

A fresh look at BW's craft licensing structure

Consultation update, 18 October 2002

1. We will continue to welcome feedback on the September 12 consultation document until the end of October. Before this date we will issue our proposals for the indexing of fee levels for the next 3 years. This will be on the BW website by 23 October.

Many thanks to everyone who has given us comments so far. We're very sorry it's not possible to acknowledge and respond to all comments and supplementary questions individually. If you specifically requested a response, we'll do this as soon as possible.

2. Boats without permanent moorings (continuous cruising)

Some boat owners have expressed concern about the timetable for consultation on this particular issue. The outline approach described in para 3.2 of the September document still requires a significant amount of work and consultation. It is unlikely that we will be able to include the decision on this issue in the final announcement on the rest of the fee structure due in early December, although we still aim to introduce changes arising from the process in April 2003. We are about to second a special project manager to lead this work, and when it begins the consultation process will include meetings with national boating user group representatives and individual communications with owners of all craft recorded as continuous cruisers. So, please continue to watch this space and write in with any points you think may be helpful.

3. EA/ Gold Licence

EA has explained to us that whilst they favour moving towards the Gold Upgrade concept as a replacement for the current Gold licence, three months lead time for change and implementation is unfortunately insufficient. We do however expect to have all the arrangements in place for 2004. In the meantime, the current Gold Licence system will continue as it is, with an RPI adjustment to rates from the 1st January 2003

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