

MEETING	Aberdyfi Harbour Consultative Committee
DATE	12th November 2019
TITLE	Update on Harbour Management Matters
AUTHOR	Senior Harbours Officer

1. Introduction.

- 1.1 The Committees main function is to consider, discuss and advise on matters relating to the management, safety and development of the Harbour and to receive Member's observations on matters relating to Aberdyfi Harbour.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide a brief update for the attention of the Committee on harbour matters for the period March 2019 to November 2019, in order to receive feedback from the members on safety matters and the operational matters of the Harbour.

2. Aberdyfi Moorings and Boat Registration.

- 2.1 In 2019/20 figures for on moorings in the Harbour were as follows:-
- 2.2 There has been 68 boats on annual moorings in 2019. This compares with 74 in 2018 and 78 in 2017.
- 2.3 On the whole when comparing all Gwynedd Council Harbours, there has been a decrease in the number of customers over the past year in all harbours.
- 2.4 There were 892 Power Boats registered in Gwynedd in 2019. 55 Boats were registered at Aberdyfi Harbour and Tywyn compared to 67 in 2018.
- 2.5 There were 843 Personal Watercraft registered in Gwynedd in 2019.
- 2.6 There were 38 Personal watercraft registered at Aberdyfi Harbour and Tywyn compared to 53 the previous year.
- 2.7 Copies of all data relating to occupancy and registration is appended.

3. Port Marine Safety Code.

- 3.1.1 The Port Marine Safety Code ('PMSC') sets out a national standard for every aspect of port marine safety. Its aim is to enhance safety for everyone who uses or works in the port marine environment. It applies to all Statutory Harbour Authorities.

The Code represents good practice as recognised by a wide range of industry stakeholders and Gwynedd Council understands that a failure to adhere to good practice may be indicative of a harbour authority being in breach of certain legal duties. It is necessary for the Service to receive the comments and views of Consultative Committee Members on the suitability of the Port Marine Safety Code and to regularly receive observations on its contents, in order that it may be reviewed as relevant to the harbour activities, navigational aids, suitability of by-laws, safety matters and general day to day work at Aberdyfi Harbour.

- 3.1.2 Between the 19th and 21st September 2017, a thorough inspection was carried out by Capt Forkanul Quader and Capt David Turner as auditors from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency on the

existing safety arrangements and systems of Gwynedd Municipal Harbours, in order to ensure compliance with the Port Marine Safety Code. Upon inspection, the Service were advised of enhancements that could be made to existing systems within its safety management system to assist in compliance with the provisions of the Code.

3.1.3 As a follow up to that initial inspection, during the period 4th – 6th March 2019, the Service received a further visit from Capt Forkanul Quader to see how the suggested enhancements had been implemented. Upon examination, Capt Quader advised that he was satisfied the Service were in compliance with the provisions of the Port Marine Safety Code. Having previously received an invitation, members of the Aberdyfi Harbour Consultative Committee had the opportunity to speak with Capt Quader when he made a presentation before the Harbour Consultative Committee at Porthmadog on the 6th March.

3.1.4 Although the Port Marine Safety Code for the Harbours is regularly reviewed by the Service, Members of the Consultative Committee are reminded of their duty to submit observations on the suitability of the Safety Code and to receive observations on the work arrangements of the harbours, so that the safety Code can be reviewed to ensure that it is relevant to harbour operations, local propriety.

4. Staffing Matters.

The Harbour Authority is pleased to inform the Consultative Committee that a full time Assistant Harbourmaster has been appointed and will be based at Aberdyfi Harbour. The role and function is to assist the Harbourmaster with his duties and responsibilities as well as assisting with duties in other harbours and beaches as and when required.

5. Financial Matters.

5.1 A brief summary of the harbours budgets and current financial situation up to the end of September 2019 will be distributed at the meeting.

5.2 During this period it was necessary to commit financial resources for the following;

- Staff employment
- Maintenance of navigational aids and beacons
- Maintenance and operation of the Harbour patrol vessel including the purchase of new engines
- Maintenance of land and street furniture

5.3 Fees and Charges. 2019/20.

With regard to the prospective fees and charges for Aberdyfi Harbour together with the Powerboat and Personal Watercraft launching fees for 2020/21, it is the intention of the service to generally adjust the fees in line with the rate of inflation. At this time the Service indicates that the fees will rise by approximately 2%. It is also proposed that Daily Powerboat and personal Watercraft launching Fees will increase from £10.00 to £15.00 per day. Annual permit charges will not change.

A draft of the proposed fees and charges will be distributed at the meeting.

6. Harbourmasters Report. The Harbourmaster at Aberdyfi will provide a summary of the Navigational and Operational matters undertaken and encountered during the period March 2019 - November 2019 inclusive, including maintenance issues. A copy of his report is attached.