

MEETING	Aberdyfi Harbour Consultative Committee
DATE	15th October 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 summer season. The physical nature of the river and harbour area continues to change.
- 1.2 A significant change to a sandbank South of the harbour office has led to some moorings drying out. This feature required two vessels to be relocated to other moorings towards the end of the season. Further inspections and surveys will be carried out by the Service over the winter months.
- 1.3 There are currently no 'Local Notice to Mariners'(N to M) in operation at Aberdyfi Harbour.
- 1.4 An inspector from Trinity House, the Lighthouse Authority for the area, is expected in the month of October, to undertake an audit of the navigational aids within the harbour limits. The result of the inspection will be provided to the Committee at the next meeting.
- 1.5 It is now possible to view all current Local Notice to Mariners for the County on the Maritime page of the Gwynedd Council website. Local Notices to Mariners.
<https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Residents/Leisure-parks-and-events/Maritime/Local-Notices-to-Mariners.aspx>
- 1.6 The Service would like to emphasize the importance of contact with the harbour office at Aberdyfi to obtain the latest information on navigational safety and weather reports.

H 2 Operational Issues

- 2.1 There has been a positive interest in mooring enquiries this season leading to an uptake of new moorings being laid within the harbour waters. Identifying suitable locations for the placement of moorings continues to be a challenge due to the amount of shifting sand within the harbour.
- 2.2 The increase in sand build-up still hinders the physical use of the slipway located adjacent to the RNLI station and the Dyfi Yacht Club premises. With the main beach level at its current height, removal of sand from the slipway remains an on-going issue.

- 2.2.1 The Service greatly appreciates the efforts of local stakeholders to find a solution to the removal of sand from the slipway. Following trials undertaken, it is hoped that a solution can be found through the purchase of equipment to wash away the sand assisted by the ebb tide.
- 2.3 Aberdyfi Beach staff were instrumental in initiating a call to persons in difficulty at Ynyslas on the South side of the estuary resulting in two lives being saved. They were commended for their vigilance throughout the season.
- 2.3.1 Due to the changeable weather forecast for much of the season, the service found that there were very busy days where visitor numbers would increase considerably. Continued patrols of the river, beach and harbour helped to maintain a relatively incident free season.

H 3 Maintenance

- 3.1 Prior to the commencement of the summer season the harbour patrol craft underwent an annual maintenance of its engines and equipment. The vessel is invaluable to the work required to be undertaken by the harbour staff.
- 3.2 Prior to the spring period, maintenance work was carried out on the Aids to Navigation (A to N) in the navigable channel, including the purchase of two new lanterns fitted to the Outer Buoy and the No1 Bar buoy. The assistance of a local mooring contractor is much appreciated in undertaking the work required with the buoys in the channel.
- 3.3 As the winter period approaches, vessels lying within the harbour waters and their associated moorings will be taken out of the water with the assistance of a mooring contractor.
- 3.4 Several reactive days were accrued with 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, what 3 words or National Grid Reference.

H4 Other Matters

- 4.1 **Harbourmasters Office.** As a consequence of structural deterioration to the existing Harbourmasters office, a temporary office in the form of a portable cabin has been situated on the harbour front, to assist with staff welfare facilities. Harbour staff will relocate to the portable office before the winter period, once the relevant technical and furnishing installations have been completed.
- 4.1.1 The Service are working in partnership with the Consultancy department of Cyngor Gwynedd to plan and build a new office structure on the site of the existing building
- 4.2 **Harbour Compound.** As part of a work programme, maritime staff will undertake a tidy of the harbour compound during the winter period. This will involve the clearing of unwanted items and the maintenance of vegetation at the site.
- 4.3 **North Wales Police.** North Wales Police have advised that the investigation into the circumstances of the incident that occurred on the river the on the 28th May last

year remains on-going. The investigation has now been referred to the Crown Prosecution Service.

H5 Events

5.1 The following events were among those held at the harbour during the summer period;

- Welsh Coastal Sculling Championships held on the 15th June. This inaugural event for Aberdyfi had a very good turn out following which excellent feedback was provided. The service looks forward to seeing the event held in Aberdyfi again in the future.
- Welsh Sea Rowing Aberdyfi, Joint League Annual Regatta held on the 14th July. This was another enjoyable and successful rowing regatta event hosted by Clwb Rhwyfo Aberdyfi
- WeSwimRun. Dyfi Swim / Run and Beat the Tide 4km
- Dyfi 26km Aquathlon and Dyfi 13km swim. Held in the river and surrounding mountains.

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.