

MEETING	Aberdyfi Harbour Consultative Committee
DATE	2nd November 2021
TITLE	Harbourmasters Report
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H1 **Navigational Issues**

1.1 The course of the navigable channel into the harbour of Aberdyfi has been monitored by harbour staff throughout the season. Navigational information has been provided to mariners entering the harbour and whenever required staff have assisted vessels to negotiate the channel utilising the harbour patrol craft.

1.2 There are currently two 'Local Notice to Mariners' in operation at Aberdyfi Harbour.

1.2.1 Local Notice to Mariners Number 18/20

Bar Buoy: The No 2 Port Hand navigation mark: Fl.R.5s. The seasonal Aid to Navigation located at position 52° 32.076' N 004° 04.579' W has been removed from station.

1.2.2 Local Notice to Mariners Number 19/20

Bar Buoy: The No 1 Starboard hand navigation mark: Fl.G.5s. The Aid to Navigation located at position 52° 32.031' N 004° 04.606' W is not on station. The light is currently extinguished.

1.3 A Trinity House inspection of the aids to navigation at Aberdyfi was carried out on the 28/9/2 by the Master of Seamarks from Trinity House. The navigational aids were found to be in good and efficient order, except for the above reported aids.

1.4 The Service has been in contact with a local contractor regarding maintenance of the navigational aids. Any outstanding work will be completed subject to the availability of the contractor and when the weather and tidal conditions allow.

1.5 The Service would like to emphasize the importance of contact with the harbour office at Aberdyfi to obtain current information on navigational safety.

H2 **Operational Issues**

2.1 With the lifting of lockdown restriction in late March the service experienced some exceptionally busy days with fair weather attracting people to the coast. This trend continued throughout the summer with weekdays being as busy as weekends if favourable weather was forecast. The addition of two beach wardens in Aberdyfi and three beach wardens in Tywyn contributed significantly towards the safe management the beaches at Aberdyfi and Tywyn.

2.2 Whilst the vast majority of visitors to the area were respectful of the harbour environment, there was a noticeable increase in the number of incidents of staff subjected to verbal abuse or gestures during the performance of their duties. The wanton discharge of litter around the harbour, and the ignorance of the existing Coronavirus epidemic by certain individuals has also been of concern.

2.3 Several minor incidents were reported both on and off the water and dealt with successfully by Maritime Unit staff. The behaviour of water users was generally very good with only one reported incident involving powered craft upstream which was promptly dealt with by harbour personnel.

- 2.4 A huge increase in the number of stand-up paddle boards was clear with beach wardens constantly advising users of the importance of wearing a buoyancy aid whilst afloat on the river. Several users were also reminded of the importance of keeping the navigation channel clear and the risk involved with the use of shared water space.
- 2.5 The Outward-Bound Trust have started partial operations again to a strict Covid 19 protocol. Although not operating to full capacity yet it is hoped they will be able to do so soon. It is a pleasure to see young people enjoying adventures on the Dyfi again.
- 2.6 Commercial fishing activity continues through the winter months with one boat, MFV Genesis, setting up to fish the scallop season.

H3 Maintenance

- 3.1 Following a survey of the river by harbour staff, harbour moorings were established at the beginning of the season by a mooring contractor at the direction of the harbourmaster working alongside. Visitor moorings were also checked at that time.
- 3.2 Coastal safety signage was re-established at strategic sites following the winter period which have been maintained throughout the summer to assist in the safe management of the coast. Work has now started to remove and store all equipment used by the seasonal beach staff. Equipment will be checked, cleaned and repaired where necessary.
- 3.3 Prior to deployment for the season, harbour staff checked and maintained all equipment aboard the harbour patrol craft. The engines of the craft were additionally maintained and serviced by a local firm at a cost of £1041.32 to the Service.
- 3.3.1 As the season ends, the harbour patrol craft will be removed from the water, pressure washed and serviced. Any other remedial work will be carried out prior to relaunching early 2022. The boat will be kept local for any river and bar survey work to be carried out on a launch and recover basis.
- 3.4 An increase in carcasses on the foreshore has led to several days of reactive work being carried out by the service. The service requests that any sightings be reported to them as soon as possible.

H4 Other Matters

- 4.1 **Aberdyfi Harbour Quay Wall:** The project to replace the existing harbour quay wall remains on-going at this time, with the schedule of works delayed by the impact of the Coronavirus epidemic.

The project has been re tendered and our Consultancy Unit is in the process of assessing all submitted tenders. We hope that we can update the Committee with the outcome of the tender assessments at the meeting.

As we have reported to this Committee in previous meetings it will be compulsory for all fishing related equipment to be removed from the quayside. Fishermen have already been warned of this requirement on several occasions.

- 4.2 **Harbour Compound:** The harbour compound is currently subject to review with funding currently being sought through the Fisheries Local Action Group to facilitate a power and water supply to the Compound. If successful, it is hoped that it will assist the commercial fishermen working from the harbour to clean and store equipment at the site. This, in turn will, assist in removing some of the fishing equipment from the harbour quayside.

- 4.3 **Picnic Island:** Plans to renew the bridge spanning the Cambrian Coast railway and re-instate the foot access to Picnic Island remain on schedule. Network Rail has agreed to the works and Basic Assets Protection Agreement (BAPA) has been agreed and signed by Network Rail.

Snowdonia National Park has confirmed that a Planning Application is not required.

Initial inspection work of the abutments will be undertaken on the 10th November 2021. Detailed designs are currently being agreed.

Once the design is agreed this will be placed to tender with a four week return response anticipated. It will be necessary for the tender to incorporate leeway to take into consideration the fluctuating costs of steel and energy.

The bridge and adjoining work requirements are being undertaken on behalf of the Maritime Unit by Gwynedd Consultancy.

Funding has been made available by Gwynedd Council - £50K, and the Fisheries Local Action Group Fund - £30K. The final cost of replacement will not be clear until tenders have been submitted. Additional Consultancy fees have been funded from within the Maritime Unit's Revenue budget thus far. It is very possible that other sources of funding might be required in order to complete the project.

The replacement will be in two phases; removal of existing bridge which will require a Road Closure Order. Installation of new footbridge which will also require a Road Closure Order. Details to be announced as the project develops.

H5 Events

- 5.1 The majority of proposed events scheduled to take place at the harbour this year were cancelled due to the continuing effects of the Coronavirus epidemic. However, a recent swim event in the harbour was a success. No events have been proposed for the winter season 21/22.
- 5.2 The service would like to remind all organisers of the need to liaise with the Service at the earliest opportunity concerning any proposed event to be held and that confirmation of approval must be sought prior to any events going ahead.