Introduction
The Port of London Authority (PLA) has recently concluded a scheduled 3-yearly review of the Port of London Thames Byelaws 2012.

Proposed Amendments
As a result of that review and in the light of experience and the ongoing development of the Port’s marine Safety Management System, the PLA is proposing the following changes to the Thames Byelaws.

1. Amendments to Byelaw 15 – Restrictions on Mooring - which widens the scope of places where vessels must not be moored without the permission of the Harbour Master;
2. An amendment to Byelaw 49 – Discharge of Sewage into the Thames - which, from 1 January 2023, extends the prohibition to all commercial vessels fitted with toilet facilities;
3. A new Bylaw – Byelaw 58 is proposed that replaces the current River Byelaw 9, which addresses navigation by persons under the influence of drink and/or drugs; and
4. River Byelaw 9 Drink or Drugs, is to be revoked as a result of the introduction of Thames Byelaw 58.

Informal Public Consultation
Draft amendments to the Thames Byelaws 2012 are therefore offered for informal public consultation, prior to, in due course, the formal public consultation required by the Port of London Act; through which the PLA will seek the confirmation of the Byelaws by the Secretary of State, which will bring the Byelaws into law. A copy of the proposed revisions to the Byelaws is attached for your information, and the various proposed changes to the existing Byelaws are highlighted in red.

Any comments you may have in response to this consultation exercise should be addressed, in writing, to Darren Knight, Deputy Harbour Master (Safety Management) at the address below or by e-mail: cn@pla.co.uk, to arrive no later than Friday 11 September 2015.

We are happy to answer any queries over the phone (Tel: 01474 562200), but regret that verbal submissions cannot be accepted.

Please help us to manage the feedback effectively by using the designated e-mail response address: cn@pla.co.uk
Amendment

15. **RESTRICTIONS ON MOORING**

The master of a vessel must not, without the permission of the harbourmaster, cause or permit the vessel:

a) to be berthed or moored at any docks, landing places, other works and land at any time vested in, belonging to or administered by the PLA;

b) to obstruct or interfere with navigation, any public access to the Thames or the access to a dock entrance;

c) to be berthed or moored at any bridge, river wall or other structure, in over or under the Thames while temporary works are being carried out; or

d) to be berthed or moored to any work, structure, post, ring or other thing or place not provided for or unsuitable for that purpose.

Amendment

49. **DISCHARGE OF SEWAGE INTO THE THAMES**

49.1 The owner of:

a) a vessel required to be licensed under section 124 of the Act;

b) a houseboat; or

c) from 1 January 2023, any other commercial vessel fitted with toilet facilities

must ensure that no sewage is discharged into the Thames.

49.2 In this byelaw “houseboat” means any vessel (other than a ship registered under the Merchant Shipping Act 1995 or any vessel usually used for navigation) which is used primarily as a place of habitation, or as a place for accommodating or receiving persons for the purposes of shelter, recreation, entertainment or refreshment, or as club premises or offices, while it is moored.

New Byelaw

58. **NAVIGATION UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRINK OR DRUGS**

58.1 A person must not navigate or attempt to navigate any vessel in the Thames whilst under the influence of drink or drugs or any other natural or manufactured substance to such an extent as to be incapable of taking proper charge of the vessel.

58.2 A Master or owner of a vessel must not knowingly cause or permit any person to navigate or attempt to navigate that vessel in contravention of this Byelaw.

Revocation

Byelaw 9 of the Port of London River Byelaws 1978 (as amended) is revoked.