

HARBOR PATROL

For twenty years, the cities of Saco and Biddeford have partnered to patrol the tidal section of the Saco River, using a 19 foot Boston Whaler to carry out its mission. The Harbor Patrol also covers ocean waters from the Biddeford/Kennebunkport town line to the Saco/Old Orchard Beach line and Biddeford Pool.

Currently, both the Saco and Biddeford Police Departments assign officers to this special enforcement assignment. Saco Officer Megan Tibbetts and Biddeford Officer Patrick Donaghue are assigned these duties. Both officers have lengthy experience on the water and both hold U.S. Coast Guard 100 ton Master Captain's Licenses. Officer Tibbetts is also a licensed Maine Tidewater Guide.

The Harbor Patrol's mission includes ensuring the safety of all boaters, the protection of coastal property, and enforcement of marine laws. The Harbor Patrol's duties include enforcing wake zone violations, ensuring that life preservers are on board for kayakers, canoeists, paddle boarders, and boaters, and that boaters also have flares, fire extinguishers, and other safety equipment on board.

Harbor Patrol Officers also respond to illegal fishing complaints and reports regarding both endangered and injured wildlife.

The Harbor Patrol, in conjunction with the Saco Fire Department, Maine State Marine Patrol, and U.S. Coast Guard, respond to vessels in distress and search and rescue operations. The Harbor Patrol also works closely with our local Harbor Masters and Code Enforcement Officers.

During special events such as the La Kermesse Fireworks display when dozens of boats travel up the Saco River to get an up close view of the event, Harbor Patrol Officers monitor the area ensuring the no wake zones are adhered to and keep boaters a safe distance away from the fireworks launch point off Saco Island.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Officer Tibbetts (207) 284-4535 or Officer Donaghue (207) 282-5127.