

Wakeboarding Trial Findings
Report by Head of Safety Management

Summary: This report sets out the findings of the extended trial of recreational wakeboarding including 'getting air' on the River Yare and Waveney. Members views are sought on the recommendation from the Water Ski Review Panel set out at 8.1.

1 Background

- 1.1 At its meeting on the 22 November 2012 the Water Skiing Review Panel set out a number of proposals relating to the development of water skiing on the Broads.
- 1.2 Following a consultation period, the Broads Authority at its meeting on the 18 January 2013 supported the recommendations of the Panel including:
- the trial of wakeboarding allowing 'getting air' to be extended to Zone Y2 and Y4 and W3, W4 and W5.
 - That 'getting air' be formally permitted on the previous trial zones Y3, Y5 and W1/2.
 - The times when water skiing can take place be varied on the river Waveney to coincide with those on the river Yare.
 - Permit conditions are amended to allow for permit holders and authorised persons to helm each other's boats.

2 The Wakeboarding Trial

- 2.1 The Wakeboarding trial period commenced on the 1 April 2013, permit holders were sent letters setting out the conditions of the trial and permit conditions reflected these terms.
- 2.2 From 2013 five water ski zones were allocated for the trial, Yare 2 and Yare 4, on the river Waveney W3, W4 and W5. Water ski zones where getting air is allowed and no longer part of the trial are Yare 3 and Yare 5, on the Waveney W1/2.
- 2.3 Wake boarders who intended to 'get air' were required to log their activity with Broads Control as previously prior to the commencement of the activity. This would allow this information to be disseminated to Rangers in order that checks could be made, this method also allowed for the rapid analysis of usage data to feed into this review.

- 2.4 Of the 35 permits which were issued in 2013 only three permit holders took part in the trial using zone Yare 4 on two occasions and Yare 2 once. However there were 28 visits by six permit holders to Yare 3 which is no longer part of the trial.
- 2.5 Of these 28 visits to Yare 3 zone over 71% of the visits were made by two permit holders.

3 Ranger Feedback

- 3.1 Over the season the Yare team of two Rangers have been involved in monitoring by land and water and wakeboarding has been seen on a number of occasions. Each time vessels were being helmed in accordance with the trial and no problems were witnessed.

Three reports of unauthorised skiing or wakeboarding have been reported on the River Waveney but despite patrols by the rangers the culprits have not been found although they have some strong suspects in mind.

4 Complaints

- 4.1 No complaints relating to the trial were received by Broads Control. One report was made to the rangers regarding intentional bad behaviour of a ski boat skipper on Yare 4 near some moorings. This was investigated by the local ranger and the ski boat skipper apologised to the other boat crew.

