COASTGUARD
TAUTIAKI MOANA

Unit of the Year

The Unit of the Year award recognises a unit that has demonstrated exceptional operational excellence, robust management practices, strong community relationships, and a clear vision and purpose.

This award celebrates units that consistently deliver safe and effective operations, adhering to standard operating procedures and participating in safety drills. It values units with sound fiscal management, effective succession planning, and a positive organisational culture.

The award also highlights units that cultivate strong relationships with the community and search and rescue partners, actively engaging in collaborative initiatives. Additionally, it honours units with a clear mission focused on reducing boating fatalities and promoting safe boating practices through innovative training and outreach programmes.

To be selected, units must provide substantial evidence of their achievements, including safety records, financial statements, partnership agreements, and testimonials. This award aims to promote excellence within the organisation by recognising units that make a significant impact on community safety and well-being.

Selection Criteria	
1.	**Operational Excellence** The unit must demonstrate a history of delivering safe and effective operations. This should include comprehensive adherence to standard operating procedures (SOPs), regular participation in MOSS (Management of Safety Systems) drills, and effective use of health and safety systems like Vault Health and Safety. **Evidence Required** Provide documentation of safety records, drill participation logs, and performance metrics that display operational success and improvements over time. Examples of incident reports and their resolutions can also enhance this section.
2.	**Management** The unit should have robust management practices in place that ensure the ongoing success and sustainability of operations. This encompasses sound fiscal management, effective succession planning, maintenance, and optimisation of assets (such as vessels, aircraft, and technology), and the establishment of sustainable **funding streams. Additionally, a positive organisational culture should be evident.** **Evidence Required** Include financial statements, strategic plans, succession plans, and surveys or feedback that demonstrate the culture within the unit. Documentation of asset management practices and funding sources would also support this criterion.
3.	**Relationships** The unit must cultivate strong relationships within its community and with relevant search and rescue (SAR) partners, as well as connections with other parts of Coastguard. Collaboration with local stakeholders and active engagement in community outreach initiatives are essential.

	Evidence Required Partnership agreements, community engagement strategies, feedback from community members, and records of joint exercises or initiatives with SAR partners should be provided to demonstrate the unit's collaborative efforts.
4.	**Vision and Purpose** The unit should have a clear mission focused on reducing boating fatalities and promoting safe boating practices. This includes initiatives aimed at improving safety outcomes and enhancing public understanding of boating safety. Attention to innovation in training and outreach programmes is also important. **Evidence Required** Outline specific programmes and initiatives the unit has implemented or taken part in that target boating safety. Include metrics on public engagement, participation in training sessions, or improvements in safety outcomes. Testimonials from beneficiaries of these programmes can provide compelling support.

5.	**Significant Evidence** All nominations must be accompanied by substantial evidence that supports the criteria mentioned above. This evidence should include quantitative data (e.g., statistics on safety improvements and training completion rates), qualitative information (e.g., testimonials and case studies), and any relevant media coverage that highlighted the unit's initiatives and achievements. Evidence Required: A comprehensive portfolio that displays achievements and impacts, including charts, graphs, and narrative descriptions of programmes and their effectiveness. Letters of recommendation from stakeholders and partners can also bolster the nomination.
By expanding upon the criteria and highlighting the need for significant supporting evidence, the process of selecting the Unit of the Year will be more rigorous, transparent, and aligned with the goals of promoting excellence within the organisation.	