

# Seascape

Maritime Safety Queensland

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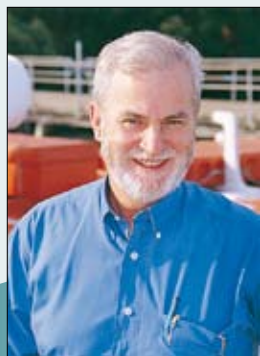
**YOU'RE THE SKIPPER  
YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE!**

**In this edition:**

- Brisbane Boat Show award
- Getting to know you: Great Brisbane Duck Race
- Changes to legislation on marine pollution
- Whale watching
- Derelict vessels in Queensland



**Queensland Government**  
Maritime Safety Queensland



**Captain John Watkinson, General Manager, Maritime Safety Queensland**

Courtesy is part of an unwritten code among boaties. As we approach the warmer weather and the spring and summer holidays, the number of people actively using our waterways swells.

With a few simple courteous behaviours, there is no reason why we all can't enjoy Queensland's beautiful waterways.

Respect the space of others. Keep a clear lookout and slow down, especially where there is congestion or other hazards. Collisions between boats and unintentional groundings were the most frequently reported marine incidents in Queensland in 2007.

Watch your wash. If you are passing stationary boats, reduce your speed. Look back from time to time to make sure your wash is not dangerous to other boats and shorelines. When driving into a cove that is occupied by others, please be courteous and don't rock the whole cove with your wash.

Keep our beautiful waterways in pristine condition. Dumping of sewage, garbage, oil and chemicals is prohibited. Bring everything ashore including biodegradable food wastes.

When travelling at sea, don't cut the blind corners short. Stay wide so that you can see oncoming traffic and follow buoys, marks and beacons.

Be aware of navigational hazards. Interaction between large ships and small boats is rapidly increasing in Queensland coastal waters. Boat skippers should keep clear of ship navigation areas such as major shipping routes, pilot boarding grounds, anchorage channels, swing basins and berths.

To help navigate Queensland waterways, Maritime Safety Queensland has a range of saleable products that can assist you.

The 8th edition of *Beacon to Beacon* has just been released for \$37.65. It is similar to a street directory and provides easy-to-follow maps of south east Queensland waterways. The maps are based on information provided by Maritime Safety Queensland cartographers and include extra information such as rules and regulations and boat ramp locations.

The directory also has aerial photos of anchorages, freshwater dam maps and essential safety information. The coastal chartlets contain latitude and longitude and can be ordered by registering your email address on *Notices to Mariners* on the Maritime Safety Queensland website.

Other saleable publications to look out for are:

- Queensland Tide Tables. This is a great product for the boatie or fisherman who just wants to know the tides. The 2009 edition is priced at \$4.60.
- The Small Ships Manual. At \$35.00, this is a comprehensive onboard operations manual for all boaters and a training aid for commercial skippers.
- BoatSafe Workbook. This publication contains all the information you need to prepare you for the BoatSafe course and is priced at \$10.30.

Finally, Maritime Safety Queensland has a range of free publications with all the rules and regulations for safe boating. The website is a quick tool for finding out what you want to know or ordering saleable publications. Go to [www.msq.qld.gov.au](http://www.msq.qld.gov.au).

Don't assume that everyone has the same idea about common sense that you do. Remember — You're the skipper, you're responsible!

Safe boating

Captain John Watkinson

General Manager

## Marine incidents in Queensland: Report

Each year, Maritime Safety Queensland compiles marine incident statistics to assess Queensland's safety performance. The reporting, investigation, collection and analysis of data about marine incidents is an essential tool to provide a strategic overview of marine safety.

The 2007 Marine Incident Report details an increase of 7.9% in reported marine incident numbers from 2006, with 762 incidents reported in Queensland this year. Although there was an increase in incidents, the number of marine fatalities fell from 17 in 2006 to 13 in 2007. One of these incidents was one of the worst boating accidents in Queensland's history when four people died and three more were seriously injured in a recreational boating collision at the mouth of the Brisbane River.

Notable in 2007 was the absence of any commercial fishing vessel involvement in reported fatal or serious injury incidents. Commercial fishing vessels have historically had a high level of involvement in commercial fatal and serious marine incidents.

