

<b>MEETING</b>	<b>Barmouth Harbour Consultative Committee</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>22nd October 2019</b>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Harbourmasters Report</b>
<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>A.G.Jones Barmouth Harbourmaster</b>

## **1. Navigational Issues**

- 1.1. The navigable channel on the approach to Barmouth Harbour has remained relatively constant during the summer period and in consequence, no movement in the position of the navigational marks has been necessary.
- 1.2. The Service regularly inspects the navigable channel at low tide in order to try to ensure that the navigational aids are in the most suitable location. Presently, the Service is currently monitoring the positions of the number 1 'Bar Buoy' starboard hand mark and the No 2 Port Hand mark at the channel entrance, due to movement of the sand bar in that locality.
- 1.3. 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. This year, the examination of the aids to navigation at Barmouth Harbour is due to take place between the dates 14th - 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019. A report on the findings will subsequently be received by the Service.
- 1.4. There are currently three Local Notice to Mariners in force at Barmouth Harbour.
- 1.4.1. Local Notice to Mariners No 3/2019. The Lantern on the Port hand aid to Navigation No 2 Buoy at position 52° 42.698' N, 004° 04.187' W is currently unlit. A new light has been purchased and will fitted as soon as practicable.
- 1.4.2. Local Notice to Mariners No 5/2019. The lantern on the Special Mark at position 52° 43.205'N 004°05.331'W is currently extinguished. The buoy is the responsibility of Welsh Water Special Services who are aware of the defect and making arrangements to have a new light fitted.
- 1.4.3. Local Notice to Mariners No 6/2019. The starboard aid to navigation No 3 Buoy located in the inner harbour at position at Position 52°43.004'N, 004°03.085'W is currently off station. The buoy will be returned to station as soon as possible subject to the availability of the mooring contractor.

## **2 Operational Issues**

- 2.1. The Harbour Authority has previously required two vessels to be removed from the harbour due to their unsafe and unseaworthy condition and the Service is soon to facilitate the removal of a third vessel currently moored on the 'Bath House' beach. The Service wish to remind the owners of vessels occupying a presence in the harbour of

the need to undertake regular visits to check the vessel integrity and maintain the security of their vessels.

- 2.2 In accordance with the provisions of the Port Marine Safety Code and in order to ensure safe working practices and operations, the Service will be undertaking a review of fishing and ferry operations within its harbours. The focus of the review will cover the vessels utilised, together with the tasks and specific risks associated with those activities within the harbour environment.
- 2.3 **Harbour Moorings:** The Service wishes to remind the owners of all vessels occupying moorings within the harbour of the need to return the relevant mooring confirmation form together with the mooring inspection form to the harbourmaster at the earliest opportunity. This will allow administration procedures to be progressed. The Service remains committed to removing from the harbour any derelict mooring, any mooring unfit for purpose or any mooring that has not been paid for.
- 2.4 **Vessel Tenders:** The Service would also like to remind mooring holders of the need to register any tender vessel utilised with the harbour office. Each tender vessel should ideally be marked and readily identifiable with the vessel it is serving as a tender.

### **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 Gwynedd Council owned trot moorings have also been subject to inspection by the harbourmaster.
- 3.2 Two new harbour ladders with protective wooden fenders have now been fitted to the harbour wall for the benefit of persons wishing to board or disembark from vessels moored there.
- 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, safety signs warning members of the public of inherent dangers were put in place at sites around the area of the Barmouth beach. Similar safety signs have now been placed at strategic points around the harbour.
- 4.2 **Fisherman's Compound.** It remains the intention of the Service to undertake a review of the allocated spaces within the Fisherman's Compound. Following a request made by the Service, compound users have begun to tidy and clear waste materials from the site. Following a review the service will look to re-inforce the lines marking the individual plots within the compound.
- 4.3 **Harbour Parking.** The Service continues to work towards designated parking bays on Compound Road to assist water based Commercial Operators to continue their activities in a busy harbour environment. Traffic Bollards have now been put in place in the area

of the road leading to the fisherman's compound to restrict unauthorised vehicles from parking in that locality. It is unfortunate that since their placement, two bollards have received damage without any person accepting responsibility, leading the Service to report the incidents to North Wales Police.

- 4.3.1 The Harbour Authority would like to remind service users of the need to maintain effective use of the barrier sited at the entrance of the road leading to the Fisherman's Compound.
- 4.4 The Service advise that assistance will continue to be sought from Gwynedd Council enforcement officers as and when required, to facilitate free and unobstructed access to the slipway for harbour users in respect of the road markings located by the 'SS Dora' building.
- 4.5 **Harbour Pontoon.** The assumed ownership and managerial operation of the Harbour Pontoon by the Barmouth Community Trust remains to be confirmed. Structural work has been undertaken on the main section of the pontoon, with work to be undertaken on the pontoon fingers before the start of the season next year.
- 4.6 **Winter storage of Vessels.** The facility to provide for the winter storage of vessels on the car park by the Leisure Centre for the period 1 October to 31 March was taken up by the owners of two vessels last year. Despite the disappointing response, the facility remains an option at cost should the owner of any vessel require winter storage.

## 5. **Events**

- 5.1 The following events were amongst those held at Barmouth Harbour in 2019:-
- Three Peaks Yacht Race
  - Paddle Sports Festival
  - Kite Festival
  - Barmouth Food Festival
  - Raft Race
  - Motorcross Event
  - Personal Watercraft Charity event
- Due to inclement weather, the Swim Society Hurley-Burley event did not take place.
- 5.2 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.