

Meeting	Aberdovey Harbour Advisory Committee
Date:	14-October-2025
Author:	Senior Harbour Officer
Service:	Maritime Service, Economy and Community Department
Title:	Update on Service Management Matters

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Committee's role is to consider, discuss and advise on matters relating to harbour management, safety and development and receive members' comments on matters relating to Aberdovey Harbour
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on management issues related to the harbour, inviting feedback or comments from committee members.

2. REPORTING ON SERVICE MANAGEMENT MATTERS

- 2.1 The summary below is presented in relation to the performance of the service.

Performance Data

- 2.2 The data below is collated as part of the Maritime Service's performance management and monitoring arrangements.

	2023/4	2024/5	2025/6
Mooring Agreements			
Porthmadog	106	109	106
Barmouth	71	78	81
Aberdovey	73	79	83

- 2.3 As can be seen, the mooring agreement figures for the 2025 season compare favourably with previous years, although there are fluctuations between individual harbours, the overall figures remain consistent, which is positive.
- 2.4 There was a 10% increase in the number of powered craft registered with Cyngor Gwynedd this season compared to the previous year, rising from 2,141 to 2,362.
- 2.5 The Service respectfully requests that details of all vessels and customers be provided to the harbour office at the earliest opportunity by all mooring suppliers / holders within the harbour.

2.6 The service also collects data on the satisfaction levels of harbour users:

Satisfaction percentage rating of harbours managed by the Maritime Service

	2023/4	2024/5	2025/6
Customer Satisfaction			
Excellent	40%	60%	63%
Very Good	30%	24%	25%
Satisfactory	20%	16%	6%
Poor	10%	0%	2%
Very Poor	0%	0%	0%
Unknown	0%	0%	4%

2.6.1 These figures highlight the upward trend in 'positive' feedback received at our harbours, as well as the efforts made by the department to further improve the customer and visitor experience.

2.6.2 Feedback received about Aberdovey Harbour:

Positive responses:

- Harbour staff are very "helpful, polite, knowledgeable and very welcoming"
- "Navigation in the harbour was well marked and explained clearly".
- "Staff go 'above and beyond' their duty in and out of hours to ensure the safety of mariners and vessels".
- "Staff are very pro-active at the harbour and beach, providing a relaxing and more enjoyable stay. The dog exclusion zone was well monitored and signposted."
- "The harbour has a great new quayside with fantastic facilities, is always clean and tidy and surrounded by fantastic views".

Negative responses:

- "Jet Ski users have no knowledge of regulations - they should be banned"
- "My mooring has been moved to a different location from previous year, why? Communication could have been better"
- "The harbour needs dredging!"
- "The quayside steps are unsuitable for unloading people and tying alongside the quay wall is difficult".
- "The Harbourmaster's temporary cabin is unsightly and does not suit the Harbour"

We acknowledge and welcome all feedback received about our harbours, and will continue to discuss any matters or concerns raised in order to improve the service further.

- 2.7 The Port Marine and Facilities Safety Code (PMSC) outlines the national standard for all aspects of port marine safety. To ensure compliance, our harbours are regularly audited by an external specialist. We are pleased to confirm the recent appointment of Mr Owen Morgan, Harbour Manager for Ceredigion Council, as our new 'Designated Person'. Mr Morgan will conduct the next audit during the winter months, and will provide guidance to ensure we meet the latest requirements of the PMSC. Following this audit the service will publish the updated version of the code on the Council's public website: www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru.

As part of our commitment to the PMSC continual training and development opportunities are offered to Maritime staff. We are pleased to announce that one member of staff has recently completed the 'Harbour Master Diploma', while another has commenced the latest 'UKHMA Harbour Master Certificate' course - we wish them every success with their professional development.

- 2.8 Due to the nature of their work, our officers unfortunately experience abusive, threatening and violent behaviour occasionally. To ensure the safety of both staff and the public, officers are now required to wear body worn cameras to provide protection and to record any incidents.
- 2.9 MAIB (Marine Accident Investigation Branch): We are pleased to announce that so far this year no maritime incidents or accidents have been reported to 'MAIB'.

2.10 Trinity House GLA (General Lighthouse Authority)

A key priority for the service is ensuring safe navigation for all mariners that use our waterways. As a registered 'LLA' (Local Lighthouse Authority), we undertake regular surveys of the harbour channel to ensure that all Local Aids to Navigation are correctly positioned and functioning properly. Inspections and records for A to N are uploaded to the Trinity House database. The latest report concluded that Cyngor Gwynedd had a 95.47% availability of Aids to Navigation, with the service being considered to be in "Good Order".

Resources and Budget: A summary of budgets for Aberdovey Harbour is included below:

ABERDOVEY HARBOUR	Financial Performance for the Period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 - August 2025 Review		
	BUDGET / TARGETS FOR THE PERIOD 1/4/25 TO 31/3/26	INCOME & EXPENDITURE FORECASTED 1/4/24 TO 31/3/25	OVER (UNDER)
Employees	79,869	81,562	1,693
Buildings	25,840	27,086	1,246
Transport	760	806	46
Supplies & Services	8,490	19,274	10,784
One - Off Expenditure - Financed from Reserves	0	0	0
Total Expenditure	114,959	128,728	13,769
Income	(50,010)	(63,307)	(13,297)
Contribution from Reserves Tow	0	0	0
Total Net	64,949	65,421	472

3.1 Other Key Issues:

- **Harbour Masters Office**

Draft plans for a new Harbour Office on the quay have been prepared with input sought from the Maritime Service to ensure all operational needs are met. The proposed plans are currently being discussed with the planning department of Snowdonia National Park.

- **Fairway Buoy:**

A new Fairway buoy, chain, block, anchor and light have been purchased at a cost of £7000.

