



NMSC Media Release

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Summit Down Under to focus on recreational boating safety

National Marine Safety Committee (NMSC)'s CEO Margie O'Tarpey today advised that the Summit Down Under planned for 22 May 2009 on the Gold Coast, Queensland will forge ahead with a new focus on current and emerging boating safety issues.

"Having good marine safety practice world-wide is as important as ever and we are keen to ensure the Summit's program is relevant and reflects these difficult financial times," Ms O'Tarpey said.

"The Sanctuary Cove International Boat Show, which coincides with the Summit in Queensland in May, remains a strong drawcard for speakers and delegates.

"With the added contribution of some top international boating safety experts, I'm sure the one-day workshop will attract marine industry players with an interest in boating safety practices in both our local and international markets".

Summit speakers are expected from Europe, the US and the local boating industry and include International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Small Craft Committee Chair Nik Parker and Peter Chennell, Sea Safety Manager of the UK's Royal Lifeboat National Institution (RLNI).

"It's unfortunate that this year's ISO TC188 meetings planned for Australia had to be cancelled due to the global financial crisis, but I'm really looking forward to presenting at this Summit," Mr Parker said.

His presentation will provide a review of the latest ISO developments which particularly affect boats bound for the European market.

According to Mr Parker, the ISO Small Craft Committee is currently working on a range of standards including structure (specifically keels) and stability (with a focus on multihulls and smaller boats) – and new technologies such as 'fly-by-wire' steering systems and engine emissions.

"Engine emissions is a key subject for the recreational marine industry keen to play its part in reducing the impact of boating on the environment," he added.

In response, the Summit will explore the facts and the myths surrounding eco-friendly fuels like E10 and whether they can pose safety hazards.

For the latest information on the Summit, please check the website www.nmsc.gov.au (click on the Summit Down Under icon) or phone (02) 9247 2124.

The NMSC aims to achieve nationally uniform marine safety practices and is made up of an independent Chair and the CEOs of Australia's Commonwealth, State and Territory marine safety agencies.

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Media enquiries: For further information contact NMSC's communications officers Ursula Bishop or Rosemary Pryor on (02) 9247 2124 or 0412 813 056 e: ubishop@nmsc.gov.au or rgpryor@nmsc.gov.au

National Marine Safety Committee Inc

Level 5, 9-13 Young Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Phone: (02) 9247 2124 Fax: (02) 9247 5203 Email: secretariat@nmsc.gov.au www.nmsc.gov.au