

at the congress were given by presidents Stephen Fox of the Alliance of Independent Recognised Members of Sport and Raffaele Chiulli of the Association of IOC Recognised International Sports Federations.

Slow down

Off Center Harbor, organizers of the Worldwide Classic Boat Show, advise 'When friends visit us on the Maine coast, we suggest that they bypass tourists' typical urge to see the entire coastline in one week on their first trip. Instead, we encourage them to slow down, pick one area and get to know it better by "feeling into" the real Maine.

'Downeast Maine starts way "downwind" (on the summer's southwest breeze) and the way "east" of the big beaches and throngs of Bostonians and New Yorkers on quick getaways at Maine's southern shores.

'The area near Acadia National Park is a top draw, of course, but those who are in the know pick quieter areas around the edges of the park and away from T shirt shoppers in Bar Harbor. In these quieter areas you can experience the beauty of the park area with much less people.'

They also mention Northeast Harbor, Southwest Harbor and the Cranberry Isles but OCH members have a large stock of videos available to undertake some preliminary exploration.



The Thule Keswick Mountain Festival takes place over May 15-17th this year. The wide range of activities includes a selection of canoeing options:

- * Paddle Safer Course - Two hour safety course for all people getting on the water.
- * Kids & Family Wet & Wild Session - Family or young individuals to enjoy being on the water in a lighthearted session.
- * Kids & Family Quiet Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Sensitive Session - Journeying, sensory challenges and collective non competitive games.
- * Solo Your Boat - The standard skill set for controlling an open canoe is to control the vessel from a single side.
- * Herberts Island Adventure - A journey to Herbert's Island for a spark lit wood fired kettle heated (yes, you get a go) hot chocolate, explore and adventure around the island.



The Coasties 50 50 Challenge is an endurance event starting on June 19th to celebrate 50 years of the Coastguard Association. The 240km journey will be human powered with kayaks, swimming, running and cycling, visiting all 14 mainland coastguard stations in Area 12, Polzeath to Portishead. No engines will be used. The challenge intends to raise funds for the CGA.

Growth potential in Scottish marine tourism

Produced by British Marine Scotland with funding by the Crown Estate Scotland, Giant Opportunities is the latest iteration of the 2015 Awakening the Giant, looking at the potential for marine sports in Scotland. Paddle sports are seen as a significant growth area for marine tourism. The document identifies shortages in skills and funding for small businesses and for access but the overall picture looks bright for marine tourism.



Eureka!



In the Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve in Malawi, Tongole Wilderness Retreat have reintroduced guided canoeing on the Bua River, offering a low impact non motorized safari experience led by trained rangers and guides. New guided walking trails were also launched.

The Gotrack Q20 GPS tracker has a waterproof case and a large SOS button connected to a call centre for two way phone communication if rescue is needed. The 1Ah rechargeable battery gives 16 days of standby and uses GPS to give a location. Made in China, it features real time tracking and can detect falls.



Rethinking holidays

Many people are rethinking their holiday plans in the light of current world turmoil, especially visiting lower profile places. Water by Nature suggest that their South Island trip in New Zealand over Feb 20th - Mar 7th 2027 has many suitable ingredients, including sea kayaks on the coast, rafting classic rivers, sailing in the Bay of Islands and hiking alpine valleys.



The iTagPro is a compact bluetooth tracker in a waterproof case. A CR2032 battery lasts for up to six months and there is no subscription charge.