

## 1.0 **Introduction**

1.1 The British Marine Federation is the trade association for the leisure boating industry, representing around 1,500 member companies. Our members provide the boats, equipment, facilities and services that enables 3.2 million adults to enjoy their recreation afloat on the coast and inland waterways of our country. The BMF also operates the London and Southampton International Boat Shows via its subsidiary National Boat Shows.

1.2 Our industry is comprised of small and medium-sized enterprises, with over 98% of companies employing less than 50 people. In total, the UK leisure marine sector directly employs over 35,200 FTE and generates an annual revenue of £3.1 billion, of which 35.4% represents export sales. Over recent years the leisure marine sector has been recognised by Government as a manufacturing success story and a growing and valuable contributor to the UK economy.

## 2.0 **Inquiry into Ports in Wales**

2.1 Although the committee did not include recreational boating as a possible benefit that Welsh Ports can bring to the economy in Wales, we believe that its contribution should be recognised. 125,000 people in Wales went boating in 2008, making use of the 16 coastal and inland marinas located throughout the country. These marinas offer over 3,800 individual berths. Every year, over £100 million is generated by overall marine related tourism in Wales, supporting 3,000 jobs. The leisure marine industry in Wales directly employs a further 1000 people. New marina construction and the expansion of existing facilities should therefore be in the 'mix' of potential opportunities that the Government looks at in its approach to ports regeneration.

## 3.0 **Example: Swansea**

3.1 Tangible examples of the benefits that boating and associated tourism can bring can be seen in the recent marina regeneration at Swansea. A local authority marina has been constructed within a previously disused commercial port, resulting in significant inward investment. The Yacht Harbour Association (TYHA), an association of the BMF, has granted its top 5 anchor rating to the development and it has gone on to gain an excellent reputation with recreational boaters. Land values have increased significantly and the recent development of affordable housing close by, as well as associated leisure and entertainment facilities, has served to reinvigorate a previously neglected area of the city. Demand for the marina's services has been so high that its capacity has recently been expanded from 400 to 550 berths.

3.2 Local industry has also prospered with the number of companies providing marina services rising from 1 to 6 in recent years and existing boat brokerage firms expanding their range of products. These benefits come in the light of a further marina development in the neighbouring Prince of Wales Port. Planned through a public-private partnership between ABP and the Welsh Assembly, this new marina has the potential to provide a further 400 berths when it opens

in 2010 and will serve to reinforce the economic regeneration currently enjoyed in the Marine Quarter.

#### 4.0 **Example: Pembroke Dock**

- 4.1 Swansea is not the only regeneration success in Wales, as the new marina at Pembroke Dock demonstrates. This ongoing development has seen £100 million worth of investment, providing Anglesey with an additional 250 marina berths and chandlery and marine workshops (with associated employment). In addition, the development has seen 450 new homes, a new public promenade with shops, restaurants, hotel and 5 screen multiplex cinema. Pembroke Dock could provide a template for regeneration projects throughout Wales, sited where there is a disused port and sufficient demand for new leisure berths.

#### 5.0 **Example: Conwy Quays**

- 5.1 Even smaller towns, such as Conwy can enjoy the success a rejuvenated marine industry base. The 5 Anchor marina at Conwy Quays, opened in 1992 following a joint venture between the Crown Estates Commissioners and Pearce Developments Ltd. It remains one of the largest marinas in Wales with 500 berths. Demand remains high with a shortage of available berths for vessels between 10 and 12 metres. The operation of Marina Berths generates an annual turnover of £1.4 million with 9 FTE employees, but when taking into account the added value of the marina, £4.6 million is generated with a further 70 FTE employees. While the marina directly employs 9 staff members, its presence supports 70 jobs in total, with 33% of all goods and services for the marina sourced from the local North Wales economy. Conwy County Borough Council have noted the effect this development has had on regenerating the area and has identified a 10% to 15% premium on equivalent land value in the vicinity of the marina, when compared to similar land elsewhere in the borough.

#### 6.0 **Inland Waterways**

- 6.1 While the vast majority of Marinas in Wales are located by the coast, there are a small number of inland marinas servicing a prospering community of boaters. Due to the topography of the country, Wales did not enjoy the same level of canal development when compared to English towns during the industrial revolution but there remains a number of navigable waterways that are popular with boaters. Local Authorities are becoming increasingly aware of the benefits a regenerated waterway can bring to a region and the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canals Regeneration Partnership are currently undertaking a restoration project to restore this 200 year old waterway to its former glory. The Partnership, formed by a number of local authorities, the Forestry Commission and British Waterways, have submitted an application to Big Lottery Living Landmarks fund for £25 million and have received £250,000 to conduct a cost and engineering study.

6.2 The Crindau Gateway, near Newport, sits at the Southern terminus of the canal and a new marina is being developed that will join the River Usk to the canal via Crindau Pill and open it up to a significant increase in traffic, as well as support the regeneration of Newport itself. The marina project received £75,000 from the Welsh Assembly to conduct a feasibility study for a development which would also include new housing, leisure and business facilities as well as an entirely new centre for marine businesses. The project is now proceeding through planning.

## 7.0 **Tourism**

7.1 Recreational boating is a known generator of tourism revenue. £2.2 billion of tourism related spend is attributable UK leisure boating sector, which supports a 63,000 FTE jobs across the country. In Wales £100 million is generated by marine related tourism but this figure could be greatly increased, as could the current employment figures of 35,200 adults, if more developments were to be approved. Existing developments have demonstrated the significant demand and associated regeneration marinas can bring to Wales and there are many more opportunities to capitalise on Wales' stunning coastline via the leisure marine sector.

## 8.0 **Summary of the benefits of Coastal and Inland Marinas in Wales**

- Fees paid for marina services by berth holders and visiting boaters support output and employment among marina operators;
- Marina operators purchase goods and services from other firms, many of them local, which supports output and employment in the supply chain;
- Boating user spend money on boating goods and services, supporting output and employment among on-site and local businesses (e.g. Chandlery, boat repair and maintenance firms, fuel providers, etc.)
- Boating users spend money on food, drink, accommodation and retail items both on and off site;
- Marinas are used by non-boating leisure visitors, who spend money on food drink and retail goods on site;
- Welsh marinas can and have played a key role in the wider development and regeneration of local areas, with positive effects on residential and commercial property development, particularly in areas of industrial dilapidation.

## 9.0 **BMF Data and evidence**

9.1 The BMF holds significant data and research concerning the economic benefits of marinas to communities and we would be happy to supply these

reports to the committee should it require them. The BMF would also be pleased to provide further evidence to the committee, should they require it.