

COMMITTEE ON BOATING AND YACHTING

Establishment of A Subcommittee on Matters relating to Pleasure Vessels (PV Subcommittee) under the Local Vessels Advisory Committee

Purpose

This paper aims to seek members' comments on the establishment of a subcommittee on matters relating to pleasure vessels (**PV Subcommittee**) under the Local Vessels Advisory Committee.

Background

2. When the new Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance (Cap. 548) comes into operation (likely to be in early 2006), a statutory advisory committee named as "Local Vessels Advisory Committee" (**LVAC**) will be established. Under the new Ordinance, the LVAC shall consist of representatives of Marine Department and Hong Kong Police as well as 12 persons who are appointed by the Director of Marine since each of them has expertise in one of the following operations / fields respectively:

- (i) ship building and repairing industry;
- (ii) naval architecture;
- (iii) ship survey work and plan approval work;
- (iv) marine insurance industry;
- (v) seafarers' training;
- (vi) seafarers' associations;
- (vii) cargo vessels' operations;
- (viii) launches and excursion vessels' operations;
- (ix) ferry vessels' operations;
- (x) river trade cargo operations;
- (xi) pleasure boating operations; and
- (xii) fishing industry.

3. The Director of Marine may seek the advice of the LVAC on any matter which is related to the performance of his functions or the exercise of his powers under the new Ordinance, or the general regulation or control of local vessels in Hong Kong. To fulfill such advisory role, the LVAC is empowered under the new Ordinance to establish subcommittee.

4. As the regulation and control of vessels used for pleasure purpose is one of the essential functions of the Marine Department, it is considered necessary to establish a subcommittee to discuss any matters relating to these vessels and pleasure activities at sea.

Proposal

5. In view of the above, it is proposed that a subcommittee named as “Subcommittee on Matters relating to Pleasure Vessels (**PV Subcommittee**)” should be established; and the Terms of Reference of the PV Subcommittee is proposed at Annex.

6. Taking consideration of the recent criticism that the membership of the COMBAY is not sufficiently widespread, it is proposed that the PV Subcommittee should consist of the following members:

- (i) the Chairman (to be appointed by the LVAC);
- (ii) representative of the Marine Department;
- (iii) representative of the Home Affairs Department;
- (iv) representative of the Leisure and Culture Services Department;
- (v) representative of yachting and boating clubs (such as Aberdeen Boat Club, Hebe Haven Yacht Club, Lantau Boat Club, Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club, Tai Po Boat Club, and etc.);
- (vi) representative of marinas (such as, Golden Coast Marina, Hong Kong Marina and etc.)
- (vii) representative of associations and organizations, which are actively involved with various types of water sport activities (such as Hong Kong Jet Sports Boating Association, Hong Kong Sailing Federation, Hong Kong School Sailing Association, Hong Kong Waterski Association, Sai Kung Yacht Association and etc.)

7. As the membership and Terms of Reference of the PV Subcommittee would mainly be extended from that of the COMBAY, the PV Subcommittee should be able to carry out all the functions of the COMBAY. Therefore, it is proposed that the COMBAY could be dissolved when the PV Subcommittee is established.

Comments Sought

8. Members are invited to give their comments on the proposal mentioned in paragraphs 5 to 7 above.

Operations Branch
Marine Department
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Terms of Reference

- A. Promoting the use of vessels for pleasure purpose in safe environment and manner.
- B. Facilitating communications between the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the organizations, associations and clubs concerned.
- C. Discussing any matter referred by the Chairman of LVAC.
- D. Advising the Director of Marine on all aspects of boating and yachting, particularly for the following issues: -
 - i. Legislation, either extant or proposed, relating to the control and regulation of vessels for pleasure purpose (including racing, water-skiing, skin-diving and etc.).
 - ii. Identification of problems relating to boating and yachting activities (including racing, water-skiing, skin-diving and etc.), and how such problems may be overcome.
 - iii. Ways and means of alerting the public engaged in boating and activities of their responsibilities (such as, by publicity, education, issuance of booklets, and other advisory services).
 - iv. Ways and means of encouraging the owners of vessels for pleasure purpose to join “bona fide” associations and clubs.
 - v. Management techniques for control of mooring areas for the vessels concerned so as to ensure optimum safe usage of such areas.
 - vi. Identification of possible sites for new mooring areas.
 - vii. Identification of problems associated with the passage of cyclonic disturbances on vessels used for pleasure purpose.
 - viii. Training facilities and special classes relating to local certification of competency as pleasure vessel operator.
 - ix. Upon the conclusion of the subcommittee members deliberations, to prepare a report covering all aspects of the subcommittee’s work for the consideration of the LVAC.