

## **Hosting an International Festival of Rowing Request**

The Cornish Pilot Gig Association (CPGA) (<https://www.cpga.co.uk/>) working together with consultants Perfect Moment (see [www.perfect-moment.co.uk](http://www.perfect-moment.co.uk)), have been commissioned by the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Economic Partnership (<https://www.cioslep.com/>) to explore the feasibility of promoting a large scale International Festival of Fixed Seat Rowing. (Fixed seat rowing takes place over the world in traditional boats which are rooted in regional cultural identity and heritage. Sliding seat rowing is what you see in the Olympics and the Oxford and Cambridge boat race).

The CPGA have good working relationships with other fixed seat rowing associations in Wales, Scotland and Ireland. There are also established links with rowing communities in the USA, the Netherlands (who have over 2,000 Cornish Pilot Gig rowers), Italy and the Faroe Islands have previously taken part in competition events in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. We will build on all of these relationships to promote a genuinely international festival, which would be made up of racing, have a go events, demonstrations, cultural activity etc.

Holding it in the shoulder months would help tourism and retail businesses and we are currently working on attracting between 15,000 to 20,000 a day for a four day festival, thereby generating around £2m of spend in the area (based on scaling down figures from the 2015 Tall Ships event in Falmouth).

At present we think that a likely date would be 2023.

This first piece of work is just an initial exploration of whether or not we can put together a partnership which would support and invest in the festival. We are particularly interested in getting expressions of interest from Towns and Parish councils in Cornwall who have the required facilities and would like the festival to take place in their area.

There is absolutely no commitment at this stage to hosting the festival, but we are very interested in talking to places who feel they are interested.

I have attached a briefing paper giving more information and would appreciate you returning the feedback section as soon as possible.