

NEWSLETTER

The Workboat Association Newsletter

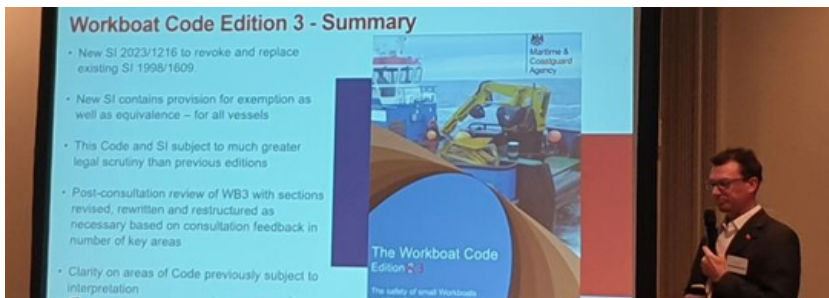
This month's sponsor, Armed Forces Covenant

Title picture: Workboat Association CEO, Kerrie Forster with Llewelyn Banks-Hughes, Co-Founder of London International Shipping Week, IMO Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez and Sean Moloney Co-Founder of LISW, during the LISW 2025 Government Reception at Mansion House



Welcome to our members who have joined since Seawork 2025...

- CE Marine LTD
- Braeside Marine LTD
- B&K Experience Generosity LTD
- Nauticworx.com B.V.
- North Star Shipping
- Port of Mostyn
- Lochnell Oysters & Algae Farm
- Conwy County Borough Council
- Seafield Navigation LTD
- Bibby Marine Finance LTD



AGM REGISTRATION CLOSES SOON

FULLY BOOKED, there are a handful of rooms left at the hotel, which are also available to the public on a first come first serve basis. This is your last chance to join the biggest AGM event yet. You can do that by clicking the link [HERE](#). This year we're returning to Oulton Hall for the AGM from the 18th to 19th November. With our Golf day taking place on the illustrious Championship Golf Course on the 17th November. This year, as a first, we will having a High Tea for partners on the 18th November in the afternoon.

Access our AGM Newsletter [HERE](#).

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Hon. Keir Mather MP Appointed as UK Maritime Minister

The Workboat Association welcomes the announcement of Hon. Keir Mather, MP for Selby, as the new Maritime Minister for the United Kingdom, taking over responsibilities from Mike Kane MP (inset).

Mr. Mather assumes this position at a pivotal time for the sector, becoming the youngest-ever UK Maritime Minister—a generational shift that brings with it a fresh perspective and energy.

Key issues such as decarbonisation, digitisation, green skills, equality, and diversity are at the forefront of modern maritime policy. We believe Mr. Mather's appointment offers an exciting opportunity to drive meaningful progress in these critical areas.

The Workboat Association extends our congratulations and full support to Mr. Mather as he steps into this important role. We look forward to continued collaboration and constructive dialogue during his tenure.

We would also like to express our sincere thanks to Mike Kane MP for his commitment and partnership during his time as Maritime Minister. His contributions have been greatly appreciated across the maritime industry.



Read More about DfT Updates [HERE](#)

Funding Opportunities

New and ongoing funding streams are available to support innovation, sustainability, and growth across the UK's maritime industry. These opportunities aim to help businesses and organisations develop cleaner technologies, strengthen skills, and enhance competitiveness within the sector.

Click [HERE](#) to find out more.

UK Regulatory Update

Here is an update of all the relevant MCA regulatory changes and news over the summer.

[Consultation on the merchant shipping \(vessels in commercial use for sport or pleasure\) regulations 2025](#)

This consultation seeks your views on a new Statutory Instrument and accompanying Code of Practice for Small Vessels in Commercial use for Sport or Pleasure ("Sport or Pleasure Vessel Code"). Change made: Final Consultation out report and annexes added

[MIN 538 Amendment 8 \(M\) Codes of practice – Authorisation of certifying authorities](#)

The purpose of this Marine Information Note (MIN) is to provide contact details of Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) authorised certifying authorities.

