



**RETAINING YOUR
FREEDOMS
PROTECTING
YOUR INTERESTS**

Your voice for boating



RETAINING YOUR FREEDOMS, PROTECTING YOUR INTERESTS

The RYA stance

Recreational boating in the UK has a long established tradition of self-reliance and individual responsibility. Consequently, we continue to enjoy relative freedom to pursue our boating activities, but this freedom cannot be taken for granted.

Today, our coastal waters and inland waterways face increasing pressure from competing commercial, environmental and leisure interests.

In addition, national security, public safety and progressive regulatory initiatives, together with economic pressures, are more significant in today's political agenda.

For these reasons, it is vital that recreational boating interests are represented effectively to ensure that Government, in all its forms, takes full account of our activities when balancing competing interests.

The RYA provides a robust, articulate and intelligent voice to represent recreational boating and it works closely with its Home Country organisations (RYA Scotland, RYA Cymru Wales and RYA Northern Ireland) in respect of matters related to the devolved administrations.

The RYA works tirelessly to ensure that legislators, regulators and other authorities understand, and take account of, recreational boating activity.

As the representative voice of boating, the RYA follows clear principles. The RYA seeks to:

- ***maintain*** and ***promote*** safe, responsible and sustainable recreational boating
- ***influence*** all legislation and regulation that may impact on any aspect of recreational boating or navigational safety
- ***challenge*** proposed national legislation that may adversely affect any aspect of recreational boating and navigational safety, or that we believe to be disproportionate, ineffective or unenforceable

The RYA believes that the public right of navigation is paramount and is fundamental to these principles.



Maintain and promote safe, responsible and sustainable recreational boating.

The RYA believes that regulation of an activity does not of itself necessarily enhance safety. Nor does it prevent inappropriate or unacceptable behaviour.

We believe that knowledge, skills and experience rather than regulation are the foundations upon which personal safety and responsibility are built.

This principle applies to the RYA's work in promoting safe, responsible and sustainable boating by:

- providing information, good practice guidance and support to individuals, clubs and training providers
- maintaining and progressing the standard and availability of RYA recreational and professional training courses and boating qualifications
- developing pragmatic international and European standards for safety equipment
- helping the boating community reduce its impact on coastal and inland waters



Influence all legislation and regulation that may adversely impact on any aspect of recreational boating to ensure that your interests are properly represented and considered.

This principle applies to the RYA's work in the following areas:

- national and devolved government legislation
- international and European regulation
- navigational safety
- right of navigation
- local authority regulation that may set national precedent
- harbour bye-laws and harbour orders
- codes of practice for small commercial vessels and intended pleasure vessels
- recreational craft directives
- technical requirements for inland waterways vessels
- the activities of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Further, the RYA works to ensure that full account is taken of recreational boating activities, while broadly supporting the sustainable development and management of the UK's marine environment.

This principle applies to the RYA's work in the following areas:

- offshore renewable energy installations
- marine planning and licensing
- marine conservation

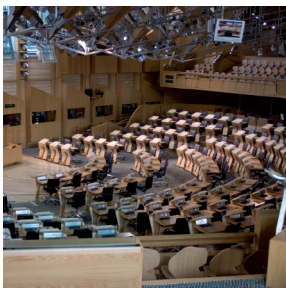


Challenge proposed legislation that may adversely affect any aspect of recreational boating and navigational safety, or that we believe to be **disproportionate, ineffective or unenforceable**. This includes any local authority regulation that may have national significance.

The RYA believes that any legislation or regulation should be transparent, accountable, proportionate and consistent and only targeted at cases where rigorous risk and evidence analysis demonstrates that such action is needed.

We therefore resolutely challenge proposed legislation or regulation that:

- does not satisfy these criteria
- will not achieve its stated objective
- cannot, in practice, be readily enforced.



About four million people in the UK regularly enjoy boating on the many lakes, lochs, loughs, rivers, estuaries and coastal waters across the country and the open seas beyond.

Boating takes many forms, from a sociable, relaxing leisure pastime, to high adrenalin, high-performance sport at the frontier of innovation and technology. It has something to offer all ages and abilities, regardless of their gender, race or creed.

Society values the qualities of self-reliance, companionship, health, well-being, tenacity and personal responsibility and it should therefore cherish the contribution that recreational boating makes in nurturing them.



The RYA has over 110,000 personal members and 1,500 affiliated clubs and classes, which represent some 350,000 active boaters throughout the UK.

We are the national body for dinghy, motor and sail cruising, all forms of sail racing, RIBs and sportsboats, windsurfing and personal watercraft and a leading representative body for inland waterways cruising.

The RYA's primary objectives are:

- **sustaining and defending recreational boaters' freedoms and rights**
- **promoting responsible and sustainable boating**
- **increasing access and opportunity for all to participate.**

We set and maintain an international standard for recreational boat training through a network of RYA-recognised training centres, world-class courses and educational material.

The RYA is responsible for one of the UK's most successful Olympic medal winning sports. Our coaching and development schemes actively support our country's top sailors, from talented juniors to Olympic and World Champions.

The RYA: your voice for boating

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