



Scottish Charity 044698

## **WHAM AGM 2025**

### **Secretary's report**

2024 has been a busy year for WHAM as always with issues such as the Oban HRO, conservancy fees, the CMAL HT(C)O and the work to convert WHAM into a SCIO charity keeping us busy.

WHAM have achieved SCIO status with OSCR and the move from the 'old' to 'new' charities will take place early in 2025. More will be discussed at the AGM including details of the new banking arrangements.

As normal, we have received several enquiries about moorings and related issues in the West Highland area from individuals and mooring associations during the year on which we have given advice and where appropriate referred to the relevant body or person.

Interesting projects we have worked on during the year included a film company wanting to crash a motorhome into the sea for a film sequence. We were happy to approve the application as they had researched the issues well and their plans meant that after filming you could not tell what had happened! Another interesting issue was helping a mooring association tackle an issue with fishing boats using their visitor moorings without paying any fees and with the risk of damage to the moorings due to the size / weight of fishing boats.

An issue which will be discussed at the AGM is the growing lack of diver capacity to inspect and service moorings on the west coast. There is a risk of moorings failing if not properly serviced with the associated insurance problems that this will cause from third party damage. The debate will be interesting and WHAM hopes that we can guide the debate and identify best practice for our members and indeed individual mooring owners.

As a Coastal Watcher I have been consulted / reviewed 162 marine licence applications during the year. Most are very straight forward but some involve a degree of work to ensure that the licence area does not impact existing mooring and anchoring areas. I have also reviewed 63 pieces of correspondence and consultations on issues impacting the west coast area. Our work alongside others has ensured that all proposed developments will have no or very minimal impact on coastal areas. David Vass is also a Coastal Watcher, so WHAM is not only playing its part but well informed on issues which could impact our interests.

I have attended all four RYA Cruising and General Purposes Committee meetings on behalf of WHAM. These are conducted both in person and using online. I have also attended four Scottish Government Cross-Party Group on Recreational Boating and Marine Tourism to represent the interest of WHAM and our members. I also attended the Northern Lighthouse Board user group meeting in Edinburgh during the year.

We continue to liaise with Crown Estates Scotland (CES), RYA, Marine Scotland and others as required and enjoy positive relationships with key stakeholders. A good example of the CES collaboration is the item on the AGM agenda for the proposed mooring association handbook.

Since the last AGM, the WHAM committee has met on three occasions and exchanged many emails and phone calls to ensure that we continue to represent the membership and work on relevant and key issues.

The newsletter that we now issue twice a year receives good feedback and helps to keep members updated on key issues. Any contributions or content suggestions for the newsletter will always be gratefully received.

The WHAM database has been frequently updated during the year and I would urge members to continue to email details of changes to your office bearers to me so that we are able to communicate with the right people.

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

Duncan Tannahill  
Secretary  
December 2024