

NWSF SEA ADVISORY GROUP (formerly SoSWG)

Wednesday 16 August 2006

MINUTES

Attendees:

Peter Chennell	RNLI (Chair)
Peter Brown	MCA
Peter Cornall (PNC)	RoSPA
Simon Jinks	RYA
Nigel Saw	BMF
Keith Tatman	MCA (early part of meeting)
Steve Clinch	MAIB (Guest Speaker)
Cheryl Lammiman	RNLI (Minutes)

1. Welcome/Introductions

PC welcomed everyone and thanked the MCA for hosting the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from:

Kevin Mowat	UKLHMA
Stuart Bailey	RLSS
David Walker	RoSPA (Peter Cornall standing in for him at this meeting)

Steve Clinch, Deputy Chief Executive, MAIB addressed the Group.

The MAIB was formed following the Herald of Free Enterprise disaster as an independent body investigating accidents within the commercial, fishing and leisure boat industries. There are 16 inspectors working within 4 teams 365 days of the year. They have recently been focussing on leisure and have identified specific problems with alcohol in the leisure industry. They have a team on call and always deploy two inspectors to the site of an accident. Any evidence collected is kept confidential. The reports and whole process take about 7 months, following which recommendations are made to increase safety. Meetings are then held with the relevant bodies with the aim of coming out with recommendations and changes. There are around 2,000 accidents each year resulting in around 30 reports. Cost is not an issue. Although independent, the Chief Inspector of Marine Accidents reports directly to the Secretary of State for Transport. Around 40 – 45 accidents are reported each week.

PNC asked SC about contact with coroner. RoSPA would like to improve contact with the coroner in order to obtain better data, the aim being to come up with safety lessons for the future.

NS said there are a number of reports from MAIB where no action has been taken following recommendations. What happens then? The case of Loch Lomand was used as an

example where no action has yet been taken about signage. SC reported that the MAIB do monitor recommendations and there is a requirement to come back with a response. MAIB will periodically chase up on action points to find out if recommendations have been carried out.

PB asked of SC how as a group can we help the MAIB? SC replied that the MAIB need to have a better understanding of NWSF SAG and the way in which the group can influence change.

PNC asked if it would be useful for the Group to give a presentation to the MAIB in order for them to have a better understanding of what the Group are trying to achieve. SC welcomed the idea and it was agreed that two separate presentations should be arranged, one for the NWSF SAG and one for the Water Safety Forum..

PB complimented the MAIB on their work and the quality of the reports they produce which was endorsed by all present.

SC confirmed that it is only mandatory to report pleasure vessel accidents if they are commercially operated.

Arrangements are to be made to meet after the holiday period.

Action: Suggest contact with MAIB after meeting in October

PC thanked SC for addressing the Group.

SC & KT left meeting at 11:50am.

PC explained that Kevin Franklin of Seafish is no longer a member of the NWSF SAG group by mutual consent. PC would like to place on record what good work they have done and to formally record this group's gratitude of the work that Seafish have put in.

3. Call for Any Other Business

None tabled

4. Minutes of last meeting

Press statement - PC

PC feels that this group could issue a group press release. The reason for this is that this group have been together now for several years and it should be seen as doing something together in order to be taken seriously. DW said that there is a need to agree what is agreed upon.

Agenda item: discuss at next meeting, including delivery method

DW – Request for information regarding headline statistics

Agenda item: keep this item on the agenda – Cheryl to speak to Jo re template from DW

Lifejackets

PC thanked SJ for his work. Following discussion, it was agreed that suggestions made by the group should to be incorporated into the guidelines. A little more work is needed on the definitions and care should be taken to ensure compliance with ISO standards.

Action: SJ to revise RYA guidelines

Disposal of flares

Following Michael Vlasto's meeting, PC briefed the group on the outcome. There was some commercial conflict regarding where the financial responsibility lies, but agreement was reached in principle on the collection of other peoples flares. Collection points could be organised.

Dedicated weather channel

There is progress towards increasing the availability of forecasts by the use of Navtex 490. The problem with VHF is availability of aerials and frequencies.

Action: PC spoke to the man who attempted to set up a dedicated weather channel. However it was purely a commercial reason for the failure.

MAIB Investigations and report

NS questioned whether a member of NWSF SAG should perhaps represent the group at MAIB investigation. It was noted that each member only attends in their own right and not as a member of NWSF SAG. PB suggested the group consider a process where the MAIB report their recommendations and the NWSF SAG then promulgate their interpretation.

Agenda Item: It was suggested that this item becomes an agenda item for the next meeting

Key safety messages

PC believes there are 6 messages although there could be more. PB suggested the messages could be as simple as "wear your ppe". PB suggested we have a training statement. It was agreed that there would be an e-mail debate regarding suggestions so that we can decide as a group what we consider to be key messages that are acceptable to everyone.

5. Verbal update

Owing to time restraints it was agreed to omit verbal updates from this meeting.

6. Proposed Hire Boat Code

NS gave a presentation on Stability. For the past year the BMF have been testing boats for stability and to determine margins of safety. BMF are to develop a hire boat code which will go for consultation to AINA.

7. Alcohol and boating

In response to recent press interest on this issue the advice from NWSF SAG is:

- Alcohol and drugs affect your decision making
- Alcohol and drugs can impair your judgement and will also adversely impact on your survival in the water.

8. Use of lifejackets code

Covered in previous point

9. Time expired pyros

Covered in previous point

10. Date and time of next meeting

Mid February 2007, location suggested Dublin, Cheryl to co-ordinate

PB handed out the following documents :

MCA Update

2nd Draft of UK Incident Data Gap Analysis

Understanding Maritime Incidents – 2006 Report

Fatality Risk Matrix

PC reminded the Group that on 9 and 10 October at the Water Safety Conference, there may be questions posed to NWSF SAG members.