

MEETING	Aberdyfi Harbour Consultative Committee
DATE	05 March 2019
TITLE	Harbourmasters Report
AUTHOR	W.A.Stockford Aberdyfi Harbourmaster

H 1 Navigational Issues

- 1.1 The course of the main navigational channel into the harbour of Aberdyfi remains under observation and still appears to be heading in a Northerly direction. Low astronomical tides are predicted for the end of February and the beginning of March, allowing a better indication of the access to the river across the sand bar at the mouth of the estuary. Following a survey of the channel, the Service will then place the aids to navigation in suitable positions, so as to facilitate a safe passage across the bar.
- 1.2 Mariners are reminded of the need to navigate the channel three hours either side of high water and that contact should be made with the harbour office prior to any approach, to obtain the latest navigational information. Changes to any of the navigational aids will be circulated via Local Notice to Mariners.
- 1.3 There are currently three 'Local Notice to Mariners' in operation at Aberdyfi Harbour.
- 1.4 Notice to Mariners number 1/18 South Spit No 3 – The Starboard aid to navigation is currently not on station and is awaiting deployment.
- 1.5 Notice to Mariners number 5/18 the starboard aid to navigation Bar Buoy No1 is not on station. The buoy parted from its moorings in strong winds and found its way over to Ireland. With assistance from the Harbourmaster at Wexford, Arklow Marine and a local Castletown resident, the buoy has since been recovered from Kilpatrick beach and will be returned to Aberdyfi harbour in early March. The Service would like to thank Mr Bartlett a commercial operator in the harbour for his assistance in this matter.
- 1.6 Notice to Mariners number 7/18 Aberdyfi Outer Buoy, the Navigation light on the Safe Water mark is currently unlit. A replacement light and bracket has been obtained for this buoy which will be installed as soon as is possible.
- 1.7 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.

H 2 Operational Issues

- 2.1 Throughout the winter period vessel movements in the harbour and channel approaches have been limited. The Outward Bound Trust and Aberdyfi Rowing Club have remained operative. Movements have otherwise been limited to vessels seeking

winter storage at the Ynys Las boatyard, fishing vessel movements and occasional personal watercraft use.

2.2 All commercial fishing activities are out of operation with a view to commencing work towards the end of February.

2.3 It has been a quiet period for the Aberdyfi lifeboat, with launches limited to operational training exercises.

H 3 Maintenance

3.1 Maintenance of the visitor's moorings will be carried out before the end of March to enable the mooring contractor to lay them before the Easter holiday.

3.2 Significant works have been carried out to the 'buoy store', including the removal of mezzanine flooring to enable more storage space.

3.3 Replacement of railings around Tywyn seafront 'bandstand'. Extensive work to improve the area of the central promenade. Painting of the railings will be carried out in warmer weather conditions.

3.4 RNLI safety signage. Works to reinstate the signage on Tywyn seafront and install the larger signs around Aberdyfi will be carried out before Easter.

3.5 Maintenance on the Aberdyfi harbour craft and stores.

3.6 Administration procedures including risk assessment processes

H 4 Other Matters

4.1 **Golf Club Boardwalk.** The future of the broad-walk remains uncertain at this time with particular regard to budgetary constraints. Discussions are currently on-going between the Service and Aberdyfi golf club, regarding ownership and responsibility for maintenance of the boardwalk which needs clarification before a decision can be made regarding its future and any expenditure that may be incurred.

4.2 **Picnic Island Bridge.** The situation regarding the bridge over the railway to 'Picnic island' remains the same as last reported. An inspection has been carried out and details of this information circulated to the Outward Bound Trust and the Community Council.

4.3 **Fishermans Compound.** A tender to erect a 2m high fence around the fishermen's compound has been awarded to the firm of North Wales Fencing at a cost of £8500.00 with a deadline set for the completion of works set at 30th April 2019.

4.3.1 The firm of C & A Asbestos Removal Ltd have been instructed to remove the illegally deposited asbestos waste present in the compound at a cost of £580.00 plus VAT plus £40.00 in respect of a waste consignment note. The Service is currently waiting for this matter to be completed

- 4.3.2 The Service has contacted the firm of Aber skips regarding the removal from the compound of illegally deposited fridges and freezers, which contain potentially dangerous gases together with other general waste. As this document is written the Service awaits a response, so that the work to remove the items can be undertaken.
- 4.3.3 Discussions have been held with local fisherman regarding the placement of fishing equipment and pots on the quayside. Upon the erection of fencing and clearance of waste from the compound, the fishermen will move and store pots and equipment in the compound area. The Service are grateful for the work that has already been started to clear and tidy the compound area by local fishermen and Dyfi Yacht Club.
- 4.4 **Vehicle Parking on the Quayside.** To enhance pedestrian safety on the quayside by means of a traffic separation scheme, vehicular access onto the quayside will not be permitted from the 1st April 2019, except for the purpose of loading or unloading equipment. No vehicle will be permitted to remain at rest on the quayside without the presence of the owner. This restriction includes the vehicle utilised by the harbourmaster which is to be re-located to a different area within the confines of the harbour.
- 4.5 **Containers on the Harbour.** The Service has written to those person with containers sited on the harbour to request their immediate removal due to the re-structuring and tidying of the harbour facilities. It is proposed to create a parking facility where these containers are stored for the benefit of commercial operators whilst working in the harbour and the Service vehicle utilised by the harbourmaster. The harbourmaster is tasked with producing a plan of the area which is to include an alternative storage area.

H5 **Events**

Dyfi Yacht Club have submitted their sailing season race programme. The Commodore trophy is to be held on the 22nd June same day as the PWC Gwynedd Blackrock Blast with a scheduled arrival in the harbour at 1300hrs and departure no later than 1400. Close management of this situation will be discussed with the Club Commodore and Sailing secretary.

Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG), 'A Day on the Quay' event is programmed for 20th April.

The Service has received a request to hold a Swim event at Aberdyfi on the 6th July by Weswimrun Ltd. This event is yet to be approved as further information is required.