

MEETING	Aberdyfi Harbour Consultative Committee
DATE	17th October 2023
TITLE	Harbourmasters Report
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H 1 Navigational Issues

- 1.1 The navigable channel to the harbour of Aberdyfi has been monitored by harbour staff over the summer period. The channel remains dynamic in nature, requiring the harbour staff to undertake frequent surveys of the river to determine the extent of the shifting sandbanks.
- 1.2 Harbour staff will continue to monitor the course of the channel and request movement of the navigational aids as and when necessary, to ensure the aids to navigation provide the safest route in and out of harbour.
- 1.3 The Service advises that all necessary navigational marks are currently on station and there are no Notice to Mariners currently in force.
- 1.3.1 An annual audit of the navigational aids on the approach to Aberdyfi Harbour is expected to be undertaken by the General lighthouse Authority, Trinity House, on the 11th October 2023. The Service will advise the Committee of the result once the report has been received.
- 1.4 The Service would like to remind mariners of the need to navigate the channel 1.5 hours either side of high water when navigating a vessel with a draft exceeding 1.5 metres.
- 1.5 Mariners are also reminded that contact should be made with the harbour office prior to any approach or departure from the harbour, to obtain the latest navigational and weather information. Changes to any of the navigational aids will be circulated via Local Notice to Mariners.

H 2 Operational Issues

- 2.1 The construction of the new quayside at the harbour has, for the most part, now been completed, with only a small amount of remedial work to be undertaken. This includes the provision of an electrical supply to a davit on the eastern end of the quay, for the benefit of the local fishermen and fendering on the face and eastern corner of the quay wall.
- 2.1.1 A pair of gates are also to be installed on the approach to the harbour jetty, to enhance public safety, when fishing operations are being undertaken at that location.

- 2.2 Despite some unseasonal weather, vessel movements at the harbour have continued throughout the summer, with visiting vessels accommodated on the visitors' moorings within the estuary.
- 2.2.1 It is however regrettable, that at the beginning of the busy period, the Service had to deal with an incident on the estuary, involving three personal watercraft and a power-driven vessel. A Joint investigation into the circumstances of the incident with North Wales Police remains on-going, in relation to possible offences disclosed under the recently introduced legislation, the Merchant Shipping (Watercraft) Order 2023.
- 2.3 The structural condition of the harbour office building remains a cause for concern. As previously reported, the property department of the Council are aware of the matter. The Service are currently looking at re-locating the harbour staff to temporary premises an interim measure, until a decision is made concerning the future of the building.

H 3 Maintenance

- 3.1 Prior to the start of the summer period maintenance work was carried out on the visitors' moorings with new mooring equipment supplied. The moorings were subsequently laid by a local mooring contractor at a net cost to the Service of £260.00
- 3.2 Maintenance work on the engines of the harbour Powercat patrol vessel took place just prior to the start of the busy season. The work was undertaken by a local Gwynedd company at a net cost to the Service of £1143.53
- 3.2.1 The vessel continues to perform efficiently with yearly inspections conducted on the vessel to ensure compliance with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency sea-going requirements, in respect of construction standards and vessel equipment.
- 3.3 Throughout the summer period, staff have continued to monitor and maintain the aids to navigation in the navigable channel, with assistance provided as and when necessary, by a local mooring contractor.
- 3.4 Harbour staff have begun maintenance of the seating benches sited on the harbour frontage. The work will continue over the winter period.

H 4 Other Matters

- 4.1 The Service are grateful for the efforts undertaken by local stakeholders in trialing equipment, to remove a large build-up of sand from the slipway located adjacent to the Dyfi Yacht Club and the Lifeboat station. The process is on-going and open for review.
- 4.2 The Service remain hopeful of facilitating the provision of electricity and water services at the harbour Compound, to assist local fishermen with their fishing operations. The Service are appreciative of the efforts made by members of the Fisheries Local Action Group in attempting to secure funding for the scheme.

4.3 Animal carcasses washed up on the foreshore, continue to lead to several days of reactive work by harbour staff, in collecting and disposing of the animals concerned. The Service requests that any sightings are reported at the earliest opportunity so that the necessary action can be taken in a prompt manner.

H5 Events

5.1 The following events were among those held at the harbour during the summer period;

- Swimming events
- Sailing events held by the Dyfi Yacht Club
- Noble Marine Allen RS 3000 National Championship sailing event
- Dyfi Fest

5.2 The Service wish to advise organisers of proposed future events on harbour premises of the need to provide the relevant information about the event at the earliest opportunity. This will assist the Service in determining authorisation, staffing and administration processes.