

**Captain Matt Syrett Royal Navy  
Commanding Officer HMS PROTECTOR**

Captain Syrett assumed Command of the Royal Navy's Ice Patrol Ship HMS PROTECTOR in January 2018, joining the Ship midway through a challenging 5 year deployment to the Southern Hemisphere in support of the global community of Antarctica and other regional partners.

Captain Syrett was previously the Hydrographer of the Navy where he was the professional head of the Royal Navy's Hydrographic and Meteorological specialists and also acted as a Non-Executive director of the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office. Prior to that he was employed in the Ministry of Defence as the Naval Assistant to The First Sea Lord during a particularly busy two year period that included the Scottish independence referendum, the Strategic Defence and Security Review of 2015 and the BREXIT vote.

During a long career at sea he has held Command of HM Ships GLEANER, ROEBUCK and ECHO. In addition he is a Specialist Navigator who has trained Royal Navy personnel within the Flag Officer Sea Training (FOST) organisation, culminating in an appointment as Deputy Head of the FOST Warfare Department. Prior to that he navigated the Type 23 Frigate, HMS ST ALBANS, during her initial sea trials and has considerable experience operating almost all of the RN's smaller vessels. Ashore, he has been an Officers' Career Manager and also has Strategic and Operational Media experience gained from a two year assignment to PJHQ during the Afghanistan and Libya campaigns.

Captain Syrett was born in Plymouth, Devon and educated at Plymouth and Tavistock Colleges, joining the Royal Navy in 1990 on a University Scholarship and reading for a degree in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) at Kingston University.