

Environmental Management Plan

Organiser:

A.P.B.A. OFFSHORE COUNCIL INC.
(herein referred to as APBAOC)

conducting the

OFFSHORE SUPERBOAT CHAMPIONSHIPS

Site/Event:

HERVEY BAY, SCARNESS - TORQUAY, QUEENSLAND
Specific to the 29th/30th November 2014 event

Environmental Management Plan

Scope

Environmental Aspects and Impacts

- ⇒ Environmental Site Assessment Checklist
- ⇒ Environmental Aspects and Impact Register

Environmental Monitoring and Audit Plan

- ⇒ Risk to Wildlife
- ⇒ Interaction with Public
- ⇒ Emissions – Hazardous Substances
- ⇒ Air Quality
- ⇒ Dangerous Goods / Hazardous Substances
- ⇒ Risk of Fire
- ⇒ Waste Minimisation

Emergency Preparedness

Administration

- ⇒ Records
- ⇒ Audits
- ⇒ Nonconformances

1.0 Scope

This environmental management plan is designed to ensure compliance with all Commonwealth, State and Local Council requirements pertaining to the conduct of maritime motorsport events.

The scope of event organisation undertaken by APBAOC shall include the following activities:

- Provision of dry-pit and wet-pit facilities for competing vessels
- Provision of crane facilities to enable launch and retrieval of competing vessels
- Provision of a race course, contained within an exclusion zone, for offshore powerboat racing competition
- Provision of helicopters and water-borne vessels for course surveillance, rescue, towing and recovery purposes
- Conduct of practice, testing and race events for offshore powerboats within the designated race course
- Provision of commentary and race information via amplified public address equipment

2.0 Environmental Aspects and Impacts

The APBAOC has conducted an event on Hervey Bay on two previous occasions, along with both the Townsville and Redcliffe events on numerous previous occasions and during the conduct of these events the APBAOC has had the opportunity to identify a number of potential environmental impacts that the event may have.

The significant environmental impacts identified in connection with the event, together with proposed mitigation actions, are as follows:

⇒ *hull, rudder or propeller strike to marine wildlife*

- Race participating in the event are purpose designed and built, air entrapment, hulls with surface piercing propellers. When underway at race speeds, the race boats draw less than 300mm of water, thus reducing the likelihood of strike to marine wildlife.
- Under consultation, the race course boundaries have been positioned to provide maximum buffer zone distance from the Marine National Park Zone.
- Prior to the event, a low level disturbance and sweep of the race course is conducted by the official rescue craft in order to clear the race area of susceptible wildlife.
- A watch is maintained throughout the race duration by the official rescue boat crews and helicopter crews (Sunday races only) to ensure that wildlife is not present.
- In the event that marine wildlife is sighted during the race event, dedicated Marine VHF communications will be utilized to advise race boat drivers so that avoidance action can be taken, including bringing the race to a stop if necessary.

⇒ *noise nuisance from boat engines*

- The exhaust outlets of the inboard race boats are designed to direct noise upwards in order to minimize the disturbance to both marine wildlife and the public.
- The exhaust outlets of the outboard race boats are placed above the water line in order to minimize the disturbance to marine wildlife. This exhaust is dampened by waste cooling water.
- The propellers are surface piercing, minimizing underwater distance.
- The race course is positioned not less than 500 metres from the shoreline in order to further minimize noise disturbance to the public.

⇒ *noise nuisance from helicopters*

- Helicopters (usually turbine-engined) are chartered from commercial helicopter operators and flown in strict accordance with the relative aviation regulations.

⇒ *interaction with public users of boating facilities and waterways*

- Racing is conducted within limited timeframes (maximum 95 minutes each day) to minimize public interaction.
- Advertisement/s are placed in the newspaper advising the public of the event dates, times and location.
- Prominent signage is placed at the public boat launching facilities adjacent to the race area advising the public of the event dates, times and location.
- An exclusion zone is established around the race course and delineated by marker buoys in order that public boat operators do not inadvertently enter the race area. The exclusion zone marker buoys and the race course marks shall be laid not earlier than dawn on the day of the race and shall be removed no later than dusk on that day so as to further minimize interruption to public use of the waterways.
- Queensland Boating & Fisheries Patrol and/or Water Police monitor and enforce the exclusion zone.

⇒ *fuel or oil spill*

- Race boats are fitted with fuel and oil cells intended to restrict fuel and oil loss in the event of impact or accident.
- In the event of a breach of fuel or oil cells, commercially sourced spill containment (booms, sponges, etc) and disbursement equipment is utilized to surround the damaged race boat, contain and neutralize any spill.
- Contaminated water contained in a race boat will be stored within the boat or in watertight containers for commercial treatment off-site.
- Refueling may only be undertaken in restricted quantities within the dry pit area provided that fire extinguishers and spill containment devices are at the ready. Such refueling must only be carried out within a cordoned area to prevent public access. Refueling must only be undertaken using a properly grounded hose and pump rig (not open containers and funnel).

⇒ *litter & waste*

- Adequate litter receptacles (solids & liquids) will be positioned throughout the race pit area for disposal of litter.
- Washing of race boats shall only be permitted using fresh water and biodegradable detergents.

3.0 Marine Wildlife Observations

An APBAOC official will be appointed as the Wildlife Officer. The Wildlife Officer will be responsible for:

- Conducting a pre-race meeting with wildlife observers, QPWS and race officials prior to the events to ensure roles and responsibilities are clear; and
- Ensure marine wildlife observations and reporting is conducted in accordance with approved procedures.

