

MEETING	Aberdyfi Harbour Consultative Committee
DATE	2nd November 2021
TITLE	Update on Harbour Management Matters
AUTHOR	Senior Harbours Officer

1. Introduction.

- 1.1 The Committee's main function is to consider, discuss and advise on matters relating to the management, safety and development of the Harbour and to receive Member's observations on matters relating to Aberdyfi Harbour.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide a brief update for the attention of the Committee on harbour matters for the period March 2021 to October 2021, in order to receive feedback from the members on safety matters and the operational matters of the Harbour.

2. Aberdyfi Moorings and Boat Registration.

- 2.1 There were 76 boats on annual moorings within the harbour of Aberdyfi in 2021. This compares with 47 boats on moorings in 2020.
- 2.2 On the whole when comparing all Gwynedd Council Harbours, there has been an increase in the number of customers over the past year in all harbours. The increase in the number of vessels moored in the harbours reflects the gradual release of the Coronavirus lockdown restrictions in Wales.
- 2.3 This season the Service provided the opportunity for members of the public to register powered craft on-line through the Gwynedd Council Website.
- 2.4 748 Personal Watercraft (Jetskis) were registered on-line.
- 2.5 516 Powerboats were registered on-line.
- 2.6 In addition to the above figures, 1131 Personal Watercraft and Powerboats were registered on paper by persons visiting the various maritime offices across Gwynedd, providing a total of 2395 as the number of vessels registered.

3. Port Marine Safety Code.

- 3.1.1 The Port Marine Safety Code ('PMSC') sets out a national standard for every aspect of port marine safety. Its aim is to enhance safety for everyone who uses or works in the port marine environment. It applies to all Statutory Harbour Authorities.

The Code represents good practice as recognised by a wide range of industry stakeholders and Gwynedd Council understands that a failure to adhere to good practice may be indicative of a harbour authority being in breach of certain legal duties.

- 3.1.2 The Service regularly reviews the Port Marine Safety Code for the harbours under its jurisdiction in order to remain in full compliance with the current requirements of the Code. As part of the review process, it is necessary to receive the comments and views of Consultative Committee Members on the suitability of the Port Marine Safety Code and to regularly receive observations on its contents, particularly with relevance to the harbour activities, navigational aids, suitability of by-laws, safety matters and general day to day work at Aberdyfi Harbour.

4. Staffing Matters.

4.1 The staffing level Aberdyfi harbour has remained unchanged since the previous report to the Committee. The harbourmaster continues to undertake the functions required to ensure safe operations within the harbour. The harbourmaster is ably supported by the harbour assistant. The Service has been able to call upon staff based at the harbours of Barmouth and Porthmadog to assist with work in the harbour of Aberdyfi when required.

4.1.1 This season, two beach wardens were appointed to assist harbour staff in overseeing the safe management of activities conducted on and from the main beach at Aberdyfi, working from a small cabin near to the Dyfi yacht Club Premises. The Service would like to place on record their appreciation of the work they undertook throughout the busy summer period.

5. Financial Matters.

5.1 A brief summary of the harbour budget and current financial situation up to the end of the quarter will be provided by the Maritime Officer.

5.2 During this period it was necessary to commit financial resources for the following;

- Maintenance of navigational aids and beacons
- Inspection and maintenance of Visitor moorings
- Maintenance and operation of the of Harbour patrol vessel
- Maintenance of lands and benches
- Maintenance of tools and equipment

5.3 Fees and Charges. 2022/23.

With regard to the prospective fees and charges for Aberdyfi Harbour together with the Powerboat and Personal Watercraft launching fees for 2022/2023 season, it is the intention of the service to adjust the fees in line with the rate of inflation. At this time the Service is yet to receive confirmation of the rates to be applied.

6. Ports Division - Consultation

Department of Transport Consultation Paper: The Service draws to the attention of Committee members the Department of Transport consultation paper on “Strengthening enforcement of the dangerous use of recreational and personal watercraft”.

In essence the consultation paper proposes altering legislation to bring recreational and personal watercraft within the scope of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995, to ensure safe practices. The document is available for viewing on the United Kingdom government website by following the below link:

www.gov.uk/government/consultations/strengthening-enforcement-of-the-dangerous-use-of-recreational-and-personal-watercraft

Comments on the proposal should be sent to maritimesafety@dft.gov.uk.

The consultation closes the day before the Aberdyfi harbour consultative committee meeting at 11:45 pm on 1st November 2021.

7. **Harbourmasters Report.** The harbourmaster at Aberdyfi will provide a summary of the Navigational and Operational matters undertaken and encountered during the period March 2021 to October 2021 inclusive, including maintenance issues.

