The Shannon class all-weather lifeboat has also launched to 6 incidents.

The D class inshore lifeboat has additionally launched to 5 other services.

This gives a total of 14 incidents responded to, so far, this year

