



**National Beach Safety Council Position Table
October 2007**

| No. | Issue | Background | Current Position | Action Required |
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| BE_1/07 | Responsibility for safety on beaches | The requirement for landowners to conduct appropriate risk assessments has been focussed on as the core issue. | <p>The RNLI has suggested a way forward which would ask Government to make a clear statement that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identifies who has duty of care for the public on beaches, in particular those where the owners actively encourage their use. ▪ Encourages the beach owner (private or Local Authority) to carry out a formal risk assessment, which takes into account beaches and associated swimming areas. ▪ Encourages the Local Authority or private landowner to put in place any reasonable safety measures identified by the formal risk assessment. ▪ Nominates an appropriate government body and empowers it to identify responsibility for conducting risk assessment and implementing safety measures. | Refer to NWSF, monitor outcomes and encourage access to the expert advice that is available from the RNLI, RoSPA, RLSS and SLSGB. |
| BE_2/07 | PWC operator training | PWC operating in an open water environment often encounter more a demanding environment and one with more safety decisions to be made by the driver (including an understanding of the requirements of lifeguards and other beach management representatives). | <p>The current RYA training course for PWC does not provide the necessary competencies to operate in an open water (beach/surf) environment.</p> <p>A questionnaire has been developed to gain a better understanding of the</p> | <p>The NBSC believes additional tiers of PWC training are needed, such as:</p> <p>Level 1 - Basic handling (still water operations) Level 2 - Open water (beach/surf or swift water) Level 3 - Commercial operations</p> |

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| | | | management issues. | <p>(training in the responsibilities of a hire craft industry operator).</p> <p><i>Other potential management issues and/or control measures may be identified in the questionnaire process.</i></p> <p>RoSPA to set up a meeting in mid-December with the RYA to find common ground. A representative from the NBSC, RNLI (Beach Safety and Sea Safety) and the MCA should also be invited to attend the meeting.</p> |
| BE_3/07 | Responsibility for PWC ('Governing Body') | There is a lack of definition of who has responsibility as the governing body for PWC. | <p>The RYA and the PWC Partnership have indicated a level of 'responsibility' for this sector.</p> <p>The MCA does not have statutory responsibility for recreational craft.</p> | <p>Communication between the Information Groups is required to resolve a number of issues relating to the management of PWC.</p> <p>There is a need to share 'best practice' and identify some generic guidance documents.</p> |
| BE_4/07 | Public Rescue Equipment (PRE) | PRE is one of the control measures actively used by local authorities as part of their risk management programs. There has been little or no research to date that supports the efficiency or effectiveness of the different types of PRE in use. | The RNLI is leading a working group to develop guidelines for PRE. | PRE guide is now published and has been sent to all beach operators in the UK. |

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| BE_5/07 | Kite surfing safety | The management of kite surfing safety continues to be raised as a matter of concern for local authorities. | The BKSA has produced a guide that provides information for local authorities | <p>Dissemination of information.</p> <p>Discussion is needed on how to engage with these specific user groups.</p> <p>Someone from the BKSA will be invited to the next NBSC meeting to help members gain a greater understanding of the sport and associated problems.</p> |
| BE_6/07 | Engaging with specific user groups | There is a need for the NBSC to engage with specific user groups for which there have been management problems identified (PWC, kite surfing and kite bugging have been identified as examples). | Specific problem areas are raised on an adhoc basis. | <p>The MCA has suggested the use of the headline incident figures to identify priorities and to engage with the governing bodies of these groups.</p> <p>Time to be set-aside at the next meeting for the MCA to present the available date and to discuss a way forward.</p> |
| BE_7/07 | Engaging with the Coaststeering and Tombstoning community and develop education materials and safe codes of practice | <p>During the past few years there has been a marked increase in Tombstoning fatalities and accidents.</p> <p>There has also been an increase in activity centres offering Coaststeering courses, which currently have no regulation for those (over 16) taking part.</p> | <p>Members of the NBSC have made contact with several key groups within the Coaststeering industry to help gain a greater understanding of the activity.</p> <p>The RNLI/ROSPA have investigated opportunities to help educate people on the dangers of Tombstoning.</p> | <p>Form working groups for;</p> <p>Coaststeering Tombstoning</p> <p>Develop and disseminate education materials aimed at those taking part in Tombstoning.</p> <p>Consider working with the Coaststeering industry to produce a safe code of practice for the activity.</p> |