5 User Feedback

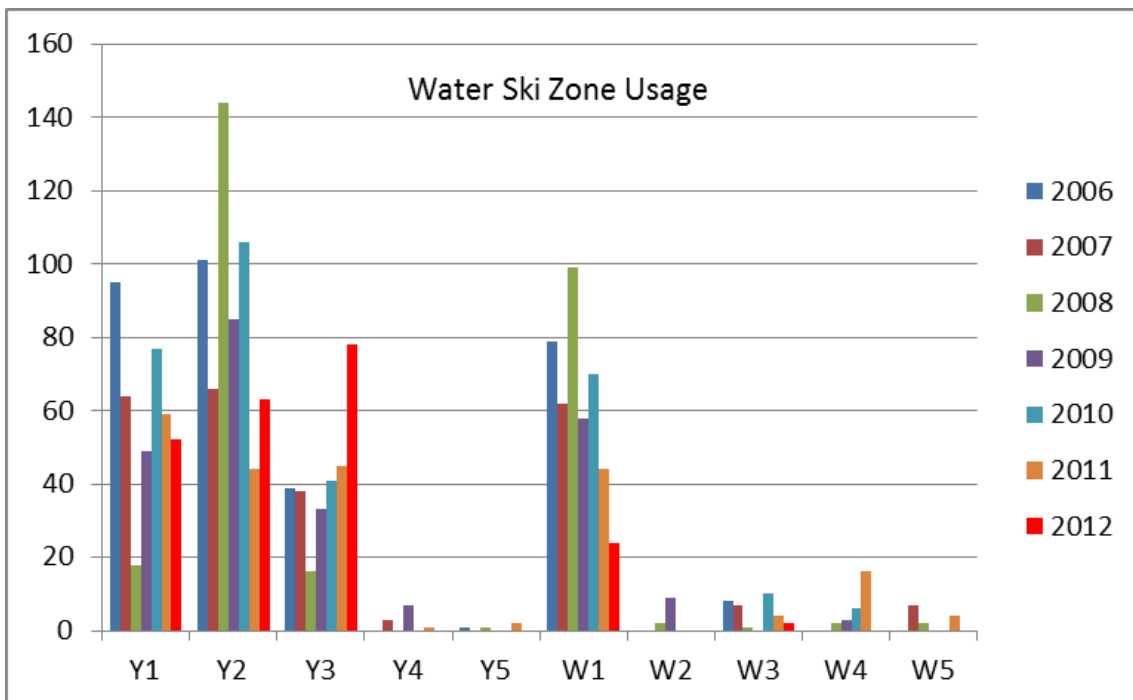
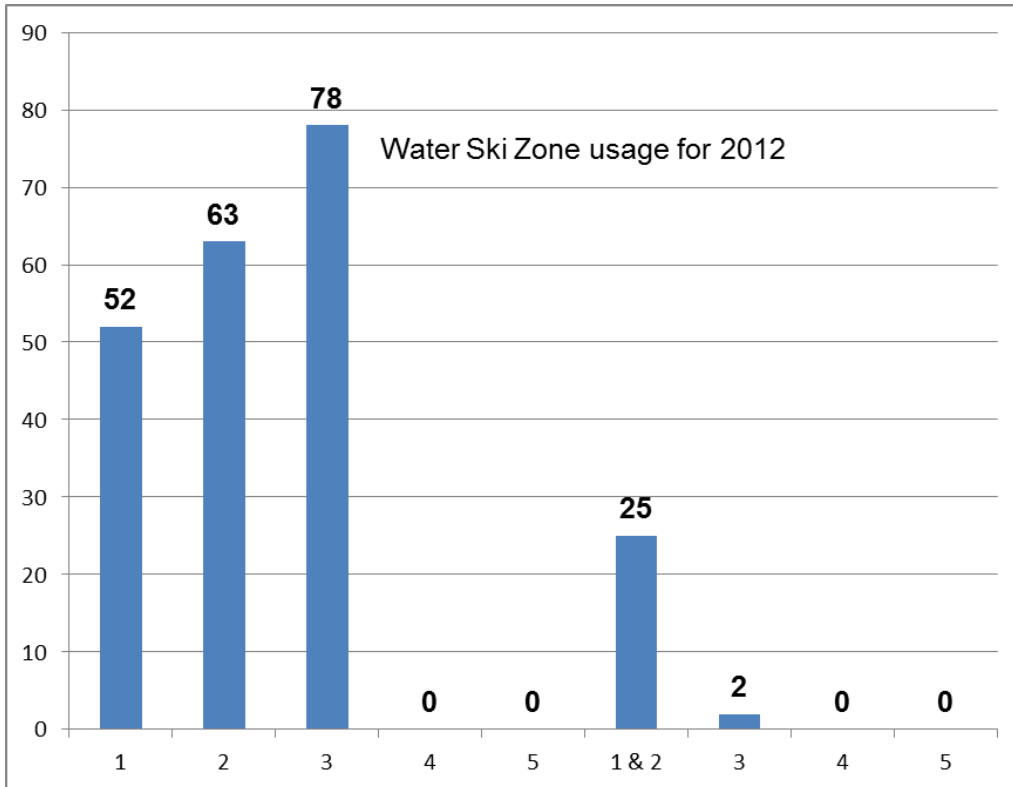
- 5.1 No user feedback has been received.

6 Permits and Usage

- 6.1 The number of water ski permits issued by the Authority has remained relatively static over the last five years which is probably reflected the new permit regime and the additional requirements which have been introduced.

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Permits	67	54	48	39	40	31	38	36	35

- 6.2 The usage of the zones has been analysed for the year 2012/13 from data recorded in the permit log books which are required to be returned to the Authority on the completion of the permit year.
- 6.3 The graph below provides an indication of the activity in number of individual visits to each of the water ski zones during the season 2012/13.



6.4 The graph above shows water ski zone usage over the last 7 years

7 Options for Consideration

7.1 The following options were presented to the Review Panel for consideration at its meeting on 15 October 2013.

- 7.2 Option 1
Allow the practice of 'getting air' to continue as defined in the trial in the zones previously used for the trial and requiring users to log on with Broads Control prior to their activity and hold a further review after one year.
- 7.3 Option 2
Allow the practice of 'getting air' in all zones except Yare 1 with requirement to log on and off with Broads Control.
- 7.4 Option 3
Allow the practice of 'getting air' in all zones except Yare 1 with no requirement to log on and off with Broads Control.