Maritime Safety Queensland has been trialling and implementing a range of initiatives to improve safety awareness, standards and practices within the Queensland commercial fishing industry. While in the early stages, the programs have seen an increase in the number of commercial fishing vessels carrying life rafts and a general increase in the level of awareness of critical safety issues among fishing vessel owners and their crews.

Other key findings from this year's report include:

- Recreational speedboats have consistently shown the highest level of involvement by recreational vessels in fatal and serious injury incidents.
- 46% of reported marine incidents occurred in smooth waters, 22% in partially smooth waters, 20% offshore and 10% on inland waters.
- The number of reported serious injury incidents and number of persons reported as seriously injured is continuing to trend downwards.
- Of the 111 reported collisions between ships that involved a recreational vessel, 49 or 44.1% involved a moving vessel colliding with a stationary vessel.

A full report can be viewed on the Maritime Safety Queensland website or a copy of the CD can be ordered by emailing name and address details to: [maritime.safety@msq.qld.gov.au](mailto:maritime.safety@msq.qld.gov.au).

Our cover this month: Maritime Safety Queensland officers retrieve rubber ducks at the Great Brisbane Duck Race. See story page 4.

## Maritime Safety Queensland wins Best in Show at Brisbane International Boat Show



Maritime Safety Queensland was awarded 'Stand of the Show' in the under 100m<sup>2</sup> category at the 2008 Brisbane International Boat Show. The Brisbane International Boat Show has been running for 48 years with Maritime Safety Queensland a supporting partner since 1988.

The displays were judged by the Courier Mail, radio station Nova 106-9 and Channel 7. The award was presented by Don Jones, General Manager (Marine Queensland) at the opening ceremony. The two other finalists were Volvo Penta Oceanic and Custom Jet Skis.

The ceremony was opened by Minister John Mickel and attended by Queensland Transport's Acting Director-General David Stewart, Deputy Director-General John Glaister and General Manager (Maritime Safety Queensland) Captain John Watkinson.

Kevin Condon, Marketing and Education Officer for Maritime Safety Queensland has coordinated the displays at boat shows for the last two years.

'The theme of the stand *You're the skipper, you're responsible*, is designed to help a skipper understand the rules and regulations and be compliant with the *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994* and the *Transport Operations (Marine Pollution) Act 1995*,' said Kevin.

'Our aim is to market the roles and responsibilities of Maritime Safety Queensland in boating safety and pollution prevention. We target the prospective boat owner who knows little about boating safety, and break down complex legislation into an easy-to-understand checklist of what they need to do to be safe.

'This year we included our big 2.8 x 2.4 metre Emergency Positioning Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) banner which communicates to boaties the requirement to switch to a 406 MHz EPIRB by 1 November 2008. This is a great opportunity to pass on that message. Even boaties who don't attend the show hear the message, talk about it, and pass the information on to boating clubs or their mates on the water.

'Maritime Safety Queensland relies on this type of whisper campaign to spread our message as we work on a limited budget. This type of communication is crucial to our marketing strategy. Being recognised at a major boating event is a real help.

'Each year we ask visitors to rate our display so we can make improvements for the next year. We also take the opportunity to test some boatie knowledge and their attitudes and behaviours regarding boating safety,' said Kevin.

## Hervey Bay Seafood Festival

The Hervey Bay Seafood Festival was held on 17 August at the Urangan Boat Harbour. In its tenth year, organisers of the festival declared it the biggest ever, with over 26,000 people attending. The perfect weather, top class entertainment, cooking demonstrations, and lengthy queues of seafood lovers keen for a taste of freshly caught fish and prawns straight off the trawler, all created a memorable atmosphere.



Maritime Safety Queensland has had a stand at the Hervey Bay Seafood Festival almost from its inception and this year had a prime spot right by the entrance. The stand was very well received and staff spoke to around 550 people.

Staff had a very busy day answering questions from patrons as well as handing out surveys to be completed and returned.

The most commonly asked questions related to the introduction of the new 406MHz Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon on 1 November, as well as licensing and registration. Several commercial boat owners also approached Maritime Safety Queensland officers with questions about commercial licensing issues.

The stand displayed samples of compliant and non-compliant life jackets as well as brochures and posters. The sample life jackets demonstrated a strong message to boaties to carry the correct safety equipment for the entire voyage.

Once again, Maritime Safety Queensland has reinforced the agency's commitment to safer boating by providing quality information and advice to boat owners and operators.