

<b>MEETING</b>	<b>Barmouth Harbour Consultative Committee</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>23rd October 2018</b>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Harbourmasters Report</b>
<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>A.G.Jones Barmouth Harbourmaster</b>

## **1. Navigational Issues**

- 1.1. Each year Trinity House, the General Lighthouse Authority, conduct an independent audit of the physical presence and functionality of the aids to navigation recorded at the harbours of Gwynedd and every two years the same Authority conduct an independent audit of all systems, processes and records kept of the aids to navigation at the harbours of Gwynedd including a check of all maintenance records.
- 1.2 On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2018, an inspector from Trinity House attended to conduct an audit of the systems, processes and maintenance records kept by the Service. Following the audit all was found to be in good order.
- 1.3 On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2018, an inspector from Trinity House attended at Barmouth harbour to conduct and audit of the physical presence and functionality of the aids to navigation at the harbour. All aids at Barmouth were found to be in good order and fully functional apart from an unlit light on the Barmouth Viaduct which was accordingly reported to the Rail Authority responsible and repaired.
- 1.4 The Harbour Authority continue maintain and update the navigational marks within the harbour limits. Since the last meeting, maintenance of the aids to navigation has been undertaken, during which all navigation marks including the 'Fairway' buoy have been fitted with new chain. Two new navigation lights have also been purchased as replacements for the Cardinal Mark positioned on Perch Rock, and the number 2 Port Hand 'Bar' buoy.
- 1.5 The Service is currently monitoring the need for a navigation mark to be placed at the Harbour entrance to afford protection to mariners, from a growing muscle bank inside the breakwater and plans remain in being, to place an additional navigational mark between the Perch Rock and the harbour breakwater to enhance navigation safety.
- 1.6 In conformity with a change in the course of the navigable channel and in conjunction with Trinity House it has been necessary to relocate the No 4 Port Hand Mark to a position some 20 metres south of its previous position.

The Service regularly inspects the channel at low tide in order to try to ensure that the navigational aids are in the most suitable location. Due to constant changes to the channel this can be challenging work.

1.7 There are currently No Notice to Mariners in Force at Barmouth Harbour

## **2 Operational Issues**

2.1 The Harbour Authority has required two vessels to be removed from the harbour due to their unsafe and unseaworthy condition. Both vessels had been located within the harbour on the section of beach adjacent to the premises of the 'Bath House'.

2.2 In monitoring the moorings in the harbour, the Harbour Authority will continue to undertake the removal of unsafe and derelict moorings. A review of the harbour By-laws is being undertaken as discussed by the Committee in the previous meeting in association with a review of processes and documentation appertaining to the suitability of moorings.

2.3 The service is also in the process of reviewing the Marine Navigation Act 2013 to assess the applicability of a Harbour Direction should it be required in respect of operational requirements within the harbour.

2.4 Due to the failure of the on-board navigational device on the harbour vessel, it has been necessary to purchase a new navigational global positioning system device with a depth sounding capability. The harbour Patrol vessel remains an important item of operational equipment to allow the harbourmaster to undertake survey work of the navigable channel, regulate vessel movements within in the harbour and provide assistance to harbour users as and when required subject to tidal restrictions.

## **3 Maintenance**

3.1 In addition to the maintenance of the aids to navigation, the visitor moorings in the harbour have been subject to maintenance by an external contractor and the trot moorings have also been subject to inspection by the harbourmaster.

3.2 Two new harbour ladders have been purchased to replace ladders on the harbour wall that were considered to be in need of replacement. The ladders are currently in the process of being fitted.

3.3 The Harbourmaster will introduce the maintenance work programme to be carried out at Barmouth harbour during the period October 2018 – February 2019. Feedback from Committee members is requested on any additional work that will need to be considered and included in the work programme.

## **4. Other Matters**

4.1 **Safety Signs.** In joint partnership with the RNLI a detailed review of all safety signage in the area of Barmouth beach has been undertaken and safety signs have now been put in place at sites around the area of the beach. In partnership with the RNLI it remains the intention of the Service to place similar safety signs in the vicinity of the Harbour and initial work has already been undertaken in respect of this matter.

4.2 **Fisherman's Compound.** It is the intention of the Service to undertake a review of the Fisherman's Compound with a view to assisting compound holders in clearing waste

materials from the site. Thereafter, the service will look to re-inforce the lines marking the individual plots within the compound.

- 4.2 **Harbour Parking.** The Service continues to work towards designated parking bays on Compound Road to assist Commercial Operators and Compound Site Holders to continue their activities in a busy harbour environment. Control of the area remains under discussion to prevent random and indiscriminate parking from members of the public and the Harbour Authority would like to remind service users of the need to maintain effective use of the barrier sited at the entrance to the facility.
- 4.3 The traffic barrier on the quayside is functioning well and a system is now in place to regulate vehicular traffic in that area of the harbour. The area continues to be monitored in an effort to afford protection to pedestrians enjoying the facility from contact with vehicular traffic.
- 4.4 Assistance has been and will continue to be sought from enforcement officers as and when required, to facilitate free and unobstructed access to the slipway for harbour users in respect of the road markings by the 'SS Dora' building.
- 4.4 **Harbour Pontoon.** The ownership and managerial operation of the pontoon in the harbour remains under discussion at this time. In the interim, during the course of conducting health and safety checks in the harbour, the harbourmaster has found it necessary to remove inflatable tenders from the decking area and undertake basic maintenance of the facility, as the pontoon remains open to members of the public.
- 4.5 It is hoped that a member of the group looking to secure the future of the pontoon will be able to provide an update on the current situation regarding the future of the pontoon at the meeting.
- 4.6 **Winter storage of Vessels.** Following consultation with the Environment Department of the Council, permission has been given to provide for the storage of vessels on the car park by the Leisure Centre for the period 1 October to 31 March. The cost of such storage as laid out within the Council charging system is £5.82 per metre per month.
- 4.7 Any vessel using the car park for storage will be liable for the fees payable along with the hire of Harris fencing to surround the vessel. Any area used is required to be kept clean and tidy. Any vehicles using the car park are required to pay parking fees as this is not covered under the cost of boat storage.

## 5. **Events**

- 5.1 The following events were amongst those held at Barmouth Harbour in 2018:-
- Three Peaks Yacht Race
  - Paddle Sports Festival
  - Kite Festival
  - Barmouth Food Festival
  - Raft Race
  - Hurly Burly Swim Event
- 5.2 The charity Personal watercraft event this year was unfortunately hampered by poor

weather conditions resulting in the event terminating at Barmouth harbour.

- 5.3 Motorcross Event: Following consultation with the organiser of the event, the Service advises that the dates of 27<sup>th</sup> / 28<sup>th</sup> October are crucial dates in a calendar of nationally agreed dates, as part of a circuit of events held around the United Kingdom. The Service recognises that the date coincides with the half term school holidays and will ensure that the proposed dates for the event in 2019 will be subject to consultation and approval.
- 5.4 The Service would like to remind members that it is essential the Harbour Authority is advised and permission sought for any proposed event in the Harbour at the earliest opportunity.