

Report on the Early Morning Traffic Restrictions

Background

After worsening traffic problems in the early morning period over the last few years, particularly during Michaelmas term, Captains agreed in April 2008 to restrict each club to two boats out at any time between lighting down at 8.30 am, with restrictions only being introduced when congestion became suitably bad.

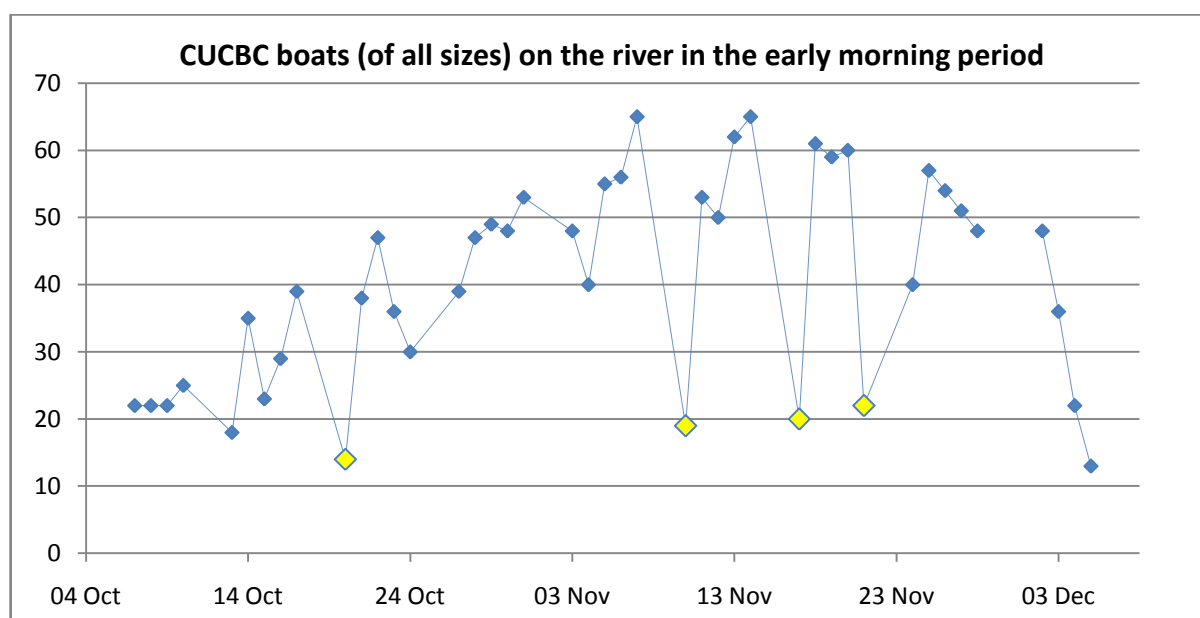
All other traffic restrictions, including the “one-way” system, restrictions on number of novice crews, and restrictions on novice crews overtaking, were abolished.

Michaelmas 2008

At the start of term there were no restrictions on number of crews out in the early morning period (including for novice crews). Restrictions were introduced on Tuesday 18th November. The number of crews at this stage was regularly over 60 per morning (with 32 active clubs). This was much later in term than had been anticipated, which was a welcome development. However, a number of clubs incorrectly thought restrictions were in place from the start of term and restricted their outings accordingly; this may have caused the start date to be later than expected.

When restrictions were introduced, the number of boats initially stayed at around 60 per morning. Almost every club was using its two boat “allowance” every morning, whether a large club or a small club. Congestion at this level of river usage was bad (there were queues) but not as diabolical as has been the case in previous years. Towards the end of term, boat numbers fell off, and in future years it would be appropriate to lift restrictions in the last week or so of term.

The graph below shows the total number of boats recorded by Early Morning Marshals on weekday mornings (including small boats – 2 or 3 most days).



Lent 2008

It is proposed that a similar system will operate: there will be no restrictions unless there is noticeable congestion with substantially over 60 boats per morning. The restrictions will then be discussed in April.

The CUCBC Executive Committee
January 2008