

NEWSLETTER

The Workboat Association Newsletter

Thanks to This month's sponsor, Damen Shipyards

Title picture from the Harwich Haven Authority of the Hornbill on the beach for maintenance.



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

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

THE AGM IS NEXT MONTH!

Next Month is our AGM and we are returning to Outlon Hall in Leeds. We will be taking over Oulton Hall on the 17th - 19th of November. With all the rooms now booked up BUT, if you have interest in attending and staying off site: email Jacqui via admin@workboatassociation.org.

Our Agenda has finally been confirmed - we've got all of our Workgroups meetings occurring, and some Guest speakers throughout the 2 days. We also have our AGM Dinner Tuesday night with Guest Speaker ... (ah! Not giving it away yet!)

To view in more detail - Access our AGM Newsletter [HERE](#).

WA on Demand Update

All of the last Quarters Work and Sub group meetings are now on WA on Demand. So head over there now to catch up on what you missed.

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NEWS FROM OUR STAKEHOLDERS

EU's new Entry/Exit System is Now in Full Force

From Sunday 12 October, the EU's new Entry/Exit System began a phased roll out at border crossings across Europe.

This means you may need to register your fingerprints and photo at border control. If you're travelling for work, remember not to exceed the 90-in-180-day limit. British travellers don't need to do anything in advance - just follow signs and staff instructions at the border.

The new system will be phased in over six months, meaning different ports may have varying requirements until April 2026. This should allow for a gradual implementation that minimises disruption, particularly at peak periods.

To Read more about the new system, Click [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.

Reports Of UK Border Force Checks On Vessels In UK Waters

Recent reports and discussions with our clients indicate that companies operating vessels in UK territorial waters, particularly those involved in the construction and servicing of offshore windfarms, are facing increased scrutiny from UK Border Force (UKBF). The authorities are taking a more proactive approach to immigration compliance, to ensure that all crew members have the appropriate permission to be in the UK.

Click [HERE](#) to Read more.

The Future of Apprenticeships Scotland Conference.

The upcoming Holyrood Insight event will explore how Scotland is evolving its apprenticeship landscape under the Tertiary Education and Training (Funding and Governance) (Scotland) Bill — with over £100 million dedicated to 25,500 Modern Apprentices and 2,500 Foundation Apprentices.

Key themes include: reforming funding and governance, boosting uptake, challenging apprenticeship stigma, improving access for ethnic minorities and deprived communities, and developing strong employer-provider partnerships.

Whether you're an employer, training provider or careers adviser, this full-day gathering offers insight, practical tools and networking to stay ahead in shaping the future of apprenticeships.

If you like, I can pull out a few key speakers or agenda highlights too.

To Read more Click [HERE](#).

MCA Public Consultation Now Open

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) has launched a public consultation on the draft Merchant Shipping (EPIRB and PLB Registration) (Radiocommunications) (Amendment) Regulations 2026. The consultation invites views on proposed updates to the rules governing the registration of Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs) and Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs) used across the maritime sector.

Following an initial consultation held between December 2024 and February 2025, the MCA has reviewed feedback and made amendments to the documentation. Stakeholders are now encouraged to share their views on the revised proposals before the **consultation closes at 23:59 on 7 November 2025**. The consultation documents can be accessed [HERE](#)

MAIB Report - Jean Elaine

The MAIB has released a report into its investigation after the grounding and subsequent loss of the diver support boat Jean Elaine in the Orkneys.

Read the report [HERE](#)

Feedback on UK PLB Registration mandate

The UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency relaunched a consultation last week, to allow for more people to have their say on proposals to make search and rescue response involving Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs) more efficient and effective. **Read the Press Release [HERE](#)**

A package of updates has been drafted by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) which includes the requirement to register current and new PLBs with the MCA – online and free of charge – if they are carried on a UK flagged vessel.

Read the Consultation Papers [HERE](#)

The Deadline to Comment is: **7th November 2025**

Contracting in Uncertain Times: Emissions Regulations for Workboats

Written by Rachel Hoyland, Of Counsel, Maritime Decarbonisation at Stephenson Harwood LLP

In an environment of rapidly developing emissions regulations for shipping, workboat owners may understandably feel uncertain as to what is relevant to them and how they should they respond contractually. In our experience to date, we are no longer surprised when developers are not well-versed in the issues, thus leaving owners to drive the point in commercial negotiations whilst also struggling at times to put the issues squarely on the table. The situation leaves owners open to several risks, including compliance costs and penalties landing heavily on owners as a result of gaps in charterparty regimes, but these can be mitigated by knowing what to focus on when and what terms to introduce to the charterparty...

