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Vessel Skipper

To: Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation  
Authority – 31 January 2020

Subject: **New Vessel Report – FPV Vigilant**

Classification Unrestricted

**Summary:**

This report provides Members with information on the progress of the construction of FPV Vigilant 2020-21

**Recommendations:**

This report is for noting only

**Progress Report**

Following the decision to replace the patrol vessel Blue Jacket with a new twin engine vessel, in the spring of 2019 Kent & Essex IFCA placed an order with Ribcraft for a new 7.8m rigid inflatable boat (RIB). We applied for and have since been awarded EMFF funding covering almost 20% of the build cost.

Build commenced in September as scheduled and in late November officers travelled down to the factory to view the progress, and to discuss and plan the console layout. At this stage the hull had been built and the two independent fuel tanks were ready to be fitted.



*The hull of FPV Vigilant prior to installation of the fuel tanks (right)*

Progress was a little slower for a period from then as all the fittings and parts were ordered and the factory closed for the Christmas break. With the name chosen, the vessel has been registered and allocated an MMSI number which will subsequently be programmed into the onboard electronics.

The hull is now in the factory for fitting out. The two 175hp Suzuki engines have been fitted and the deck has been laid. The console has been placed and is currently being cut for the electronics to be fitted. The wiring looms will then follow, as will the Ullman suspension seats and the deck fittings.



*FPV Vigilant with console in position and engines fitted*

The sponsons and D-strip fendering will then be fitted and the A-frame will be fixed aft and the self-righting mechanism attached. After the final items have been fitted the vessel will be ready to undergo sea trials with delivery expected early in February. There will follow a short period of vessel familiarisation and procedure development before FPV Vigilant becomes fully operational.

Following discussions with Brightlingsea Harbour Office it is anticipated that when the vessel arrives in Brightlingsea she will be based on a floating pontoon similar to the one used by Southern IFCA (pictured below). This would enable FPV Vigilant to be deployed and recovered in all weather and all states of tide, and also unrestricted by the operating hours of the Park and Ride facility. The

vessel will still be capable of being recovered and trailered to other locations if required.



*FPV Stella Barbara on floating pontoon*

**Recommendations:**

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