

**Hirer Safety Review**  
Report by Head of Safety Management

**Summary:** The report sets out the process of the Hirer Safety review which is being carried out on behalf of the Navigation Authorities.

Members' views are sought on the proposal detailed at 3.2.

## **1 Background**

- 1.1 A UK inland waterway navigation authority review of boat hirer safety is taking place concerning hired powered boats only. This review is being administered through the support committees of Boat Safety Scheme (BSS). The review covers hirer safety generally and the hire trade and other stakeholders are participating. The outcomes of the review will see hirer safety delivered through an appropriate balance between the roles and responsibilities of the navigation authorities, hire operators and hirers themselves. The aim is to influence navigation authority licensing conditions, as well as BSS hire boat requirements, which were last reviewed in 2002.
- 1.2 The initial risk review is now complete and initial recommendations have been developed for consideration by the navigation authorities. The Broads Authority and operators of hire boats on the Broads have been actively involved in the review and during 2014 outputs from the review will be evaluated and where necessary will inform updates to the Broads Authority Hire Boat Licensing scheme.
- 1.3 The consultant's report containing initial recommendations from the risk review (stage 1) and assessment stage of the navigation authority's general review of hirer safety is available to download from this link.  
<http://www.boatsafetyscheme.org/media/231417/navigation-authority-hsr-initial-recommendations-nov-13.pdf>

## **2 Next Steps**

- 2.1 Stage 2 navigation authority proposals will be developed through the BSS Management Committee during early 2014. This stage includes defining the balance between roles and responsibilities of the navigation authorities, hire operators and hirers in ensuring hirer safety.
- 2.2 Stage 3 - public consultation is intended to take place between mid- March and the end of July 2014 and the outcomes linked to any agreed changed navigation authority licensing conditions and BSS hire boat requirements will be published during August 2014.

2.3 Stage 4 - implementation - the intention is that the navigation authorities will implement the changes from April 2015 to allow hire operators reasonable time to take account of the changes and adopt them.

### **3 Broads Authority Hire Boat Licensing**

3.1 The 2013 Safety Management System Hazard Review detailed actions for the development of hire boat licensing conditions to include the requirement to have speed indication at all helm positions on powered vessels. This new licensing condition was to be implemented for the 2014 season.

3.2 It is proposed that the requirement for speed indication will be included with other requirements which will be output from the Hirer Safety Review for implementation in 2015. This will enable the hire boat industry to be subject to one change to their licensing conditions rather than continual change which would not be welcomed.

Background papers: None

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Broads Plan Objective NA4

Appendices: None