



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, for sport, for tourism or simply for active relax and for traditional activities in respect of cultural identities.

Boating and sailing recreational activities are done from hundreds millions of people all over the world, although with very different styles, vessels and infrastructures.

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, dinghies) and personal motorized watercraft (jet skis) to larger sized power and sail vessels (until 150m LOA and more).

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 and fishing vessels Existing ports and berthings cannot be immediately

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suitable as they are for recreational navigation vessels. At times the uses and needs may even be in conflict.

Land side facilities make often the most important difference. A success recreational infrastructure could need of a wide range of services to boats, boaters and to community, for instance accommodating, residential, commercial, touristic, like as yards and workshops.

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, the surrounding communities and environment are necessary to ensure a sustainable future.

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.

Therefore recreational navigation infrastructures planning and design need to be viewed as a distinct and unique discipline. Many knowledges from urbanism, engineering, architecture, landscaping, economic, environment and management are needed. For this reason the Marina Designer figure, adequately educated and experienced, is a fundamental component for success of a project.

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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