

GLOBAL FORUM FOR SPORT AND ENVIRONMENT

ROWING AND WATER RELATED ISSUES



*World Rowing is
dedicated to
the environment*

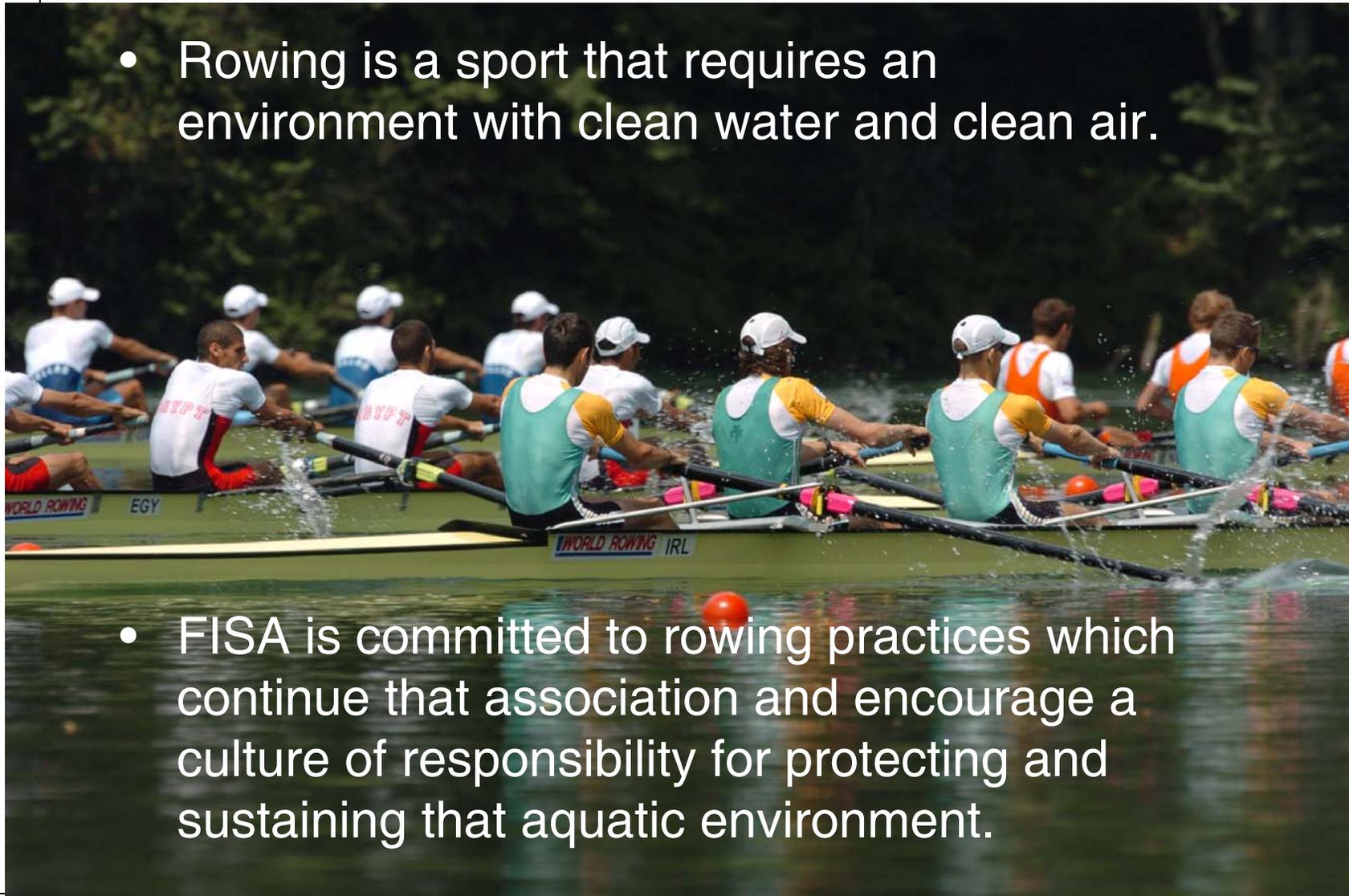


SPORT IN
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Introduction

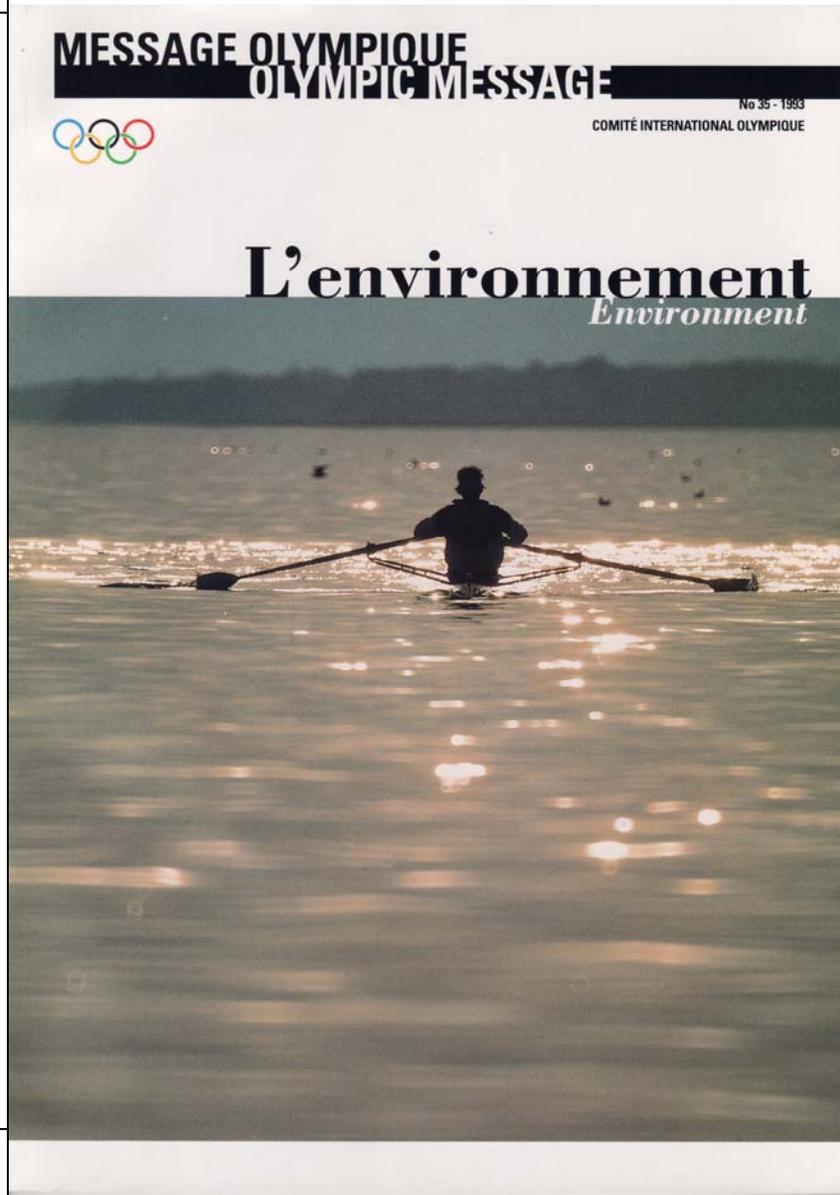


- Rowing is a sport that requires an environment with clean water and clean air.



- FISA is committed to rowing practices which continue that association and encourage a culture of responsibility for protecting and sustaining that aquatic environment.

The Olympic Message in 1993



Feet in the water

The construction of an Olympic village over 50 hectares (0.5 km²) has brought the "Poble Nou", an old, decaying industrial area, back to life. A whole section of the city has thus been regenerated. The plans of the architect Oriol Bohigas have enabled the seafront to be reclaimed and revitalized as a spacious new residential area bordered by four kilometres of beach, six hectares (60 000 m²) of quays arranged to form a promenade and a yacht harbour offering seven hectares (70 000 m²) of sheltered water. The people of Barcelona have recovered a magnificent heritage. They no longer turn their backs on the sea as they had grown accustomed to doing over the decades which followed its disappearance from sight behind a curtain of factories and a railway line.

Similar principles were applied in the construction and development of other Olympic sites outside Barcelona, at the Seo de Urgell, Castelldefels or Banyoles, where, for example, the shores of the lake chosen for the rowing competitions were carefully protected. Disembarkation was allowed only in certain places and no vegetation was destroyed. Spectators who could not find a place in the provisionally erected stands followed the competitions on a giant screen a few metres away from the reed-covered banks with their shrubs in which birds like to congregate. Both local people and organizers paid special attention to the preservation of the landscape and the natural environment.

Natural sites reclaimed and land rehabilitated for the day-to-day use of the citizens - this is doubtless the finest legacy of and the best testimony to these Olympic Games conceived with a view to the well-being of the citizens, quality of life and the beauty of the city and its region. ○

M.-H. R.

*Marie-Hélène Roukhadzé
is head of the IOC Publications Department*



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« Feet in the Water »



Un bel héritage

The finest legacy

Marie-Hélène Roukhadzé



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Policy and Guidelines



- To co-ordinate good practice initiatives, FISA established an Environmental Working Group in 2001.



- In April 2004 FISA's Group completed a Policy and Guidelines for Environmental Sustain-ability document which is available on the World Rowing website (www.worldrowing.com)



Policy and Guidelines (2)



- With regard to water related activities those principles include:
 - protection of habitat and bio-diversity
 - conservation of the water resource
 - reduction of the production of waste and pollutants
 - promotion of healthy conditions for those involved in the sport



