

Environmental Standard Operating Procedure

ESOP Name	Boat Maintenance and Operation
ESOP Number	8
Revision Date	22/02/2024
Related ESOPs	25 Oil and Fuel Use and Storage on Site



Aim

The Broads Authority fleet includes launches, workboats, wherries and floating pontoons. The way in which the routine operation, maintenance, servicing and cleaning of these vessels is conducted not only affects the Broads environment, but our role as champions of sustainable navigation.

This standard procedure aims to ensure that the products and practices involved in maintaining and operating the Broads Authority's fleet have as small an environmental impact as possible.

Standard Methodology

- Sourcing of appropriate antifoul coatings to be arranged prior to application by BA staff or contractors.
- Provision for all vessels of appropriate phosphate-free products for external cleaning and on-board washing up.
- Where possible, vessels to run on Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO)/Renewable Diesel to reduce environmental impact of fossil fuel usage
- Operations team to consider annual launch refit tender for environmental credentials of contractors and evaluation of new products for use.

Procedure

Pre-works

- Appropriate risk assessments to be in place and up to date for all activities involving chemicals or other hazardous substances.
- Be aware of and follow the COSHH regulations for all chemicals and other hazardous substances used.
- Any third parties contracted to maintain vessels will be informed of Broads Authority policy and this ESOP.

Operational

- Ensure all risk assessments and COSHH regulations are followed for substances used.
- Washdown/antifouling/paint-stripping should be undertaken in a designated area and residues should be cleared up and not allowed to wash into watercourses.
- No use of antifoulants based on release of copper, zinc or organic biocides.
- Use phosphate-free cleaning products.
- Oil and fuel kits to be carried on all motorised vessels, and regularly checked and maintained.

Consultation

None required but the Environment Agency should be notified immediately in the event of a serious pollution event.

Risk Assessment

Hazard	Initial Risk			Controls / Safeguards / Precautions	Revised Risk		
	S	L	R		S	L	R
Loss of mineral oil to water	4	4	C	Provision absorbent pads/socks in bilge; regular bilge inspection; use of biodegradable hydraulic oil where practicable.	4	2	B
Leaching metals and herbicides from antifoul paints	4	5	C	Use only non-toxic hull coatings	1	2	A
Phosphate entering water	4	4	C	Use only phosphate-free detergents and cleaning products	1	1	A
Loss of fuel to water during refuelling	4	3	C	Follow risk assessment; provision to clean up any spills.	4	2	B

Matrix

		LIKELIHOOD				
		Very unlikely	Unlikely	Moderately likely	Likely	Very likely
SEVERITY		1	2	3	4	5
Low (minimal, short-term disturbance levels and negligible damage to native habitats.)	1	A	A	A	A	A
Medium (moderate, short-term disturbance levels, some damage to native habitats/species. Regenerates quickly.)	2	A	A	A	B	B
High (high disturbance levels over a longer period and displacement of species. Damage to native habitats. Significant time to regenerate)	3	A	B	B	C	C
Very High (Long-term disturbance with displacement/death of species. Significant damage to native habitats that takes a significant time to regenerate.)	4	B	B	C	C	C

RISK	
A	OK. Work to provisions in risk assessment
B	Proceed with caution. Dynamically review risks.
C	Cancel task. Approach project in a different way.