

Wednesday 6th July, 2016.

For immediate release

Southend's RNLI Hovercraft Launched To Speedboat on Mudflats.

Southend on sea's RNLI search and rescue hovercraft was launched from the inshore boathouse at 21.00hrs to assist Sheerness inshore lifeboat with the search of a speedboat, found aground on mudflats near to the Yantlet firing range, just west of the mouth of the River Medway, Kent.

The volunteer crew located the speedboat, now high and dry, with the ebbing tide and not secured by line or anchor.

They searched for evidence of recent use, finding lifejackets aboard and footprints in the mud heading for the shore, but with no identifying marks on the vessel.

The local Medway coastguard units were in attendance on shore checking the surrounding area for casualties and the border agency were also requested by Dover Coastguard.

The Border agency officers were taken to the vessel by hovercraft and returned to shore a short while later.

The hovercraft crew laid an anchor out to secure the vessel, so she could be towed to shore on the next tide.

With their tasking completed, Southend hovercraft returned to station, for a wash down and refuel, ready for service.

RNLI media contacts

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RNLI online: For more information on the RNLI please visit www.rnli.org.uk. News releases and other media resources, including [RSS feeds](#), downloadable photos and video, are available at the RNLI [Press Centre](#).

Key facts about the RNLI: The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea. Its volunteers provide a 24-hour search and rescue service around the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland coasts. The RNLI operates over 230 lifeboat stations in the UK and Ireland and has more than 140 lifeguard units on beaches around the UK. The RNLI is independent of Coastguard and government and depends on voluntary donations and legacies to maintain its rescue service. Since the RNLI was founded in 1824 its lifeboat crews and lifeguards have saved over 137,000 lives.

Visit the RNLi's official [YouTube channel](#) for more films and follow our rescue stories on [Twitter](#).

A charity registered in England and Wales (209603) and Scotland (SC037736).
Charity number CHY 2678 in the Republic of Ireland.