

Oban Bay Stakeholder Group Meeting 13 Feb 2017 – Notes from the Meeting

AGENDA

- Situation Report – Progress so far
- Progress with MCA/UKSON Submission
- Navigational Risk Assessment Review – Final Report **completed**
- Code of Practice – Final draft **completed**
- Guidance for Small Craft - Be Safe-Be Seen Final draft **completed**
- Next steps
- AOB

ATTENDING

David Phillips	DP	OHMG Project Manager
Alasdair Henderson	AH	CalMac
Paul Jennings	PJ	Oban Bay Harbour Manager
Fergus Gillanders	FG	Argyll & Bute Harbourmaster
Eric Chapman	EC	Oban Bay Community Berthing
Billy Forteith	BF	RNLI and Oban Sailing Club
Sarah Brown	BW	RYA Scotland
Mike Robertson	MR	RNLI
Ian Henderson	IH	Recreational & commercial user
Peter Weir	PW	Oban Marina
John Anderson	JA	Clyde Cruising Club
Struan Smith	SS	Coastal Connections
Cameron Smith	CS	Coastal Connections
Neil Stewart	NS	General Manager – The Majestic Line
Peter Tosh	PT	Oban Port Users (Fishermen)

ACTIONS

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| Discuss Oban Sailing Club comments with MCA - completed | DP |
| Write to UKHO re chart and publication changes - completed | DP |

SITUATION REPORT

- This meeting was held at the Oban RNLI Station and was very well attended for which many thanks to all who came along.
- Alasdair Henderson introduced Paul Jennings the recently appointed Harbour Manager for Oban Bay and explained what his role would be; essentially Paul will continue the work that Mike Brew previously and me more recently have been doing on behalf of the Oban Bay & Harbour Management Group (OHMG). I will hand over my responsibilities to Paul mid-April. Although Paul is an employee of CalMac he will effectively be working for all the OHMG and the Stakeholders.
- On 19 Dec 2016, David Phillips submitted formally the Code of Practice, the Small Craft Guidance and the detailed corrections to charts and publications to the MCA for their approval and subsequent review and approval by the UKSON.

THE UK SAFETY OF NAVIGATION COMMITTEE

- The UK Safety of Navigation Committee (UKSON) approved the final drafts of both the Code of Practice and the Small Craft Guidance, nevertheless the RYA, Nautilus International and the MCA made some

comments which were considered and included where appropriate.

- Oban Sailing Club asked that article 4 of the Code of Practice be amended to read '*Sailing vessels should be prepared use their auxiliary engines (if fitted) at all times when navigating through the North Channel and in any event shall not impede the passage of a vessel which can safely navigate only within the Large Vessel Channel (IRPCS Rule 9(b)).* As this request was made after the UKSON approval it was not clear at the time of the meeting whether making this change would require the whole process to be restarted. After some discussion the Group agreed that if the MCA were not happy to make the change without MCA HQ and UKSON approval then the Code would go out as it is and we would consider this change at the first review.

Post-meeting Note: DP contacted the MCA who stated that they were not happy to alter the approved text without going through MCA HQ in Southampton and the UKSON. Furthermore, it is the opinion of many that the use of the word 'should' rather than 'must' does confer some latitude, for example the rules governing the small boat channel in Portsmouth use 'must'. Without going into the finer points of the English language, the need to get this Code out in time for this year's summer season compels us to leave the text as it stands and raise this issue again at the 1st review when we have all had some experience of using the Code.

- **Post-meeting Note:** The chart corrections requested were approved by the UKHO and will go into the relevant charts and publications. The UKHO have set a provisional publication date of 18th May for the New Edition of Chart 1790 and will make all the changes to publications (Sailing Directions & ALRS), plus Notice to Mariners for the smaller scale charts in the same week. The Clyde Cruising Club (Edward Mason) are also in the loop.

PROJECT PLAN

Marico Marine involvement in the project is planned to complete on 11 April 2017, with the final deliverables marking a successful outcome of this particular project as follows:

- An updated risk assessment – **completed** and available on the website for public viewing.
- Revised and agreed Code of Practice - **completed** to be published by 31 Mar 2017.
- Guidance for Small Craft (BeSafe-BeSeen) - **completed** to be published by 31 Mar 2017.
- Chart and publication corrections – 18 May 2017
- Memoranda of understanding (or similar) bringing together Oil Spill Response Plan and Emergency Plans of the OHMG member organisations - work in progress.
- Procedure for incident reporting, investigation and finding – work in progress

NEXT STEPS

- Publicise Code of Practice and Small Craft Guidance – draw up media plan
- Update publications and charts to reflect changes
- Review/Update Oil Spill Response and Emergency Plans
- Develop Incident response procedures
- Next meeting of the Stakeholder Group is **10 April 1900**