

- 8 MAY 2009

Mr David Evans
Chief Executive Officer
NSW Rowing Association
PO Box 772
GLEBE, NSW 2038


Dear Mr Evans

Propeller Guards – Outboard Engines

Statistics compiled by NSW Maritime confirm that between January 2003 and January 2009 there were 41 outboard motor propeller strike incidents in NSW waters resulting in 4 fatalities and 39 serious injuries.

One effective method of preventing the incidence of propeller strike is for vessels to fit propeller safety guards. Such guards are designed to give maximum protection from propeller strike as well as preventing damage to propellers and engines. Several boating organisations have decided to fit propeller guards to all outboard motors eg, Surf Life Saving Australia (NSW), Defence Maritime Services, the Australian Sea Cadets and the Royal Australian Navy.

We know that you will agree that the prevention of propeller strike, especially in those activities where the majority of participants are children, is an important safety awareness issue. Accordingly, NSW Maritime strongly recommends that all sporting and recreational organisations owning vessels powered by outboard motors which are used in conjunction with activities that have the possibility of dealing with capsized or rescue where the risk of propeller strike is high, give strong consideration to fitting properly designed propeller guards to all such vessels.

The propeller guards currently on the market exhibit enhanced design features that maximize engine performance whilst simultaneously contributing significantly to overall boating safety. NSW Maritime therefore encourages your organisation to fit propeller guards to all the outboard engines currently in your fleet.

Yours faithfully,



Brett Moore
General Manager
Recreational Boating and Regional Services
NSW Maritime