

MEETING	Aberdyfi Harbour Consultative Committee
DATE	12th March 2024
TITLE	Harbourmasters Report
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H 1 Navigational Issues

- 1.1 The course of the main navigational channel into the harbour of Aberdyfi has remained under observation throughout the winter period. The physical nature of the river and harbour area continues to change. At the time of writing a large area East of the Trinity House buoy store is drying out on spring low water. Further inspections and surveys will be carried out by the service in line with astronomically low tides in February and March.
- 1.2 Once further surveys of the navigable channel have been undertaken, the Service will place the aids to navigation in suitable positions, so as to facilitate a safe passage to and from the harbour. To assist in undertaking channel surveys, the Service has invested in Drone equipment which has proven very beneficial in monitoring the course of the river.
- 1.3 There is currently two 'Local Notice to Mariners'(N to M) in operation at Aberdyfi Harbour.
- 1.3.1 Aberdyfi Harbour Local Notice to Mariners Number 01/24. The light on the No 5 Starboard Hand aid to Navigation (Fl.G.4s) positioned at 52°32.173' N 004° 04.040' W is not working. It is essential that Mariners navigate with caution in this area.
- 1.3.2 Aberdyfi Harbour Local Notice to Mariners Number 02/24. The No 3 South Spit, Starboard hand aid to Navigation (Qk.Fl.G) positioned at 52°32.165' N 004°04.541' W is not on station. The light is still working. Mariners are strongly advised to navigate with caution in this area.
- 1.3.3 The Service advises that all navigational marks will be on station and fully operational as soon as practically possible, dependent upon the commitments of the mooring contractor in association with existing, weather and tidal conditions.
- 1.4 It is now possible to view all current Notice to Mariners for the county on the Maritime page of the Cyngor Gwynedd website. Local Notices to Mariners (llyw.cymru) <https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Residents/Leisure-parks-and-events/Maritime/Local-Notices-to-Mariners.aspx>
- 1.5 The Service would like to emphasize the importance of contact with the harbour office at Aberdyfi to obtain the latest information on navigational safety.

H 2 Operational Issues

- 2.1 As with previous seasons it is hoped to place customers moorings in their historical location. However, due to the nature of the River Dyfi and an ever-decreasing area of water due to sandbank movement and siltation, this is not always possible. The Service appreciate the understanding of harbour customers in respect of this situation.
- 2.2 The construction of the new wharf has received positive feedback from harbour customers and visitors alike. Fresh water and electric hook-up provision, together with the installation of steps to afford easy boarding access from the quayside, has been a successful addition to the facilities provided by the harbour.
 - 2.2.1 The remedial stages of the Aberdyfi Wharf Development Project are now almost complete, except for the placement of fendering on the East section of the quay wall and the erection of gates across the entrance to the jetty. This is expected to be completed before the start of the busy summer period.
- 2.3 The increase in sand build-up still hinders the physical use of the slipway located adjacent to the RNLI station and Dyfi Yacht Club premises. With the main beach level at its current height, removal of sand from the slipway remains a constant problem. The Service greatly appreciates the efforts of local stakeholders to find a solution to the problem.
- 2.4 The harbour 'Powercat' patrol vessel is currently undergoing maintenance in preparation for the forthcoming season. As part of Maritime and Coastguard Agency vessel coding requirements, the vessel is to undergo a survey by an approved Marine Surveyor at the end of February, after which the vessel engines will receive an overhaul from a local marine engineer. The vessel will then return to operational duties.

H 3 Maintenance

- 3.1 In addition to the harbour patrol vessel, the road trailer supporting the harbour craft has also undergone maintenance. All road trailers under the responsibility of the Harbour Authority receive a Service in accordance with a planned programme.
- 3.2 Maintenance work on the Yellow Special Mark (4 knots) Aid to Navigation has been completed and buoy has been fitted with a new, brighter yellow light.
- 3.3 The visitor's moorings will undergo an annual service before the end of March to enable the mooring contractor to lay them before the Easter holiday. The moorings will be laid in deep water in order to accommodate vessels wishing to visit the harbour with a deep draught.
- 3.4 The harbour office would like to thank the Outward-Bound Trust, Aberdyfi, for their continued assistance with maintenance matters both ashore and afloat this winter.

H 4 Other Matters

- 4.1 **Picnic Island Bridge.** On the 15th November 2023, a formal ceremony took place to officially open the new footbridge over the Cambrian Coast railway line. The construction of the bridge, which provides a vital link to Bryn Llestair (Picnic Island) is an example of partnership working between the Harbour Authority and Local Stakeholders at Aberdyfi.
- 4.2 **Trailers on the Harbour.** Following the restructure of the harbour area including the provision of a small vehicle parking area near the lifeboat station, trailers owned by members of the public containing water-sports equipment have been re-installed. The Service has previously advised that a fee is to be levied for the benefit of such use on Harbour Authority premises, and as such fees are now payable to the Harbour Authority.
- 4.3 **Animal Carcasses:** Animal carcasses on the foreshore have led to several days of reactive work being carried out by harbour staff. The Service requests that any sightings be reported to them at the earliest opportunity. The Service would also like to remind the public that although a swift response is sometimes required this is not always possible due to other work commitments in association with the level of staff working at any one given time.
- 4.4 **Beach Cleaning:** The Service would like to thank all those persons who assist in clearing rubbish washed up on the local foreshore. Large and bulky items or items considered to be suspicious, dangerous, corrosive or noxious should be reported to the harbour office without delay, so safe removal can be arranged.
- 4.4.1 Following a beach clean, any collected waste left in a location should be reported to the Service promptly, so that arrangements can be made to collect the waste without any undue delay.
- 4.5. **Harbour Compound:** The Service remain hopeful of working with local stakeholders to provide electric and water facilities to the harbour compound for the benefit of all compound users.

H5 Events

- 5.1 To date the Service has received advanced notification of the following events proposed to take place at Aberdyfi this year.
- A full programme of sailing and river-based activities presented by the Dyfi Yacht Club.
 - 15th June 2024 Welsh Rowing Coastal Championships 2024. Sculling Regatta
 - 14th July 2024 Aberdyfi Rowing Club Annual Regatta
 - Events organised by WeSwimRun. The Service currently awaits further information regarding the details of the events.

- 5.2 The Service would like to remind event organisers of the need to provide early notification of any proposed event and submission for approval.
- 5.2.1 In considering whether to approve an event, the Service will give due regard to the information provided detailing the circumstances and apply any restrictions, impositions or limitations thereby necessary to ensure public and staff safety.