

<b>MEETING</b>	<b>Barmouth Harbour Consultative Committee</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>26th March 2019</b>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Harbourmasters Report</b>
<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>A.G.Jones Barmouth Harbourmaster</b>

## **1. Navigational Issues**

- 1.1. Throughout the winter period the Navigational aids marking the channel approach to Barmouth harbour have remained on station. Storm 'Freya' however caused the starboard hand mark protecting the sewage outfall pipe at position 52°43.60'N 004° 04.42'W to be washed ashore. A Local Notice to Mariners has been issued regarding this navigational aid and it is hoped to have the buoy back on station as soon as possible in conjunction with Welsh Water and Trinity House.
- 1.2 The Service continues to monitor the need for a navigation mark to be placed at the Harbour entrance to afford protection to mariners, from a growing muscle bank inside the breakwater and plans remain in being, to place an additional navigational mark between the Perch Rock and the harbour breakwater to enhance navigation safety.
- 1.3 The current illustration of the navigable channel is similar to that as issued last September. Further surveys of the navigable channel are expected to be undertaken before the Easter period and any necessary movement of the channel marks will be undertaken thereafter. The Service regularly inspects the channel at low tide in addition to utilising the harbour patrol craft whenever practicable to conduct surveys, in order to ensure that the navigational aids are in the most suitable location.

## **2 Operational Issues**

- 2.1 During January and February Railtrack personnel and associated contractors have been undertaking a detailed inspection of the Barmouth viaduct which spans the estuary. It has been identified that over 1700 timbers will need to be replaced together with other works, in order to maintain the historic structure. The required work on the viaduct is expected to be undertaken over a three year period. To date no notification has been received by the Service as to when the work will commence.
- 2.2 In a similar manner to last year, it is anticipated that an inspection of the visitor moorings in the harbour will take place in preparation for the forthcoming season. Inspection of the Council owned 'Trot moorings' will be undertaken by the harbourmaster, assisted by other Service personnel.
- 2.3 The Harbour Authority will continue to undertake the removal of unsafe and derelict moorings present in the harbour. In accordance, the Service wish to remind harbour users of the need to comply with Byelaw No 5 of the Aberdyfi and Barmouth harbour bylaws which states that; "The owner of mooring equipment shall inspect his mooring equipment annually in order to ensure that it is in good working order, and he shall produce to the Council a Certificate to this effect when applying for reallocation of mooring".

- 2.4 With regard to this matter, the Service are looking to introduce a revised Certificate of Condition of mooring equipment, a copy of which is enclosed for the observations of the Committee.
- 2.5 As part of a general review of Harbour Bylaws across the harbours of Gwynedd, a review of the harbour By-laws relevant to Barmouth Harbour is also to be undertaken.

### **3 Maintenance**

- 3.1 Two new ladders have been purchased and fitted to the harbour wall to replace ladders that were in need of replacement. Wooden fenders are now to be applied to the ladders concerned.
- 3.2 Maintenance work has been carried out to the harbour railings protecting the quayside although further damage has recently occurred caused by moored vessels. This will require further work to be conducted.
- 3.3 Service personnel have undertaken maintenance work at Fairbourne Point including the erection of new signage.
- 3.4 The Harbourmaster will summarise the maintenance work programme carried out at Barmouth harbour during the period October 2018 – March 2019.

### **4. Other Matters**

- 4.1 **Safety Signs.** In partnership with the RNLI safety signs are to be displayed at strategic points around the harbour in preparation for the forthcoming season. The service is grateful for the work undertaken in respect of this matter by Mr Trefor Lewis, RNLI.
- 4.2 **Fisherman's Compound.** The Service are currently undertaking a review of the Fisherman's Compound and will write to existing compound holders to request the removal of unwanted and waste materials from the site. Thereafter, the service will reinforce the lines marking the individual plots within the compound.
- 4.3 **Harbour Parking.** The Service continues to work towards designated parking bays on Compound Road to assist Commercial Operators and Compound Site Holders to continue their activities within the harbour environment. Control of the area remains under discussion to prevent random and indiscriminate parking from members of the public and the Harbour Authority would like to remind service users of the need to maintain effective use of the barrier sited at the entrance to the facility.
  - 4.3.1 Assistance has been and will continue to be sought from enforcement officers as and when required, to facilitate free and unobstructed access to the slipway for harbour users in respect of the road markings by the 'SS Dora' building.
- 4.4 **Harbour Pontoon.** Representatives from the Barmouth Community Trust have met with the Senior Harbours Officer and Harbourmaster regarding ownership and managerial operation of the pontoon in the harbour. The Service awaits written information from

Trust members at this time regarding the matter. In the interim, at the request of Trust Members, the Service have moved the pontoon fingers from the Bath-house beach onto the shore for their attention.

- 4.4.1 It is hoped that a member of the group looking to secure the future of the pontoon will be able to provide an update on the current situation regarding its future at the meeting.
- 4.5 **Harbour Steps:** As part of required works at the North End of the Promenade, staff from the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Unit have advised that repairs to stone steps sited in the harbour will be undertaken at the same time. The Service now awaits confirmation of when this work will commence.
- 4.6 **Sand Clearance.** The service will work with Highways to clear sand on the promenade and 'Ynys Y Brawd' before the Easter period.
- 4.7 **Winter storage of Vessels.** Following consultation with the Parking Service of the Council, permission was given to provide for the winter storage of vessels on the car park by the Leisure Centre for the period 1 October to 31 March. Despite requests for this facility from harbour users, only two vessels actually took up residence there. It is hoped that the facility will be utilised to its maximum potential at the end of the forthcoming season.

## 5. **Events**

5.1 To date, applications have been received to hold the following events at Barmouth Harbour in 2019:-

- Three Peaks Yacht Race (15<sup>th</sup> June)
- Charity Jet-Ski Event Porthmadog - Barmouth – Aberdyfi (22<sup>nd</sup> June)
- Kite Festival (6-7<sup>th</sup> July)
- Barmouth Food Festival (21<sup>st</sup> July)
- Motorcross Event (12- 13<sup>th</sup> October)

The service awaits clarification in respect of the following events for the forthcoming season;

- Paddle Sports Festival
- Swim Society 'Hurly Burly Event'

5.2 The Service would like to remind members that it is essential the Harbour Authority is advised and permission sought for any proposed event in the Harbour at the earliest opportunity.