

***Pwyllgor Ymgynghorol Harbwr  
Aberdyfi  
Harbour Consultative Committee***

***21 Hydref - October 2008***

***Maritime Unit Report***

***1 - Navigation***

***1.1*** In accordance with usual procedure, all aids to navigation were inspected on 12th August 2008 by an officer from Trinity House. It is very embarrassing that the inspector has once again this year reported that the lights on the navigation aids do not comply with the lights order as they appear in the harbour navigation chart. In 2007, the inspector reported that the lanterns on several Navigation Aids were in the incorrect order and an undertaking was given then that this would be corrected without delay. A copy is attached of the letter from the Trinity House inspector following the visit and confirming the situation in 2008.

***1.2*** At the start of the year and throughout the summer season, several navigational aids in Aberdyfi were washed ashore due to the rough weather that was experienced. During March the Fairway Buoy went off station and damage was caused to the Spit buoy. Significant damage was caused to one starboard buoy and it had to be transported to Porthmadog for repair.

***1.3*** In accordance with usual procedure buoy no 2 - Fl.R.5s. Location 52°32.06'North - 004°04.81'W, will be returned to shore as it is a seasonal navigation aid. It will be necessary to prepare and start a maintenance programme on all the navigational aids over the next few weeks. It will also be necessary to ensure that the Harbour Master has completed all the essential maintenance work well before the commencement of next season and that all the aids conform to the requirements of Trinity House in future.

***1.4*** The maintenance costs for the Aberdyfi navigational aids with the assistance of an external contractor in the current financial year are as follows:-

|       |                                      |                    |
|-------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| i)    | New lantern on navigational aid      | - £303.00          |
| ii)   | Weld the bottom of navigational aid  | - £174.00          |
| iii)  | Glass fibre work to navigational aid | - £360.00          |
| iv)   | Maintenance navigational aid No 9    | - £529.00          |
| v)    | Maintenance navigational aid No 11   | - £600.00          |
| vi)   | Maintenance navigational aid No 7    | - £470.00          |
| vii)  | Maintenance Port Buoy                | - £705.00          |
| viii) | Maintenance navigational aid No 5    | - £352.00          |
| ix)   | Maintenance of Spit buoy             | - £881.00          |
| x)    | Maintenance starboard buoy           | - £705.00          |
| xi)   | Collection of navigational equipment | - £1,116.00        |
| xii)  | <b>Total</b>                         | <b>= £6,195.00</b> |

## **2 – General Harbour Matters**

- 2.1** In accordance with usual procedure, mariners' boats will be stored on harbour land over the winter months. This will enable our customers to maintain boats on a comparatively safe site. It is essential that the Harbour Master completes a site risk assessment to ensure that there are no risks to the public. It will be necessary to consider the possibility of placing temporary railings around the boats whilst they are on harbour land.
- 2.2** At the start of the summer season, the Aberdyfi harbour control boat was repaired. This is a significant investment by the Council and it will be necessary to ensure that the boat is being used to control boats and other recreational use on the estuary. It will also be necessary to ensure that the boat is available throughout the year, although it is a requirement that the boat is stored on dry land during the winter months.

## **3 – Events**

- 3.1** On the 25th of August, a 'Lantern Festival' took place in Aberdyfi and the festival continues to be very popular with the public. There was a great deal of other events in the harbour area that were organised by local groups. Many sailing competitions were also held in the harbour this year and these have been very successful despite the terrible weather over summer.
- 4.2** In 2007, Aberdyfi beach was awarded the *European Blue Flag* for the second time but unfortunately, because the quality of Bathing Water has not reached the required standard during 2007, the Maritime Unit were not allowed to submit an application for either the Blue Flag or the Urban Beach Award in 2008.

Unfortunately, it is likely that the quality of bathing water has not reached the required standard again in 2008, and therefore, it is likely that Aberdyfi beach will not receive the Blue Flag in 2009. All the bathing water results are assessed by the relevant authorities and confirmation of the results is expected from the relevant authority before Christmas.

