



## **Report of the Gower AONB Team Leader**

**Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group – 4 October 2021**

# **UK Government Consultation: Strengthening Enforcement of the Dangerous Use of Recreational and Personal Watercraft**

The UK Government is consulting on proposed changes to legislation that would bring recreational and personal watercraft within scope of the provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995.

By this change:

- personal watercraft and other recreational watercraft users will be subject to the same safety obligations, where appropriate, that exist for the operators of ships
- enforcement authorities will have an additional power of prosecution to be used in cases of deliberate or negligent misuse

Maritime safety is the responsibility of the UK Government; if the proposed changes are enacted, they will apply to Wales as a constituent part of the UK.

The full details of the consultation can be accessed through the link below:

[Strengthening enforcement of the dangerous use of recreational and personal watercraft - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/strengthening-enforcement-of-the-dangerous-use-of-recreational-and-personal-watercraft)

The Gower AONB Partnership is asked to note this consultation in the context of ongoing issues with such watercraft around the AONB. Swansea Council is considering how best to respond to the consultation, which closes 1 November 2021.

**Chris Lindley**

**Gower AONB Team Leader**