

ESTUARY CARE

River Management Sub. Committee Recommendations to Council, May 2007

It needs to be highlighted at the outset that the meeting of this sub. Com was unanimous in their desire to bring awareness of Estuary Care and its activities to all the river users (the best form of control is to make allies and not enemies).

This would mean a branding and an awareness campaign:

BRANDING AND AWARENESS.

Possible options:

- Estuary Care signage to be put up at the various launch sites outlining role of Estuary Care and some of the more pertinent river rules.
- Have an active PR looking for ways that would make the public see the organization in a positive light and informing the public of possible future options for the effective control of the rivers.
- Canvassing for more members and ask them to get actively involved. It was felt that our shirts and caps etc. could rather be used as advertising for Estuary Care and we could run a special with new members for say R200, which would include a shirt or a cap.
- This form of correspondence could also outline the skipper's ticket requirement, and that the Estuary Care would be conducting these courses through Mike Baily at Kenton. The Estuary Care would thus be seen to be assisting them rather than always to be policing.
- The mailing list to be compiled from various sources, Estate Agents, Estuary Care, Ndlambe boat Registration forms, Rate Payers etc.

RIVER CONTROL (and boating regulations)

- Introduction of River Wardens. (These would be E. C. members as well as selected members of the public).
- The aim of the Wardens is not to be a policeman, but more to assist in maintaining a safe and protected environment where all can enjoy our rivers. These wardens could be identified by caps or badges and be authorized to black mark offenders. Licenses would be revoked after 2 or 3 black marks.
- Introduction of 3 ski zones on each river. Each zone would be for a different category and denoted by colored buoys e.g. a beginner ski zone marked with two blue buoys, wake and knee boarders a red zone, and good skiers a yellow zone. (All tubes be banned for safety reasons during peak season.)
- The zoning would only apply for 3 to 4 weeks of the Year. From 15 December to 10 January.
- Fishing Zones. The fisherman would have the full use of the entire rivers, but the skiers would have preference during the day in their dedicated zones. (The fishing is better in the late evening when the skiers would have left).

GENERAL RULES

- Boat size –Maximum of 21 foot
- Motor size –maximum of 200 Hp (twin motors max of 40 hp each)
- No jet propulsion

The consensus of the committee was that the new boating regulations requiring skippers' licenses would have an effect on river usage. It is likely that only one person per boat would have a license and so each boat would be used less. This would only have an effect if the licenses are checked regularly at the slipway when the boats are launched, from sunrise to sun set.

Secondly we are not of the opinion that extra fees for the summer season are justified at this point. If more members are recruited and impassioned to the cause through enlightening news

articles, this would not only bring in extra revenue through their subs but would allow them to become part of the solution rather than the problem.