

MEETING	ABERMAW HARBOUR CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
DATE	25 th March 2025
TITLE	HARBOURMASTERS REPORT
AUTHOR	BARMOUTH HARBOUR MASTER

H1 Navigational issues

- 1.1** Throughout the winter period the Service has monitored the Navigation Aids and Navigable channel to ensure that Pilotage is safe in and out of Barmouth Harbour.
- 1.2** Harbour Staff will continue to monitor the movement of the sandbanks in the Navigable channel and make any Port and Starboard Hand aid changes where necessary.
- 1.3** The Navigation Aids no4, no6 and no10 are to be serviced this winter, as is the Fairway buoy.
- 1.4** At the time of writing, we have three N to M in place for the following;
- No 6 Port Hand Mark off station – To be returned to station ASAP
 - South Cardinal (Perch) Light not working
 - Fairway Buoy Light Not Working
- 1.5** A new Light for the South Cardinal mark will be with the service at the beginning of April, and will be positioned as soon as possible.
- 1.6** During the winter months the service has noticed again that the channel nearest the Harbour wall has been impacted by windblown sand. This is causing the channel to silt up causing difficulties for vessels leaving and returning to the Harbour at low tides. Vessels are requested to call the Harbour office prior to making their approach to the Harbour wall.
- 1.7** We have seen several incidents in the last year where contact with a vessel is restricted due to sailors not having their VHF radios on,. Mariners are reminded of the need to keep their VHF radios on CH12 during their stay at Barmouth Harbour and to contact the harbour office prior to departure or arrival to obtain the latest navigational and weather information.

*The latest charted positions will be provided with this report.

H2 Operational Issues

- 2.1** The Harbour 'Powercat' was well used last season, and it has had its annual service and inspection to ensure it is ready for the season ahead.
- 2.2** The Maritime Patrol Vehicle has also been well used over the winter and is working well after having had repairs last season.
- 2.3** The Service in Barmouth have been using the CFMOTO UTV regularly since its arrival in Barmouth, it has been utilised to reach areas where the regular patrol vehicle can't reach, such as the sand banks within the harbour.
- 2.4** The Boat and Tipper Trailer are due their annual service, and no defects were found last season. All trailers used by the Harbour Staff are to be serviced regularly to ensure they are safe to use.
- 2.5** The Service has recently invested in a trailered water bowser and jet wash for use at all Harbours, which will help to ensure the slipways and walkways that are subject to tidal coverage stay clean, free of algae growth and safe for use.

H3 Maintenance

- 3.1** Continued maintenance and inspection of the Harbour is being carried out by Harbour officers on a weekly basis. Items that need urgent attention are addressed quickly and other items are added to our winter works plan. One of our access ladders is due to be replaced by a local contractor before the start of the main Summer season.
- 3.2** The service will give updates about the pontoon when available, the Pontoon is a great asset to the "Harbour", and we thank the Town Council, and all involved with this project.
- 3.3** Harbour Staff have changed the trot mooring arrangement in Barmouth Harbour. We have removed two trots from each line of moorings. Due to the frequency of inclement weather and the need for trot moorings decreasing. We have also reduced the number available, which allows more space for vessels to swing on these moorings during inclement weather , and it also increases the space for private swinging moorings.

- 3.4** New RNLI primary and secondary signs are to be positioned in Fairbourne to provide safety information for members of the public.
- 3.5** Harbour staff are continuing to number mooring buoys to easily recognise customer moorings due to the addition of new vessels in the harbour.
- 3.6** Harbour staff have continued to clear unwanted items and rubbish from the compound ensuring the working area is tidy and safe.
- 3.7** The new CCTV system installed at the beginning of 2024 has proved very useful, with footage being used to aid in emergencies.
- 3.8** The Service has invested in a new Gas Oil hose reel for the fuel pump in Barmouth, due to the previous reel exceeding its life expectancy.
- 3.9** With ongoing works in the Viaduct Gardens by YGC and Alun Griffiths, the service has seen the introduction of new Flood Barriers located on the steps and slipways around the harbour.

H4 Events

- 4.1** Barmouth has a very successful summer season with a plethora of different events that bring in lots of tourism to the town. Last year was a huge success and we look forward to welcoming all the events back this year and to welcome new events if any are proposed.

Barmouth Fest/Carnival
Food Festival
Kite Festival (TBC)
Barmouth Striders 10k
Hurly Burly
Moto X
Colwyn Bay Jetski Club Rideout
Walking Festival
Bonfire/Fireworks
Sea2Sky Ultra

- 4.2** The Service wish to advise organisers of proposed events of the need to provide early notification to the harbour office. This is to ensure that all safety protocols and administration processes can be assessed before an event. Events will not be

permitted to take place unless written permission has been obtained from the Service.

Other Matters

1. The Service has had another encouraging season with many more enquires regarding moorings in the Harbour, so we hope to see another influx of vessels joining our community. We saw a 7% increase last year and we have seen another increase again this year. Visiting vessels have also increased last year, reporting back to the office that the welcome and friendliness of the community and staff is commendable, and they will be back with more boats. This can only be welcoming news to Barmouth and to the efforts of everyone who make the town so inviting.
2. The Service has now placed a Port Waste Bin on Compound Road which will serve all harbour customers for waste which cannot be recycled.