- **Wharf Jetty:**

Funding has been secured to renew and refurbish areas of the wooden jetty structure. Plans are being developed to ensure safety, as the project is categorised as 'high risk' due to the location.

- **Main Slipway:**In accordance with the agreement made earlier in the year with stakeholders the service commissioned contractors to remove sand from the slipway at a cost of £2000.
- No feedback has been received from the public during the summer season following the issuing of an alcohol licence to a business operating on the wharf.
- In recent weeks a number of Portuguese Man O’War have washed up along the Gwynedd coastline. The public are advised not to touch them and keep dogs away as they can cause severe stings.

4. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 The Committee is asked to note and accept the contents of this report.

Meeting	Aberdovey Harbour Advisory Committee
Date:	14th October 2025
Author:	Harbour Master William Stockford
Service:	Maritime Service, Department of Economy and Community,
Title:	Update on Operational Matters

1 **BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Committee's role is to consider, discuss and advise on matters relating to the management, protection and development of the Harbour and to receive members' comments on matters relating to Aberdovey Harbour.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on operational issues related to the harbour, inviting feedback or comments from committee members.

2 REPORTING ON OPERATIONAL ISSUES

- 2.1 The summary below is presented from the perspective of the performance of the service.

Mooring locations once again proved challenging, with some moorings relocated due to the size and weight of vessels and the need to achieve a secure holding on the riverbed. The importance of keeping vessels afloat wherever possible was highlighted in mid-July when wind speeds of 45 knots were recorded in the estuary. Working closely with the local contractor, a total of 83 moorings were laid at the start of the season. The main school holiday period benefited from settled weather, resulting in busy days across the harbour and beach. Staff worked proactively to prevent incidents before they occurred. Several incidents were avoided due to the vigilance of harbour and beach staff. The service is proud to have received numerous messages of “appreciation and thanks”, recognising their commitment and efforts in going ‘above and beyond’ their normal duties.

The main slipway was cleared of sand at the beginning of the season, as reported in the previous meeting. However, following strong westerly winds the sand has since returned.

- 2.2 The deteriorating manhole cover at the bottom of the slipway in Church Bay has now been repaired by Dŵr Cymru at no cost to the service.

3.0 Navigation Matters

- 3.1 The course of the main navigational channel into the harbour has remained stable throughout the summer season, with no reported issues with the approaches at the time of publication.

- 3.2 There are currently two ‘Local Notice to Mariners’ (N to M) in operation at Aberdyfi Harbour.

04/25 Bar Buoy: No 2 Port: Fl.R.5s. The navigation light on the buoy is not working.

05/25 Aberdyfi Outer Buoy: Iso W.4s. The aid to navigation is not on station

It is anticipated that the No 2 buoy will be removed from station as it is a “seasonal mark” and the Outer buoy will be rectified before the end of November

3.3 It is now possible to view all current Notice to Mariners on the Maritime section of the Cyngor Gwynedd website: <https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Residents/Leisure-parks-and events/Maritime/Local-Notices-to-Mariners.aspx>

3.4 The Service emphasises the importance of contacting the harbour office to obtain the latest information on navigational safety before planning any passages or vessel arrivals.

4.0 Specific issues have arisen

4.1 Following storm damage which washed the Outer Buoy ashore, the service is investing in a new Fairway Buoy designed to be easier to deploy and maintain. This buoy will be of a different size and style, and its performance in Aberdyfi's sea conditions will be closely monitored. Having consulted with other councils who experience similar conditions we are confident that this model of buoy will be suitable.

4.2 The Service would like to remind everyone that the Outer Buoy is a charted position:
52°32.000'N 004°05.550W

We request that all mariners use this position to ensure safe navigation whilst the Outer Buoy is "Off Station".

5.0 Maintenance

5.1 Efforts to retain sand on the beach continued, with the extension of the timber boards along the promenade. This work will be reviewed as part of the winter work programme.

5.2 Fortnightly inspections of all service assets have been carried out and recorded

5.3 Reactive work included the removal and burial of carcasses along the foreshore. The service request that any reports of carcasses on the foreshore be accompanied by accurate location information such as, What3Words or National Grid Reference.

6.0 Events

6.1 Clwb Hwyllo Dyfi reported a successful sailing season with most races going ahead.

A very positive training and instruction programme was completed, with a local junior sailing event proving highly successful. The service was delighted to see so many young people enjoying and progressing with their sailing throughout the season.

The service would like to extend its thanks to the club for their support on and off the water.

- 6.2 The Aberdyfi Rowing Club Celtic Longboat Regatta was cancelled due to poor weather. Attempts to reschedule were also hampered by adverse conditions.
- 6.3 The Aberdyfi Rowing Club Sculling League Regatta was also cancelled due to strong winds.
- 6.4 Of the four planned 'WeSwimRun' events, one had taken place at the time of publication, with one cancellation.
- 6.5 Poor weather also led to the cancellation of the Colwyn Bay Jet Ski Club Ride Out 2025. However, a beach event at Morfa Bychan went ahead successfully, raising thousands of pounds for local charities. The service extends thanks to the organisers for their hard work and efforts.
- 6.6 Dyfi Fest delivered another successful weekend of live entertainment on the Wharf.
- 6.7 The Kite festival visited Aberdyfi for the first time and was a welcome addition to the event calendar, proving very popular.
- 6.8 The service reminds all event organisers of the importance to provide early notification of any proposed events, or any amendments to existing events. Late notification may result in events not being approved or amendments not being accepted.
- 6.8.1 In considering whether to approve an event, the service will give due regard to the information provided and will apply any restrictions, impositions or limitations necessary to ensure public and staff safety.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Committee is asked to identify and accept these contents of the report.