[Lundy Explorer report published](#)

Serious injury to a passenger on the sea safari rigid inflatable boat Lundy Explorer at Ilfracombe, England.

[MGN 436 \(M+F\) Amendment 5 whole body vibration](#)

Guidance on mitigating, where there is risk of injury, from the effects and impacts of whole-body vibration on small vessels.

[MGN 591 \(M+F\) Amendment 3 provision of safe means of access](#)

This guidance advises on the need to ensure that there are safe means of access and the protective measures that can be taken to minimise risks.

[Amendments to the International Code of Safety for High-Speed Craft, 1994 \(1994 HSC CODE\) \[TS No.37/2025\]](#)

This treaty was presented to Parliament in August 2025.

[MGN 447 \(M+F\) Amendment 4 control of noise at work – seeking exemptions](#)

Notice outlines the guidance and procedure for obtaining an exemption from requirements of merchant shipping and fishing vessel (control of noise at work)

[MCA safety spotlight: Bridge navigational safety and risk of collision](#)

There have been several recent incidents where failing to keep a proper lookout and poor navigational watchkeeping practices have led to collisions and groundings involving fatalities, and serious injuries.

[MGN 532 \(M\) Amendment 4 safe movement on board ship](#)

This notice gives guidance on the measures that shipowners and employers are expected to take in order to provide for safe movement on board UK ships.

[Remote Operator Training and Certification Pilot Framework](#)

This Remote Operator Training and Certification Pilot Framework sets out a voluntary pilot scheme developed by the UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), in collaboration with industry and academia. This sets out the proposed generic training and certification of Remote Operators (ROs) undertaking watchkeeping duties.

Workboat Association response to the DfT's 'Decarbonising Small Vessels Consultation'

Over the summer, the Department for Transport extended its consultation on decarbonising small vessels, giving stakeholders extra time to share their views. The consultation officially closed on Monday 8th September.

We've submitted the WA's response, reflecting the diverse operations and wide geographical spread of our members. With agreement from DfT, our input was provided in the form of a detailed letter rather than through the standard survey, ensuring we captured the full breadth of perspectives across our membership.

Read the WA's response [HERE](#).

Human Element Advisory Group (HEAG) Conference 2025

The 27th HEAG Conference will take place on Tuesday, 9 October 2025 at the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), London.

This annual event brings together industry leaders, regulators, academics, and charities to examine how human factors shape safety, wellbeing, and performance at sea.

The theme for 2025 is Human-Centred Shipping: Navigating Safety, Welfare, and Sustainability. Discussions will focus on:

- Integrating the human element into safety systems
- Sustainable operations
- Fatigue management
- Crew welfare

The agenda is currently being developed and will be shared in due course. Venue Address: International Maritime Organization, 4 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7SR

Places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, and registration will close on 18 September 2025.

Members are warmly encouraged to attend what promises to be a valuable day of insight, collaboration, and discussion on the future of human-centred shipping.

Registration: [Complete the form here](#)

Get to Know: Catherine Dixon

CEO of UKSA

Click [HERE](#) or on the photo to read.



UK Government Announces £448m for UK SHORE Programme

The UK Government has announced a further £448 million investment for the UK Shipping Office for Reducing Emissions (UK SHORE) programme within the Department for Transport, covering the period April 2026 to March 2030.

Read the full press release [HERE](#).

News from our Stakeholders

- Click [HERE](#) for the PSS Newsletter
- Click [HERE](#) for the MSA Newsletter
- Click [HERE](#) for the IMCA Newsletter
- Click [HERE](#) for the IIMS News Bulletin
- Click [HERE](#) for the Seafarers' Charity Newsletter
- Click [HERE](#) for CHIRP Newsletter
- Click [HERE](#) for SMI Newsletters

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