



# ASSOCIATION TAKES ON KEY INDUSTRY ISSUES

BY ALAN MOORE

The New Zealand Marine Transport Association is organising a seminar for charter boat operators and ferry operators to discuss two important issues that the government regulators are proposing. This seminar will be held in conjunction with the New Zealand International Boat Show in Auckland.

The boat show opens at 4pm on Wednesday March 10 for invited guests and the seminar will be held from 9am on that day. We have secured boat show tickets for all seminar registrants.

We will be using the Waipa Delta as a venue and she is berthed on the inner end of Princess Wharf East, immediately adjacent to the show venue.

The first issue is the Ministry of Fisheries (MFish) catch reporting scheme. As you may be aware MFish are looking to impose a system where all charter boats, or any passenger boat for that matter, must keep a record of all fish caught on any voyage undertaken when recreational fishers are involved. It actually gets worse than that in that even if you don't put a line in the water you must still file a nil return.

MFish will have a representative at the meeting who explain their reasoning and hopefully give us answers to the many questions that are sure to be raised.

This will be an opportunity for you to have your say on this matter and it is important that MFish are aware of the practical aspects of the regime they are proposing.

The second matter which will affect you is Maritime New Zealand's proposal to change the process of service delivery of Safe Ship Management. Maritime New Zealand have also advised us that they will be presenting the report from the review of Operational Limits and Qualifications by Bridget Carter and we will get a heads up on that.

At present the system, which has been in existence since 1993 and undergone a number of reviews, is provided by privately run companies. This system has developed over this time and most of the bugs ironed out.

MNZ have expressed concern that there are serious flaws in the process and they say this is evidenced through a number of operators having failed audits, exposing poor inspection systems. Instead of addressing that issue by eliminating the bad apples they propose to completely remove Safe Ship Management companies from the mix and hand the delivery of inspection back to the surveyors who, it could be argued, caused the problems in the first place. A classic example of throwing the baby out with the bathwater.

MNZ claim that they have consulted with all sectors of the industry and that the proposal they have drafted is what industry wants. Unfortunately they cannot tell us exactly what the proposal is as they say it is with the legal eagles at the Ministry of Transport and is sub judice until it gets the necessary approval.

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have indicated concern in respect of the proposal which was presented in a very loose form at the recent MTA conference in Picton, and the Safe Ship Management companies, who claim they have not been consulted at all, have implored MNZ to have an open discussion with all stakeholders before putting any proposal up for general consultation.

MNZ has signed this request and drafted the document in the way they wish it to be presented. In the usual manner MNZ have indicated that they intend to widely consult, once the preliminary document is produced. This creates difficulties for industry as generally it is difficult to change entrenched positions.

The seminar will hold an open discussion on the subject led by a representative of the Safe Ship Management companies and it is important that you make your views known so that MTA can convey these views to MNZ.

After we have explained the situation we will have a representative of MNZ attend the meeting to explain their rationale. We hope that the proposed document has been released for discussion by then, and will take the opportunity to make them aware of the attitude of the operators.

It is vital that you attend as we believe that their proposal will result in a considerable increase in costs and more importantly, a threat to the safety of the system. It is crucial that MNZ become aware that the operators have a point of view and that it is listened to.

In the afternoon we will be presented with a proposal for discounted diesel fuel. The MTA have been working on a proposal with Gull Petroleum to provide members with biodiesel fuel at Okahu Bay Marina. Gull will supply account cards for registered operators with discounts of up to four cents per litre. Ulrick Olsen of Gull New Zealand Ltd will explain the system and application forms will be available for registration in the scheme. This is a very

good deal and available to all operators who are MTA members.

We will also present tickets for the invited guest only day at the boat show the next day and, as a number of trade organisations partaking in the show are MTA members, we will be discussing with them opportunities to talk to members at the show about their products and to host members at their stands.

Please make sure you register your interest in the function as arrangements will need to be made for catering etc. There will be a charge of \$40 per head for morning tea and lunch.

Please contact Alan Moore on 09 520 2727 mobile 021 942 850 or e-mail: alan.j.moore@callplus.net.nz to book a place at this important event. If you want to join the MTA, go to the website at [www.marinetransport.co.nz](http://www.marinetransport.co.nz) and click on Membership and then Membership Application Form, print out the document complete it, attach your payment and send it to NZMTA Box N340 Private Bag 92-185 Auckland 1142.

## THE PROGRAMME FOR THE SEMINAR IS

### Wednesday March 10

**0900:** Ministry of Fisheries, Graham McGregor and Andy Hill policy officers – Charter boat catch reporting scheme

**1030:** Morning tea

**1100:** Margaret Wind. Maritime Management Services Ltd CEO, Safe Ship Management service delivery

**1230:** Three course Hot Rock Lunch, upper deck Waipa Delta, refreshments available.

**1330:** Maritime New Zealand director, Catherine Taylor – Safe Ship Management Service Delivery.

**1500:** MTA Gull Petroleum fuel purchase scheme, Ulrick Olsen, sales manager Gull New Zealand Ltd

**1530:** PIC insurance

**1545:** Beer shout and refreshments



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