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Report to Environment Committee
from Mike Pryce, Manager, Harbours

Pleasure Boat Safety Advisory Group (PBSAG) Interim Report

1. Purpose

To advise the Committee of the initial report of the Pleasure Boat Safety Advisory Group (PBSAG) and their recommendations.

2. Background

The Pleasure Boat Safety Advisory Group was set up in March 1998 to review the policy of the Maritime Safety Authority in the promotion of pleasure boat safety, which is primarily through education rather than regulation. The Group was formed following public concern about increasing pleasure boat accidents, which were receiving much publicity.

I was asked to be part of the Group to represent Regional Harbourmasters.

3. Findings

The Group delivered a report in December 1998. It shows that no one solution will prevent all boating accidents and fatalities. Five major recommendations have been identified which together, the Group considered likely to have the greatest safety impact on boating in New Zealand. These are:

- **Operator Knowledge** – That policies and programmes to increase boat operators' knowledge and skill be assessed and developed.
- **Safety Equipment** – That policies and initiatives to improve the carriage and use of safety equipment be investigated.
- **Other Issues** -That other ways to improve management of recreational boating safety be further investigated and public opinion be sought on these.

Options may include:

- Alcohol and drug restrictions
- Boat registration/identification
- Vessel care and maintenance guidelines.
- Separate operating areas for different boat activities.
- Increased levels of enforcement.
- **Co-ordination** – That a formal co-ordination process and plan be developed with the groups involved in promoting boating safety, to make the base use of available resources.

- **Personal Water Craft**

Recommendations for PWC include:

- Encouraging regional or district council management initiatives to reduce accidents, noise and nuisance, through the enforcement of legislation and setting aside of specific areas for PWC activity.
- Promoting education for PWC users on the safe use of PWC and how to follow the boating rules.
- Evaluating the need for further legislation.

A six-page leaflet containing a questionnaire and summary of the findings is being widely distributed through boating magazines, boating groups, etc., in order to obtain feedback from anyone with an interest in recreational boating use. These have been requested to be returned to the Maritime Safety Authority by 30 April 1999. The questionnaire will be used to gauge the feelings and comments of interested groups and individuals, and could affect future legislation.

A summary of current maritime legislation regulating recreational boating is attached for information purposes.

4. Implication

Presently we distribute safety information brochures and support educational groups in raising the level of safety awareness. We have several trial areas set aside for use of jetskiers, but can proceed no further until present legislation is modified. If a greater level of enforcement is decided upon, this will have resourcing implications for us.

5. Recommendation

That the report be received and the information noted.

Report prepared by:

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