8 Review Panel Recommendations

- 8.1 The Review Panel considered that option 3 should be recommended to the Authority for implementation from 1 April 2014.

9 Consultation

- 9.1 The Broads Authority Act 2009 includes provisions enabling the Authority to regulate waterskiing and wakeboarding. They include a power to designate, to amend or revoke zones within the Authority's navigation area where these activities will be permitted.
- 9.2 At its meeting on 21 March 2014 the Authority will consider a report detailing the proposal to pass a resolution that certain zones where and times when these activities are currently permitted by virtue of the Authority's resolution on the 22 January 2010 and 17 September 2010, 16 March 2012 and 18 January 2013 be amended to apply after 1 April 2014. These amended zones and times are set out in Appendix 2.
- 9.3 The effect of the proposed resolution will be to permit a form of wakeboarding including manoeuvres and momentarily leaving the surface of the water in two additional zones on the River Yare numbered 2 and 4 and three zones on the River Waveney numbered 3, 4 and 5 in Appendix 2.
- 9.4 Section 26(5)(a) of the 2009 Act requires the Authority, before it passes the proposed resolution, to consult:-
- (a) such persons who own or occupy residential property, the amenity of which appears to the Authority likely to be affected by the proposed resolution; and
 - (b) Natural England and such organisations as appear to the Authority to represent persons likely to be affected by it.
- 9.5 The public consultation started on the 14 January and will close on the 14 February. Members' views are welcomed on the proposed variations, and will be reported to the Broads Authority meeting in March 2014.

10 Broads Forum

- 10.1 The Broads Forum were consulted on the proposals on the 6 February 2014. The Forum were largely supportive of the proposal however two members were not in favour of the proposals in the Yare 2 zone due to the perception of potential for increased levels of disturbance to visitors at the Strumpshaw nature reserve.

Background papers:	Waterskiing Zones Mitigation and Wakeboarding Trial, Broads Authority 17 September 2011
Author:	Steve Birtles
Date of report:	7 February 2014
Broads Plan Objectives:	NA4
Appendices:	APPENDIX 1 – Report to Broads Authority on 18 January 2013 BroadsReport180113 APPENDIX 2 – Consultation Schedule APPENDIX 3 – List of Consultees APPENDIX 4 – Water Ski Zone Map

Consultation Schedule

Zones to be formalised for Wake Boarding

River Yare

Stretch of Water

Times

Zone 2 From a point 400 metres (437 yards) downstream of Hobro's Dyke to a point 25 metres (27 yards) downstream of Claxton Pump

a Between the 21st March and the 30th September : between 1600 hours and sunset on any day.

Zone 4 From a point 1210 metres (1323 yards) upstream of the confluence of Hardley Dyke and the River Yare to a point 90 metres (98 yards) upstream of that confluence

b Between the 1st October and 20th March in any year: between 1300 hours and sunset on Sundays and between 0900 hours and sunset on any other day.

River Waveney,

Stretch of Water

Times

Zone 3 From a point 400 metres (437 yards) downstream of Somerleyton Ferry Pier to a point 1310 metres (1432 yards) upstream of the road bridge spanning the River Waveney at St Olaves.

a Between the 21st March and the 30th September : between 1600 hours and sunset on any day.

Zone 4 From a point 1210 metres (1323 yards) downstream of the road bridge spanning the River Waveney at St Olaves to a point 400 metres (437 yards) upstream of Seven Mile House (Pettinghill's Mill).

b Between the 1st October and 20th March in any year: between 1300 hours and sunset on Sundays, and between 0900 hours and sunset on any other day

Zone 5 From a point 400 metres (437 yards) downstream of Seven Mile House (Pettingill's Mill) to a point 2010 metres (2198 yards) upstream of the lower limit of the River Waveney being 460 metres (503 yards) upstream of the base Turntide Jetty

List of Consultees

Persons who own or occupy residential property adjacent to the Water Ski Zones.

Natural England

Somerleyton Hall

RSPB – Strumpshaw

Eastern Rivers Water Ski Club

Norfolk & Suffolk Boating Association

Country Landowners Association

BHBF

BASG

Amateur Rowing Association

British Canoe Union

Broads Society

Inland Waterways Association

British Water Ski and Wakeboard

Norwich School Boat Club

Broadland Boat Club

Norfolk Skiff Club

Norwich Rowing Club

Norwich Canoe Club

Lowestoft Rowing Club

Beccles Rowing Club

Norwich High School Rowing Club

Yare Boat Club

UEA Boat Club

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