

MEETING	Aberdyfi Harbour Consultative Committee
DATE	12th November 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 continues to change slightly. The main sandbank on the estuary approach has decreased in size on a line between the 'Outer' Buoy and the starboard aid to navigation No 5 buoy. Although still shallow at low tide, there remains sufficient water for any vessel with a draft of two metres or less to negotiate the navigable channel three hours either side of high water.
- 1.2 The Service continues to monitor the course of the navigable channel into Aberdyfi and will place the aids to navigation in suitable positions, so as to facilitate a safe passage into the Harbour.
- 1.3 There are currently two 'Local Notice to Mariners' in operation at Aberdyfi Harbour.
- 1.4 Notice to Mariners number 8/19. the starboard aid to navigation Bar Buoy No1 is currently not on station. The buoy suffered catastrophic damage during unseasonable weather and became unserviceable as a consequence. A replacement buoy has been purchased with delivery expected shortly.
- 1.5 Notice to Mariners number 9/19. South Spit No 3 – The Starboard aid to navigation is currently not on station and is awaiting re-deployment
- 1.6 The Service advises that the 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.
- 1.7 Mariners are reminded of the need to make contact 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.

H 2 Operational Issues

- 2.1 Commercial fishing operations have been on-going throughout the summer period and will continue until the latter part of the season when fishing gear will start to come ashore. The Service will continue to work with operatives involved in the local fishing industry to maintain safe operations in and around the harbour area, including the stowage of fishing gear and the parking of commercial vehicles on the harbour front.

- 2.2 The season has also seen the Aberdyfi Outward Bound Trust and Dyfi Yacht Club conducting active summer programmes within the harbour environment.
- 2.3 It has been an average season for the Aberdyfi lifeboat, with a number of launches undertaken to rescue mariners and persons in need of assistance on the water, together with operational training activities.
- 2.4 The Service has seen an increase in the number of animal carcasses washed up on the foreshore leading to increase of reactive work being undertaken to retrieve and dispose of the animals concerned. The Service requests that any sightings of such animals be reported to them at the earliest opportunity.

H 3 Maintenance

- 3.1 During the early part of the season it became necessary to undertake structural repairs on the harbour vessel at a cost to the service of £3500. As a consequence the vessel had to be temporarily withdrawn from Service. In this respect, the Service are grateful for the support received from both the Aberdyfi Outward Bound Trust and the Dyfi yacht Club for the assistance they provided whilst the vessel was out of the water.
- 3.2 The Harbour vessel has also received the benefit of two new Honda Engines at an additional cost to the service of £8968.
- 3.3 The Harbourmaster will introduce the maintenance work programme to be carried out at Aberdyfi harbour during the period November 2019 - March 2020. Feedback from Committee members is always appreciated on any additional work that will need to be considered and included in the work programme.

H 4 Other Matters

- 4.1 **Golf Club Boardwalk.** During the early part of the season Aberdyfi Golf Club removed the majority of the broad-walk from the site, leaving only a small section to the west end of the sand dunes remaining. At this present time, wooden sand ladders provided by the Service remain in situ to provide access across the dunes to the beach beyond.
- 4.2 **Picnic Island Bridge.** The situation regarding the bridge over the railway to 'Picnic Island' remains the same as last reported.
- 4.3 **Fishermans Compound.** A fence has now been erected around the fishermen's compound at a cost to the Service of £8500.00 to ensure site security and prevent the illegal deposition of waste. Work has thereafter been undertaken to tidy the area which will continue over the winter period. Fishing equipment has already been transferred to the site from the harbour quayside for storage and it is anticipated that further fishing equipment will be transferred there as the winter approaches.
- 4.4 **Vehicle Parking on the Quayside.** The Service remain committed to enhancing pedestrian safety on the quayside by limiting vehicular access at that location. The Principal Maritime Officer is in communication with those individuals in possession of containers on land owned by the Harbour Authority, where it is hoped

to provide a small parking area for vehicles, and so obviate the need for parking on the quayside.

- 4.5 **Property.** Following detailed consideration and discussion it has been concluded that the most favourable position for the Harbour Office is as per the present location. The location of the office, adjacent to the main public slipway provides a focal point for those using the slipway and is a preferred location for visitors with enquiries relating to harbour matters.

The property service of Gwynedd Council have been advised of the decision and will take appropriate steps with regard to ensuring that potential tenants are made aware of opportunities that may arise in Canolfan Dyfi in the very near future.

The service has enquired with Ymgynghoriaeth Gwyendd (YGC) as to possible alterations that can be made to the present harbour office in order to comply with current staff welfare and health and safety requirements.

4.6 **Events**

The following events were amongst those held at Aberdyfi Harbour in 2019

- Dyfifest Event
- Day on the Quay Event
- Aberdyfi Paws Festival
- Swim Aberdyfi
- Personal Watercraft Blackrock Blast Charity Event