Read More of the Article [HERE](#).

UK Defence Exports SME Surgery - South West

The UK Defence Exports team invites businesses to an SME Surgery at Battlelab in Dorset. These bi-monthly sessions aim to educate SMEs on exporting in the defence, dual use, and aerospace sectors. The upcoming session will focus on accessing the international defence sector, featuring support from various HMG departments. **[REGISTER HERE](#)** for the event.

UK Government Updates

A couple of Government updates that are of interest to you all.

- [MGN 602 \(M\) Amendment 1 MLC substantial equivalence for crew accommodation for 200GT to <500GT](#)
- [Help shape the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's digital services](#)

24 Peaks Challenge 2026

Ready to embrace an epic challenge in 2026 for a good cause?

Push your limits in support of seafarers and their families who man our ships on July 5-6. The 24 Peaks Challenge is The Seafarers' Charity's flagship fundraising event. Hosted for nearly 20 years, at the UNESCO World Heritage site of England's Lake District, they are inviting teams from all sectors of the maritime industry to elevate seafarers' safety and welfare. There are three route options, Bronze (7 Peaks), Silver (21 Peaks) or Gold (24 Peaks), catering for all endurance levels. Sign up as a team [today](#).

For further information and sponsorship opportunities, please contact Temi Binitie at Temi.Binitie@theseafarerscharity.org



HMG White Paper on Post-16 Education and Skills

His Majesty's Government published a White Paper on Post-16 Education and Skills. The Paper goes into length and includes high-level policy regarding :The Growth & Skills Levy and its use, as well as, The introduction of "V" levels as vocational qualifications.

To Read the Paper Click [HERE](#)

Vessels Contracting Training Day - 8th December

The Workboat Association hosts an annual training event reflecting member interests. This year features a one-day legal training by Stephenson Harwood LLP, focusing on time and bareboat charterparties in the Small Commercial Vessel sector, providing practical legal insights for members. It will be held at Stephenson Harwood LLP, 1 Finsbury Circus, London, EC2M 7SH. Starting at 9.30am and finishing around 5.30pm. **[REGISTER HERE](#)** for the event.

Maritime Security Navigating An Era of Unprecedented Challenges

Written by John Stawpert, Principal Director Marine, International Chamber of Shipping

The maritime industry has faced an extraordinary period of disruption over the past few years, from the Red Sea crisis and Ukraine conflict, to continued piracy threats in South East Asia. As we navigate these challenges, the lessons learned are reshaping how we approach maritime security globally. Drawing from extensive experience contributing to the International Chamber of Shipping's Maritime Security Guide and frontline observations of recent crises, it's clear that the industry's resilience has been tested and proven, but significant challenges lie ahead

Read More of the Article [HERE](#)

Volunteers for Maritime Skills Alliance Task and Deliver Group

Good afternoon all, we are looking for volunteers to join us in a Maritime Skills Alliance Task and Deliver group to review the Maritime Skills Qualifications in line with the MCA 7 Deck Units. These will be the basis of future MCA 200gt CoC training. We need representation across the board from Operators, Training Providers, Experts and those who have served on board.

The 7 MCA Units the MSQs need to be re-written for are:

- 1) Bridge Watchkeeping
- 2) Electronic Chartwork, Tides and Operational Passage
- 3) Marine Cargo Operations
- 4) Marine Emergency Response and Communication
- 5) Marine Law and Management (Introductory level)
- 6) Marine Meteorology
- 7) Ship Stability and Naval Architecture (Introductory level)

Want to Spread the Word

You could be the next Feature Friday or the Get To Know in the newsletter. It could be even simpler - like a photo to feature on the front page. If you have anything that you think will be of interest to our members and your colleagues - please let us know by sending email to h.johnson@workboatassociation.org.

Get to Know: Harry Johnson

Marketing & Communications at the WA
Click [HERE](#) or on the photo to read.



CHIRP factsheet on pilot transfers

CHIRP has published a safety factsheet on this important topic, which is attached for the information of members.

To Read the Factsheet Click [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
- Click [HERE](#) for The Nautical Institute Newsletter
- Click [HERE](#) to Read the UKHO Update

