

NEWSLETTER

The Workboat Association Newsletter



Title picture - Brightlinsea Harbour Office Decorated for the festive season.

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

- [Cooke Aquaculture Scotland Ltd](#)
- [Marine Comply Ltd](#)
- [Saxon Expeditions](#)
- [BMT Group Limited](#)
- [Kmass Marine Ltd](#)
- [DK Marine Ltd](#)

And many more - whose memberships start on January 1st 2026!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from the WA Team.

Members,

We would like to thank you for all of your support throughout the year. We hope that you have all found our events, workgroups and training days useful. We hope you have a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year - and more importantly that you all stay safe, whether you be a home with family or out at sea with crew. We will be on **leave** from the **23rd December**, mailboxes will be monitored throughout the holidays. We are **back** at our desks on the **2nd January, 2026**. We need to reenergise before the bumper year next year!

From

The WA Team

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SEAWORK SUBGROUP

Our Seawork 2026 Subgroup meetings return at the start of the new year. With every meeting occurring every last Tuesday of the month.



THE WA, BTA & UKPMA Joint Gog Rope Document Release

The British Tugowners Association (BTA), the UK Maritime Pilots' Association (UKMPA), and the Workboat Association (WA) have jointly released "Gog Ropes: Industry Advice", a new guidance document designed to enhance safety in conventional towage operations. Unveiled at the recent Annual General Meeting and Safety Seminar of both Associations, this publication marks a significant step forward in strengthening industry-wide standards for rope use and towage safety.

Click [HERE](#) to have a full read of our document release.

Improving Offshore Crew-Transfer Safety

MARIN, the "MARitime Research Institute Netherlands" is taking the initiative to investigate the scale of unreported incidents during 'personnel transfer at sea' together with the industry.

Across the maritime industry, a significant and growing number of personnel transfers take place each year. While some of these transfers—such as wind turbine access and pilot boarding—are governed by established procedures, regulations, and incident reporting frameworks, many offshore transfers fall outside the scope of oversight by industry organisations typically collecting this data. We are looking for industry to join us in our new Joint Industry Project.

Read more [HERE](#)

IMO rules on preventing and responding to violence and harassment

Following the adoption of IMO Resolution MSC.560(108), which introduces mandatory training on preventing and responding to violence and harassment within the Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities (PSSR) course, we want to clarify the UK position and next steps. To clarify the UK's position, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency have published MIN 729 (MF) Amendment to PSSR, available to read [HERE](#)

The WA sent an email to members to here what they are doing to introduce these new rules. We have collated responses from members into a guidance document.

Read our document [HERE](#)

Vessels Contracting Training Day

Thank you to everyone who attended the vessels contracting training day at Stephenson Harwood. We hope you found the day very informative.

The advertisement is a vertical rectangular graphic with a blue and white geometric pattern. At the top left is the logo for 'ITS 2026 GOTHENBURG' featuring a stylized ship. To the right of this logo is the text 'In association with CATERPILLAR'. Below the logo is the text 'The 28th International Tug & Salvage Convention, Exhibition & Awards' and '19-21 May 2026 | Gothenburg, Sweden'. In the center, there is a white square containing the WA logo. Below this is the text 'Supporting organisation' and 'Book your conference ticket here!'. At the bottom, there is a red button with white text that says 'EARLY BOOKING RATE REGISTRATION NOW OPEN'.

UKHO Update

Here is the last UKHO Update of 2025 as they look back at a year of collaboration with everyone in the maritime industry.

Click [HERE](#) to Read

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 [HERE](#)

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

Workgroup Corner

Training

This year the organisation will focus on providing resource/support to the Maritime Skills Alliance and the MCA review of Small Commercial Vessel training. Plus, the further development of Towing Training and Assessment series, including the towing good practice guides, Voluntary Towing Endorsement scheme and towing training courses.

Technical

This year a co-Chair will be elected to sit alongside Andy Page (Chartwell Marine) to support and push our Technical agenda. Including our continued partnership with Seawork to present the "Get Set for Workboat 2050" series (more info here).

Safety

The 2026 Safety Campaign will focus on "Lines under tension". Following our first Safety Workgroup meeting of the year, more information will be made available on the structure and objectives of this campaign during 2026.

British Marine Passenger Boat & Commercial Marine Conference

Join WA Chairman, Richard Brooks, at the BM PBACM Conference 2026. Celebrating our continued support WA Members can also make use of the BM member price of £65, instead of the £115 non member rate. Tickets are limited and close on Tuesday 6th January.

Click [HERE](#) for more information

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.

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...

Sam Dawkins

Maine Operations Manger
The Port of London Authority.
Click [HERE](#) or on the photo to read.



WhatsApp Community

If you would like to join the WA's WhatsApp community please send an email to Lys - L.johnson@workboatassociation.org including your mobile number and an invite will be sent to your phone. The community has separate groups for all your workgroups and subgroups - if you would like invites to these as well please let Lys know.

Sync up your Calendars

Don't forget to get your calendars synced up for all of our latest events and workgroup meetings.

Click [HERE](#) To View and Sync your Calendar.

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 SMI Newsletters
- Click [HERE](#) for Marine Society

