



**British Marine's Chief Executive Lesley Robinson OBE is to stand down this summer and there is an agreed transition plan to appoint a new CEO**

Lesley Robinson OBE has decided to step down from her role as Chief Executive of British Marine this summer, following eight years in post. A structured transition plan is in place, with Earle Stanner (current Chief Finance and Operations Officer) being appointed as the organisation's next Chief Executive.

Lesley will continue to lead British Marine over the coming months, working closely with Earle to ensure continuity, delivery of priorities and a smooth handover.

Lesley joined British Marine from MDL Marinas in July 2018 and has led the organisation through a period of significant change and challenge. During her tenure, she oversaw the modernisation of governance, the development of a new membership strategy and national agenda, and a series of change programmes focused on strengthening leadership capability and organisational effectiveness to better serve our 1300 members.

She led British Marine through the unprecedented challenges of the Covid period, including the cancellation of the Southampton International Boat Show in 2020, while continuing to support members through representation, guidance and practical assistance. Lesley has also served on the board of ICOMIA for six years as a non-executive director, most recently as Treasurer, ensuring UK leisure marine interests are represented at an international level. In 2021, in recognition of her services to the leisure marine industry, Lesley was appointed to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE).

**An honour to serve**

Commenting on her decision, Lesley Robinson said: "It has been an honour to lead British Marine through such a significant period. Supporting our members with the help they need

and the wider industry through challenging times, for example through lobbying on their behalf, providing training programmes and new career pathways to upskill their teams and evolving the UK's key annual boat show to attract newcomers into the industry as well as providing a significant selling platform to exhibitors has been immensely rewarding. I have also loved putting in place new partnerships such as that with ABYA for our brokers or with other sectors such as the caravanning sector (our member presence at their February show) to continually evolve how we best serve our members.

“After eight years, it is the right time for me to hand over leadership to our new Chief Executive and to continue to support British Marine into its next phase. My departure this summer will fit into a cycle of succession and I am delighted that, following our investment in leadership development, Earle Stanner will be appointed to take on the CEO role, and I remain fully committed to ensuring a smooth and effective transition.”

As part of the agreed arrangements, Lesley will remain fully focused on delivering priorities through the handover period. Following this, she will continue to support British Marine in a part-time consultancy capacity, providing senior-level support on specific projects and helping to retain corporate knowledge through the full annual cycle. Lesley commented “I am delighted to be able to assist like this and am looking forward to seeing where else I can also use my expertise to support the industry I love.”

### **A significant contribution**

Matthew Beckwith, Chair of British Marine commented: “Lesley has made a significant and lasting contribution to British Marine by taking areas of member focus/needs and turning them into positive contributions, for example the growth of apprenticeships and end point assessments, the expansion of training into a strong and respected capability within the industry and the continued evolution and success of both the Southampton International Boat Show and Women In Marine events, and also the successful letting of Marine House are all lasting achievements. In my view the multiple royal visits to the show over recent years are perhaps the clearest external endorsement that British Marine has been doing many things right. Her leadership has strengthened the organisation's capability, credibility

and influence, both nationally and internationally, and leaves British Marine well positioned for its next phase.

“I am grateful that Lesley will continue to lead the organisation during the transition and for her consultancy commitment thereafter to further support Earle and the Board. The Board is confident in Earle’s appointment and in the continuity this transition provides.”

**ENDS**

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

For more information please contact: British Marine Press Team – [pr@britishmarine.co.uk](mailto:pr@britishmarine.co.uk)

**NOTES TO EDITORS:**

**About British Marine**

British Marine (the trading name of British Marine Federation Limited) is the trade association for the UK leisure, superyacht and small commercial marine industry. It has some 1,300 members drawn from both seagoing and inland sectors and represents an industry which employs more than 38,000 people in the UK.

British Marine also owns and operates the Southampton International Boat Show (18-27 September 2026). For more information about the work of British Marine and how to join, please visit the website: [www.britishmarine.co.uk](http://www.britishmarine.co.uk), or follow British Marine on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#)