

# The Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW "Promoting Sustainable Fishing"

**NEWS BULLETIN 36**  
**25<sup>th</sup> October 2007**



The RFA of NSW has 2 representatives on the NSW Maritime Recreational Vessel Advisory Group and is keen for recreational anglers and boaters input into matters they consider important whilst on the water. The most recent meeting (23<sup>rd</sup> October 2007) was another interesting and intense event which covered proposed changes to marine legislation and regulations, boat licensing issues, general boating and watercraft, the recent Georges River fatality, boating events, a proposed 'top end review' of NSW Maritime, personal floatation devices paper from the National Marine Safety Committee, State wide boating incidents and year to date figures and covered two new Maritime media campaigns - 'You're the Skipper - You're Responsible!' and 'Be Bright - Be Safe at Night'.

## **Media campaigns**

**You're the Skipper - You're Responsible!** media campaign covers the basic ten commandments about safe boating, speed, alcohol, weather, consideration of other water users, navigation etc. and is designed to encourage all recreational operators to take responsibility for their actions on the water.



**'Be Bright - Be Safe at Night'** is about correct navigation lights and the dealing with background scatter lighting which was an apparent issue in the Sydney Harbour incidents earlier this year. Web link <http://www.maritime.nsw.gov.au/docs/bebright-safenight.pdf>

## **Boating Incidents**

A report by the NSW Maritime and NSW Water Police show that there have been 16 fatalities YTD (Year to Date), which is considerably higher than last year. The most recent was an incident in the Georges River which resulted in a fatality and a person being seriously injured. At present the full reasons behind the incident are unknown, however speed was definitely a major factor. Two other fatalities have occurred since July 2007. Two fishermen have died, one at Yamba, drowning after falling out of his boat and the other after running aground in mangroves on the Manning River which also caused injury to two passengers.

NSW Police reported there have been 1,962 Search and Rescue events so far this year; boat owner should be taking more responsibility, in ensuring their craft are sea worthy and moored correctly.

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## **Boating Events**

With spring here and summer near, recreational boating is on the increase. It is noted that one in every four households in Australia owns some form of watercraft. Boat users are advised to ensure that their boats and trailers are in good repair and all onboard communication equipment is working correctly.

Below are the major events where you may encounter restrictions around Sydney.

### **DECEMBER 2007**

- 11 Big Boat Challenge 2007
- 15-19 Sydney International Regatta 2007
- 26 Sydney Hobart Yacht Race
- 31 New Year's Eve

### **JANUARY 2008**

- 26 Australia Day

## **NSW Maritime Medals**

### **Nominations Now Open for 2007.**

The NSW Maritime Medal was officially launched on 22 February 2006. The medal is to recognise exceptional contributions to the boating and maritime community in the categories of Safety, Environment and Community.

**Peter Goadby** was one of 15 medallists awarded last year. He is a well known recreational game fisher and writer and this recognised his 60-year commitment to the conservation and ethical handling of fish, including tag and release methods.

### **Other Short Points**

NSW Maritime will be having a 'top end' review in coming months, in particular the delivery of services – Marine Distress Flares and the return, transport and disposal of old flares is causing some concern with Workcover and TNT – On October 1<sup>st</sup> all NSW Maritime fees rose by the cost of CPI – A reminder to all recreational boaters that old EPIRB's or 'Distress Beacon' will not work after July 2009 and to renew and register your new 406 Beacon before 1 July 2008

### **Next Meeting**

The next planned meeting of the RVAG is in mid December 2007. If you have an issue with a boat ramp or any watercraft, then please e-mail the Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW with your issue [president@rfansw.com.au](mailto:president@rfansw.com.au)

The NSW Maritime web site has a wealth of knowledge. Test yourself by doing the on line licence test or subscribe to the e-newsletter to get the latest info via the web site <http://www.maritime.nsw.gov.au>

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