Recognition of Water Related Issues for Rowing Courses

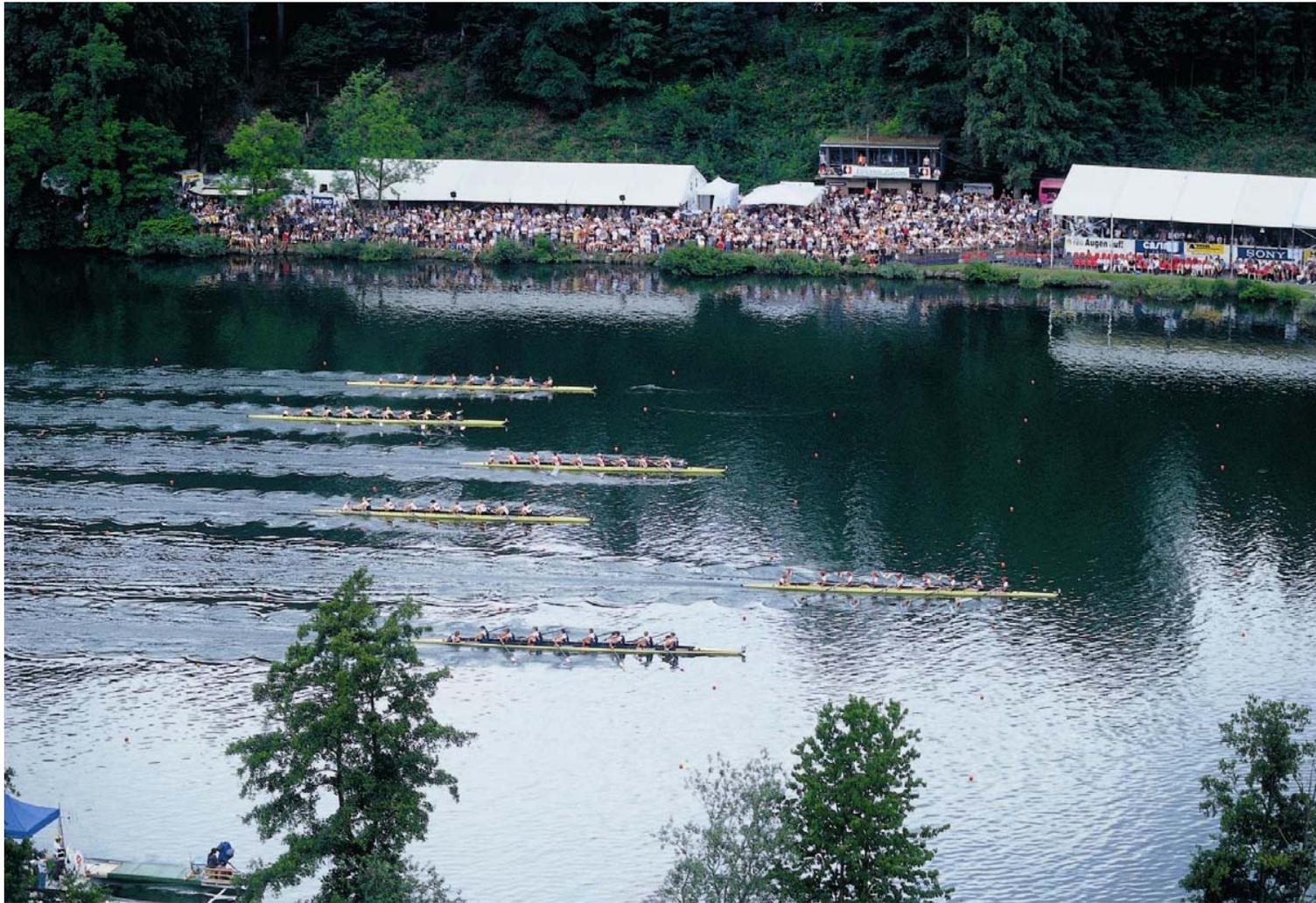


- The Guidelines cover issues arising from the development and refurbishment of rowing facilities, and running of events.
- With regard to events, guidance is provided on:
 - appropriate cleaning of boats and facilities
 - sediment and erosion control in respect of temporary facilities
 - appropriate refuelling arrangements for officials' boats
 - testing for water quality and notifying results
 - plans to minimise impact on flora and fauna



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Regatta Course in Lucerne



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Recognition of Water Related Issues for Rowing Courses (2)



- With regard to works on facilities, guidance is provided on:
 - adequate pre-construction investigation
 - locating facilities where water quality is of an appropriate standard
 - appropriate storm water and waste water controls
 - integration of works with quality landscape and ecosystem outcomes
 - best practice operations if dredging is required or for building structures within the water body

Rowing Generally



- General rowing operations and their impact on water are also covered by the Guidelines.
- Direction is offered in respect of:



- management programmes and risk management
- use of appropriate cleaning materials and avoiding direct discharge of washing water to water bodies
- requiring cleaning of boats before transport to a different water body

Rowing Generally (2)

- Direction is offered in respect of:
 - preference of four stroke motors over two stroke motors on coaching motor boats
 - avoiding fuel spills
 - sensitivity to water body habitat and avoiding disturbance of fauna in breeding seasons
 - avoidance of erosion through good practices.



The Rowing Message



- The Environment Team have adopted a universal message for rowing which includes:
 - Rowing is a sport in harmony with nature
 - THINK CLEAN – enjoy rowing
 - THINK GREEN – enjoy nature
 - Please think before you act.



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