

NAVIGATIONAL RISK ASSESSMENT WORKING GROUP

NRAWG Date:	07/02/14	Owner:	David Phillips	NRAWG Ref:	49	NRAWG Title:	Stand Up Paddle Boarding
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Group Members:

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
David Phillips	PLA	Kelvin Arterton	PLA	Harry Whelan	Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
Julian Parkes	PLA	Jason Bergin	BSUPA – National Paddleboarding Body	Paul Hyman	Paddleboarder
Kevin Gregory	PLA	James Hinves	Canoe-England		
Mark Towens	PLA	Steve Hayward	Paddleboarder		

Detail / Terms of Reference	Observation/Recommendation
<p>Purpose The purpose of this Working Group is to conduct a detailed risk assessment into the conduct of Stand-Up Paddleboarding for recreation on the tidal reaches of the River Thames.</p> <p>Background In line with PLA Policy that administers the river along the simple lines of ‘above Putney mostly recreational with some commercial activity’ and ‘below Putney mostly commercial with some recreational activity’, Stand-Up Paddleboarding is already permitted between Teddington Lock and Putney Pier. Through the PLA Harbourmaster Recreational Navigation Group a considerable body of work to enable safe paddleboarding on the River Thames has been completed, culminating in the Stand-Up</p>	<p>Conclusions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SUP is no more or less hazardous than kayaking, rowing (traditional and fine boat) or sailing. NB: requirement - allow paddleboarding from Putney to Lambeth Bridge but leader/coaches need formal local knowledge endorsement. Licensing element - Harry Whelan's boats, inspected yearly as running a commercial business. Commercial licensing would therefore be a risk control measure and PLA function. It was identified that there is a need to develop a Code of Practice to cover paddleboarding – the authoritative governing body to be determined some are recognised and some aren't. Thames SUP skill requirement below Putney should be introduced Harry Whelan to send through the Risk Assessment for the kayakathon for information with regard to paddleboarding at night, Teddington – Putney acceptable, Putney to Lambeth acceptable with restrictions whilst no paddleboarding at night between Lambeth and Wappingness. This will be reviewed on a regular basis. <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop Code of Practice to cover paddleboarding Identify authoritative governing body Thames SUP skill requirement to be introduced below Putney Group leaders to have suitable coaching qualification Paul Hylan to obtain LKE on kayak so that there is compliance with the same overall safety regime as there is for kayakers Introduce commercial licensing Consider setting up a SUP Club lower than Hammersmith.

Paddleboarding Guide published last year.

Recently, a debate has arisen over where on the River Thames the sport of paddleboarding should take place; as part of its work, the SUPRAWG will consider this particular issue, consistent with the navigational and environmental considerations and conditions.

Terms of Reference

NRAWG 49 is invited to:

- a. Identify all hazards pertaining to Stand-Up Paddleboarding, giving full consideration to human error, environmental and river traffic conditions
- b. Conduct a comprehensive and rigorous risk assessment of Stand-Up Paddleboarding activities on the tidal Thames to identify areas where the PLA may permit Stand-Up Paddleboarding, under the requirements of Thames Byelaw 13.1b, and any additional risk control measures required to reduce the risk of Stand-Up Paddleboarding to ALARP within these areas.
- c. Following completion of the risk assessment; consider and review the SUP Guide and recommend any amendments or additions that might be necessary.
- d. Identify any additional factors or issues relating to the sport of paddleboarding on the tidal river.
- e. Report its findings and any recommendations to the PLA's Navigational Management Team by 1 April 2014.
- f. Consider as far as is practicable and reasonable, future developments and impacts, both in terms of the sport itself and other river activities.

g. The output Risk assessment of the SUPRAWG will be available to the public.	
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Panel Chairman:	David Phillips	Signature:	Date:	
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