Operational Crew Member of the Year

New Award category in 2025

The Operational Crew Member of the Year award honours an individual who has demonstrated exceptional dedication and performance in their role. This award recognises crew members who have significantly contributed to the operational success of their unit, showcasing outstanding skills, reliability, and a commitment to safety.

It highlights those who have gone above and beyond in their duties, whether through leadership, teamwork, or innovative problem-solving.

Ultimately, this award celebrates the invaluable contributions of operational crew members who ensure the effectiveness and safety of their unit's operations.

Selection Criteria	
1.	**Technical Skills** • *Seamanship Proficiency:* Demonstrate a strong understanding of navigation, boat handling, and maritime safety protocols. • *Emergency Response Training:* Certification in first aid and CPR is required. Additional training in rescue operations or emergency management is advantageous. • *Equipment Familiarity:* Evidence of experience with rescue vessel equipment, including GPS, radios, life support systems, and other safety gear.
2.	**Operational Experience** • *Previous Volunteer Experience:* Demonstrated history of volunteer work in marine environments or rescue operations, including specific roles undertaken and responsibilities managed. • *Teamwork & Leadership:* Provide examples of past teamwork experience, including the ability to work effectively under pressure and within a Search and Rescue structure. Exhibited strong leadership qualities, inspiring and guiding fellow crew members. • *Incident Management:* Documented experience in incident response, including specific incidents managed and outcomes achieved.
3.	**Physical and Mental Fitness** • *Physical Capability:* Evidence of physical fitness suitable for demanding tasks associated with search and rescue operations and the ability to endure harsh marine conditions. • *Mental Resilience:* Ability to maintain composure and make sound decisions during crises. Personal testimonials or evidence of previous high-stress scenarios where decision-making was assessed.

4	**Commitment to Safety & Training** • *Safety Orientation*: Understanding and commitment to safety protocols and procedures in rescue operations. Applicants should provide details of any safety training participated in. • *Ongoing Training Commitment*: Willingness to participate in regular training exercises and drills to ensure readiness for real-life rescue scenarios. • *Prioritised Safety:* Actively promoted safety protocols and best practices within the unit.
5.	**Community Engagement & Communication** • *Communication Skills:* Proven ability to communicate effectively with diverse groups, including team members, local authorities, and the public, especially in high-stress situations. • *Community Outreach:* Demonstrated involvement in community or volunteer initiatives, showing a commitment to public service and community safety. Fostered positive relationships between the Coastguard and the local community.
	Exemplary Performance • *Outstanding Performance*: Demonstrated outstanding performance in their duties, going beyond the call of duty. • Professionalism: Consistently high levels of professionalism, competence, and reliability.
	Professional Development • *Continuous Improvement:* Pursued continuous professional development, seeking opportunities to enhance skills and knowledge. • *Certifications:* Completed relevant training and certifications, demonstrating a commitment to personal and professional growth.
To be selected as the Operational Crew Member of the Year, nominators must provide comprehensive evidence addressing each of these criteria. By illustrating their contributions and the positive impacts they have made within the unit, they will demonstrate not only their commitment but also their vital role in upholding the mission and values of Coastguard. The nominator will be required to submit relevant documentation, such as certificates, references, and detailed accounts of operational experience to support their nomination.	