



**PIANC**

The World Association for Waterborne Transport Infrastructure

## RECREATIONAL NAVIGATION COMMISSION

### Recreational Navigation in Coastal and Inland Waters Position Paper

Recreational navigation, whether it is for pleasure, sports, study, or research, is prevalent on all waterways both coastal and inland.

The term recreation implies leisure or discretionary time that is used to promote healthy and refreshing living.

Infrastructure that meets the needs of the boaters, community, and environment is a necessity to provide a sustainable recreational navigation system. Considering the potential impacts (positive and negative) of recreational navigation to the community and environment is just as important as the impacts to the boaters themselves.

Recreational boating can revitalize a degraded urban environment, as well as contributing to the enhancement or protection of the surrounding environment.

Recreational navigation has:

- Historical ties
- Cultural influence
- Economic incentive
- Environmental significance
- Educational worth

The benefits of recreational navigation are tied to these influencing factors (historical, cultural, economic, environmental, and educational) with pleasure being the forefront of its continued enjoyment. The degradation of any of these factors in turn affects the enjoyment of recreational navigation. Therefore, the preservation, enhancement, or creation of each is closely tied to the future of recreational navigation.

Today recreational boats are numerous and diverse in type and size ranging from small human powered watercraft (canoe, kayaks, dinghys) and personal motorized watercraft (jetskis) to larger sized power and sail vessels.

These boats and their users require a unique set of berthing, moorage, access, and support services. These requirements are functional, aesthetic and environmental and are met with necessarily complex infrastructure (water depths, safe berths, utilities, plants, land side facilities, et cetera).

In other hand these requirements can differ significantly from the needs of large commercial vessels and navigation. At times the uses and needs may even be in

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conflict. Therefore recreational navigation infrastructures planning and design needs to be viewed as a distinct and unique discipline.

The future of recreational navigation calls not only for suitable infrastructure but also for the integration of socio-economic and environmental factors. Consideration of both the needs of the boating community and the surrounding communities and environment are necessary to ensure a sustainable future for recreational navigation.

The Recreational Navigation Commission (RecCom) of PIANC was established to deal with the aspects directly related to sport and recreational navigation and facilitate its integration among other types of navigation (commercial and fishing).

RecCom's objective is to improve understanding the relationship of recreational navigation and other human activities related with coastal and inland waters, to improve the quality of life, safety and to minimize the activity's environmental impact.

Supporting quality and sustainability in recreational navigation infrastructures, PIANC RecCom aim is to let people to better understand the importance of waterborne transport systems for environment protection and improvement.

RecCom's means of achieving its objective are to provide a forum for technical discussion, to produce best practice guidance for the industry, to periodically update that guidance and to widely promulgate it.

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