

MEETING	Aberdyfi Harbour Consultative Committee
DATE	13 November 2018
TITLE	Harbourmasters Report
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H1. **Navigational Issues**

- H1.1. Each year Trinity House, the General Lighthouse Authority, conduct an independent audit of the physical presence and functionality of the aids to navigation recorded at the harbours of Gwynedd and every two years the same Authority conduct an independent audit of all systems, processes and records kept of the aids to navigation at the harbours of Gwynedd including a check of all maintenance records.
- H1.2 On Thursday 12th April 2018, an inspector from Trinity House attended Gwynedd to conduct an audit of the systems, processes and maintenance records kept by the Service. Following the audit all records relating to the navigational marks at Aberdyfi was found to be in good order.
- H1.3 On Wednesday 15th August 2018, an inspector from Trinity House attended at Aberdyfi harbour to conduct an audit of the physical presence and functionality of the aids to navigation at the harbour. All aids at Aberdyfi were found to be in good order and fully functional.
- H1.4 There are currently two 'Local Notice to Mariners' in operation at Aberdyfi Harbour
- H1.5 The No 1 'Bar' buoy starboard hand mark (Fl G 5s) 52°32.377'N 004°04.860'W and the No 3 'South Spit' starboard hand mark (Qk Fl G) 52° 32.290'N 004° 04.637' W are currently off station.
- H1.6 During the year the Aberdyfi Harbour navigation channel changed course considerably to the north. In anticipation of further movements in the navigable channel, a temporary starboard hand buoy was installed in place of the No 3 'South Spit' buoy, obviating the need for the seasonal No 2 'Bar' Buoy port hand mark.
- H1.7 The Service regularly inspects the channel at low tide in order to try to ensure that the navigational aids are in the most suitable location. Due to constant changes to the channel this can be challenging work.
- H1.8 As the navigable channel continues to move, arrangements have now been put in place with a mooring contractor to return the No 3 'South Spit' Buoy to the channel and re position the No 1 'Bar' buoy. Once completed, the temporary starboard hand mark will then be removed from the channel.
- H1.9 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**

- H2.1 The good weather providing long periods of sunshine from late April through to August this season attracted numerous visitors to the harbour and nearby beaches. The influx of visitors to the area has kept the staff particularly busy over the summer period.
- H2.3 Visiting vessels remained similar in number to that last year from local harbours such as New Quay, Aberystwyth, Porthmadog and Pwllheli. It was also pleasing to receive visiting vessels from Glasson Basin marina on the River Lune, Lancashire and Nice in France.

H3 **Maintenance**

- H3.1 Maintenance of the buoys in the navigable channel has been undertaken. Two riser chains were required to be replaced on the No 5 starboard hand mark and the No 7 starboard hand mark.
- H3.2 A new Yellow Special Mark (4 knots marker) was required to be purchased following examination of the existing buoy, which was found to be damaged beyond economical repair. The buoy has been subsequently placed in the navigable channel at position 52°32.469N 004°02.861'W
- H3.3 Following an inspection earlier in the year maintenance work was also undertaken on the visitor moorings in the harbour. For next season two new 'Hippo' mooring buoys and associated riser chains will be required for the visitors' moorings.
- H3.4 The Harbourmaster will introduce the maintenance work programme to be carried out at Aberdyfi harbour during the period October 2018 – February 2019. Feedback from Committee members is requested on any additional work that will need to be considered and included in the work programme.

H4. **Other Matters**

- H4.1 **Safety Signs.** In joint partnership with the RNLI a detailed review of all safety signage in the area of Aberdyfi and Tywyn has been undertaken. In response to the inspection and in conjunction with the RNLI, safety signage has now been put in place at Aberdovey and Tywyn. It is anticipated that the signs will need to be removed from their locations during the winter months, to reduce potential damage from severe weather.
- H4.2 **Timber Broad-walk.** Measures have been put in place in the form of sand ladders to assist with access through the sand dunes onto the beach, pending the dismantling of the decayed section of the broad-walk, which is to be undertaken as part of the winter work programme.
- H4.3 The future of the broad-walk remains uncertain at this time with particular regard to budgetary constraints. In consequence the service is considering all available options and is grateful for the offers of support in respect of the structure. In the interim, the Service have and will continue to maintain the sand ladders in order to provide access across the dunes.

H4.3 **Common Land / Storage-waste.** Prior to work being undertaken by the Service, a request was made to those persons with items present on the land to tidy their respective areas and effect the removal of unwanted and derelict items. It is disappointing to note that this has not yet been undertaken. It is of further disappointment that certain members of the public continue to dispose of waste materials on the site in question.

Relevant measurements of the area have been taken to provide for fencing. Guidance in respect of the disposal of fridges present on the land has been sought and it hoped to remove the asbestos waste present on the land by the end of December and the fence erected by the end of January 2019. Service personnel will also attend the site as part of the winter work programme to clear away waste materials and overgrown vegetation.

H4.4 **Quayside.** The staff remain committed to improving the tidiness of the harbour area. To date approximately 90 fishing pots have been removed from the quayside. Following consultation with the commercial operators working from the harbour and upon improvement work to the compound as outlined above, further fishing pots and equipment will be removed from the harbour quayside to the compound.

H4.5 **Containers on the Harbour.** Following concerns raised about the condition of several containers used to store equipment on land adjacent to the Yacht Club, the names and addresses of those persons responsible for keeping equipment on the harbour have now been obtained. The Maritime Service is currently seeking guidance from the Properties Section of the Council in respect of a draft Licence to regulate the type, amount and condition of equipment stored on the land.

H4.6 **Picnic Island.** It has been necessary to close the bridge over the Cambrian Coast rail line that affords access to and from Picnic Island for safety reasons. At this present time, the service awaits a structural report on the condition of the bridge, before a further decision is made as to its future. The Service is aware of and grateful for the offers of support received from local organisations in maintaining the structure.

H5. **Events**

The following events were amongst those held at Aberdyfi Harbour in 2018:-

- An event organised by the Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG)
- Dyfi Fest, the annual August Bank Holiday celebrations held on the quayside
- Events held by the Dyfi Yacht Club in accordance with the sailing calendar
- Beach cleaning events undertaken by groups such as Tywyn Beach Guardians, Aberdyfi Residents and a team of Sky Television Engineers who removed a large amount of beach waste between Tywyn and Aberdyfi.