

MERSEY BEAT

The monthly newsletter from HMS Mersey to all our friends and affiliates

ISSUE 31 – March 2011



The Belfast Child Returns

This was a busy and special month for Mersey's new Captain. His first task was to be endorsed as a Marine Enforcement Officer (MEO). This involves an examiner or "searider" from the Marine

Management Organisation shadowing him as a boarding officer on a variety of different vessels. With Captain certified, Mersey steamed north west for a well-earned stand-off to Belfast which as regular readers will remember just so happens to be the Captain's home town.



Captain being pictured for the local paper

On Patrol

During February Mersey has:

- Steamed 4,746 miles
- Cooked & served 1,047 meals
- Inspected 42 fishing vessels
- Issued one £4500 on-the-spot fine.
- Issued eight cautions for minor infringements.
- One set of statements forwarded on for possible later prosecution.



ENJOY THE ISSUE

Something Fishy

During the last patrol Mersey spent time patrolling the Lyme Bay closed areas.

The MMO have closed an area in the north of the bay in order to protect the rare Pink Sea Fan coral (*Eunicella verrucosa*).

The coral grows very slowly (1cm a year) and very easily damaged particularly by fishing



dredges and trawls. It is in fact a colony of small organisms that feed off passing zooplankton. For more information visit pinkseafan@wildlife.org.

Caption Competition Fun

Last caption photo



- *“Maxi Muscle before photo”*
- *“XO training to audition for the lead in the new Mighty Mouse movie”.*
- *“Someone told the XO that unless he ran faster the lights would dim”.*



Thought of a funny caption to accompany this photo of the Captain whilst inspecting a French trawler?

Let us know at 334-YO2@a.dii.mod.uk

Sporty Mersey

The Four Rivers Challenge



The ever generous Mersey sailors have come up another innovative way to raise cash for a worthy cause. To raise much-needed funds for our affiliate, the Mayor of Sefton's chosen charity for 2011. The crew are rowing

the combined lengths of the four rivers that give their name to the ships of the squadron, Tyne, Severn, Clyde and of course Mersey. At the time of writing Chief Finnigan and Lt Crocker were leading the way with 50 & 60km under their respective belts already.

The Return of Fab Abs

Now that spring is officially upon us and the days getting longer the cargo deck will once again echo to grit ,sweat and pain with the return of circuit training. The "Abs of Steel" himself in the shape of AB "OZZY" Oswald will running the circuits for the ship's company when the weather and operations permit.



"Ozzy" training the Ship's company to be "ABULOUS"

See you next month