Marine Wildlife Observation Procedures

- (a) Marine wildlife observations will be conducted during the Pole Position Shootout and main Race event;
- (b) Marine wildlife observations will be conducted throughout the Pole Position Shootout course and 300m exclusion zone and the main Race course and 500m exclusion zone as depicted in attached course charts.
- (c) A minimum of seven (7) marine wildlife observers will be used for the pole shoot out and a minimum of ten (10) marine wildlife observers will be used for the main race event.
- (d) Marine wildlife observers will be positioned on course boats and helicopters (Sunday races only) so that the entire observation area is adequately covered as depicted in attached course charts.
- (e) Marine wildlife observations will commence at least 30 minutes prior to the commencement of any racing and race practice and continue for the duration of racing and race practice.
- (f) No less than 15 minutes prior to the commencement of racing or race practice a "sweep" lap must be conducted by at least 4 vessels travelling at 10 knots or less, off-the-plane or in a displacement mode.
- (g) Race control will check with the wildlife officer that the course is clear of wildlife before starting practice or racing.
- (h) The red flag procedure will apply if protected marine wildlife is sighted within the observation area.
- (i) If protected marine wildlife is observed in the observation area, they will be left to transit and vacate the area of their own accord.
- (j) Racing can recommence after the protected marine wildlife is observed outside of the observation area or after 20 minutes without a sighting, whichever occurs first.
- (k) The wildlife officer will ensure that each boat is doing wildlife checks at the required times. All observers will remain in radio contact and report wildlife immediately to the wildlife officer/ race control.
- (l) The wildlife officer will complete marine wildlife observer forms (to be supplied by QPWS) and submit them to the Chief Executive Officer of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service within 10 days of race completion.
- (m) In the event of any injury or mortality of marine wildlife, the Duty Ranger will be immediately notified and racing will cease pending direction from the Operations Manager (Marine) of Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

4.0 Environmental Monitoring

The APBAOC shall monitor the environmental management aspects of the event.

In support of the environmental monitoring, the Race Director shall observe and record general observations and activities associated with the environment;

- during any refueling of race boats or decanting of fuel from race boats
- during launch and retrieval of race boats, particularly retrieval of submerged, upturned or damaged race boats
- during installation and retrieval of the race course marker buoys and perimeter buoys
- during the use of helicopters
- during warm-up/warm-down of race boat engines
- during transition to and from the race course by race boats
- during practice and race activities
- during washing of race boats and/or flushing of engines

➔ *Risk to Wildlife*

Under consultation, the race course boundaries have been positioned to provide maximum buffer zone distance from the Marine National Park Zone. Action shall be taken to sweep areas of race activity in order to minimize marine wildlife interaction. Procedures referred to in Section 2.0 have been put in place to ensure that the risk of marine wildlife injury is avoided in the event that marine wildlife enters the area of race activity.

➔ *Interaction with Public*

The APBAOC shall ensure that public users of boating facilities and waterways are adequately notified of impending race activities. Measures referred to in Section 2.0 have been put in place to ensure that inadvertent transgression of the area of race activity is avoided.

➔ *Emissions – Hazardous Substances*

The APBAOC shall ensure that fuel, oil, contaminated water or other hazardous or contaminated fluid is not discharged into surface or groundwater.

Measures referred to in Section 2.0 are in place for the management of spills or leakage of hazardous substances should they occur.

Should fuel, oil, contaminated water or other hazardous or contaminated fluid be spilt, the measures referred to in Section 2.0 shall be in place to have the spill source confined within the spilt area on site until the incident can be effectively managed.

➔ ***Air Quality***

The APBAOC shall comply with all emission limits in the State Environment Protection Policy (Air Quality).

➔ ***Dangerous Goods and Hazardous Substances***

Refueling shall only be permitted in accordance with the guidelines set out in Section 2.0.

Storage of chemicals and fuels shall be closely monitored to ensure safe storage.

➔ ***Risk of Fire***

Appropriate fire management controls and fire fighting equipment shall be available in case of an emergency.

➔ ***Waste Management and Minimisation***

The APBAOC shall ensure all waste is managed in accordance with local Government and specific land owner requirements.

The APBAOC shall not reuse, recycle, use as a source of energy, store, transport, treat or reprocess waste in any way or form that may result in an unfavourable environmental impact.

The APBAOC shall not establish any waste/refuse dump on site.

5.0 Emergency Preparedness

The APBAOC shall ensure all volunteers, employees and subcontractors are aware of the fire fighting, spill containment, pedestrian barricades, race boat retrieval and first aid measures on hand.

6.0 Administration

➔ *Records*

The Aspects and Impact Register shall be maintained by the APBAOC and include the following information:

- identified environmental risks (aspects) and their controls
- responsibility for actioning
- records of actions having been taken.

➔ *Audits*

An audit of the environmental system shall be incorporated into the event safety audits undertaken by the Race Director. Should an environmental incident occur which has significant impact on the environment, including long term damage, a separate audit will be performed for review and appropriate actioning. Records of audits and monitoring shall be kept.

➔ *Insurance*

The APBAOC shall ensure that Public Liability Insurance cover of not less than \$20m is place and that interested parties are duly noted on this Policy.

➔ *Permits from Government Agencies*

The APBAOC shall ensure that all necessary permits and permissions are obtained from local, state and federal government bodies as required. These bodies may include the Fraser Coast Regional Council, Marine Safety Queensland, Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service and the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage & the Arts.

➔ *Nonconformance*

Corrective actions associated with the environmental management system will be taken within 7 days.