Although the beach may not be identified as a Blue flag beach in 2009, it is important to stress that the quality of the beach and also the other services associated with Aberdyfi beach are of the highest standard and the quality of bathing water will not have any impact on the generally high standard of the beach.

It is emphasised that the Environment Agency have not thus far confirmed the results of the bathing water quality.

## **5 – Harbour Statistics**

- 5.1** It is noted from the table in the appendix that **871** Personal Watercraft have registered with Gwynedd Council during 2008. This is much less compared to the numbers that registered in 2006, namely **337** less. It is noted that the largest percentage of Personal Watercraft have registered via the office in Pwllheli (**403**) with **32** Personal Watercraft registering in the harbour office at Aberdyfi, i.e. the same number as last year.
- 5.2** Also, it is noted from the enclosed table that **37** powerboats registered in Aberdyfi harbour, and **92** powerboats were registered at Barmouth harbour. This compares to **45** that registered in Aberdyfi last year with **92** in Barmouth.

- 5.3 It is noted from the table in the appendix that there were **102** vessels on moorings in the harbour this year. From the information received from owners it appears that **38%** of the owners are residents in Gwynedd and **62%** reside outside the county.

## **6 Analysis of Customer Questionnaire**

The report on customers' views will be submitted before the Members of the Aberdyfi Harbour Consultative Committee at the first meeting in 2009.

## **7 Budgets**

- 7.1 Attached for the information of Members is the final budget report for Aberdyfi harbour for ***the financial year 2007/08***. Also attached is the expenditure and income targets for all the harbours for ***2008/09***.
- 7.2 Following the poor settlement that Gwynedd Council received it will be necessary to be very cautious to ensure that the Maritime and Country Parks Unit does not commit money beyond the budget in the current financial year. It will be necessary for the Harbour Master and the Harbours Maritime Officer to prepare a detailed work programme for the autumn and winter season in order to identify expenditure priorities and staff resources priorities and to report on the result of the work at the next Consultative Committee meeting.
- 7.3 The Aberdyfi harbour income target for the current financial year is **£40,540**. Up to the end of August the total income for Aberdyfi harbour reached was **£27,848** i.e. **£12,692** short of the target. We need to be cautious as the income for Buildings Rents once again appears to be very high this year (**£5,280**) and perhaps this has been miscoded and that the income needs to be transferred to the correct budget heading.

If this is so, then it would mean that the income target would be **£17,972** short of the target which is a matter of great concern for the Unit. It is not anticipated that there will be a substantial addition to the income between October and the end of March 2009, except for wintering fees on the quay and therefore it will be necessary to ensure that no unnecessary expenditure at all is committed during the remainder of the financial year.

## **8 Maritime Staffing Structure**

- 8.1 As members are aware, on the 1st May 2007, there were changes to temporary staff in the Harbours at Porthmadog, Pwllheli and Aberdyfi. Following the promotion of the former Pwllheli Harbour Master, the Porthmadog Harbour Master was seconded to the post of Pwllheli Harbour Master; the Beaches Officer in Pwllheli was seconded to the post of Harbour Master in Porthmadog and the Aberdyfi Harbour Assistant was seconded to the post of Pwllheli Beach Assistant.
- 8.2 The period of the temporary Aberdyfi Harbour Assistant ended on 30 September 2008 and the post holder continues on secondment to the Dwyfor area. The Maritime Unit will review the situation in detail regarding the requirement for seasonal staff over the winter months. In order to ensure sufficient assistance in the harbour over the winter months the Barmouth Harbour staff will assist the Aberdyfi Harbour Master during the period 1<sup>st</sup> October until the end of March 2009.
- 8.3 During 2008, four members of seasonal staff were appointed in order to ensure control and supervision on the harbour waters, on Aberdyfi beach and the Tywyn Blue Flag beach. The Maritime Unit will review the situation soon in 2009, and will look at the real requirements for beach and harbour control over the busy summer months.