



Falmouth Harbour Commissioners

***** MEDIA RELEASE *****

GEARING UP FOR A SAFE SUMMER ON THE FAL ESTUARY

With summer holidays on horizon and leisure boats going back onto the water after winter lay-up, the waters around the Fal Estuary are getting busier. Gearing up encourage all users of the Fal Estuary to stay safe and inside the law on the water, 25 enforcement officers and professionals involved in the management of the Fal Estuary met on Friday (4th May) in preparation for the busy summer ahead.

Deputy Harbour Master Mark Killingback, who organised the Fal Estuary Enforcement Seminar at the NMMC described the task ahead of the enforcement teams in the warmer months to come: *“Year on year we are seeing a rising number of watercraft users on the Fal Estuary, most are familiar with the by-laws and regulations but there are always a number of boat owners who act irresponsibly, putting not only themselves at risk but also compromising the safety of other water users.*

“During the summer months we increase the number of patrol officers in our waters and now is the perfect time for all of the officers and local agencies to receive an update on new legislation and our priorities for the season ahead whilst getting to know colleagues from other agencies that they’ll be working closely with.”

The key concerns over safety on the water relate to speeding motor boats which create a dangerous wash; drinking while in charge of a boat and navigating with insufficient lights at night.

A strong multi agency approach taken by the Police, Falmouth Harbour Commissioners, the harbour authorities from Truro, Penryn and St Mawes, the Marine and Coastguard Agency and demonstrates the commitment to both monitoring irresponsible behaviour on the water and investigating reports of dangerous incidents.

Guest speakers at the Fal Estuary Enforcement Seminar included the Environment Agency, Special Branch, Immigration Department and The Cornwall County Fire Brigade Marine Incident Response Group.

Mark Killingback continued: *“Ensuring that commercial shipping and leisure craft operate safely and harmoniously is a key priority for all of the agencies working together to manage the Fal Estuary. A visible presence on the water ensures that we can enforce the law, help to discourage irresponsible behaviour and provide an education role for boat users. The public continue to play a valuable role in helping to keep water users safe and I would encourage anyone that sees dangerous practice in the Fal Estuary to alert the relevant harbour authority.”*

To report an incident in the Fal Estuary call the harbour authority concerned using the numbers below:

Falmouth Harbour Commissioners	01326 312285
Truro Harbour Office	01872 272130
St Mawes Harbour Office	01326 270553

Answerphones are available when the offices are unmanned.

Ends

11 May 2007

Notes for editors

Photography

Photography of the attendees of the Fal Estuary Enforcement Seminar, held at the NMMC, is attached to accompany this press release.

For further information contact:

Deborah Clark

Deborah Clark & Associates Ltd

Tel: 01872 276276

Email: deboarh@dca-pr.co.uk