

MEETING	Aberdyfi Harbour Consultative Committee
DATE	2nd March 2021
TITLE	Harbourmasters Report
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H 1 Navigational Issues

- 1.1 Following surveys undertaken by the Harbourmaster of the navigable channel to the harbour, works to position the Aids to Navigation (AtoN) No 1, No 2 and No 3 were carried out in early April 2020. The channel took a significant turn to the South and mariners were advised to follow the buoyage sequentially.
- 1.1.1 The channel remained stable for the majority of the season and was continually monitored by the Service. Towards the end of the season the middle bank advanced to the west causing the channel to straighten out, this in turn led to the No1 buoy and No 2 buoy becoming off station with the No1 buoy un-retrievable.
- 1.2 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 Aberdyfi Harbour. Additionally, every two years a further inspection is undertaken by Trinity House of the buoyage maintenance records and risk assessments associated with the safety of Navigation in the harbour. Both examinations were completed during the autumn of 2020.
- 1.3 There are currently two 'Local Notice to Mariners' in operation at Aberdyfi Harbour.
- 1.3.1 Local Notice to Mariners **Number 18/20**: The seasonal 'Bar' Buoy: No 2 Port Hand Aid to Navigation: Fl.R.5s. The seasonal Aid to Navigation has been removed from station.
- 1.3.2 Local Notice to Mariners **Number 19/20**: The 'Bar' Buoy, No 1 Starboard Hand aid to Navigation: Fl.G.5s. The Aid to Navigation is not on station. The light is extinguished.
- 1.4 The Service has been in contact with a local mooring contractor to carry out all necessary works on the navigational aids as soon as practicable in order to have the navigational marks put in place before the commencement of the 2021 season.
- 1.5 The Service would like to emphasize the importance of contact with the harbourmasters office at Aberdyfi to obtain current information on navigational safety.

H 2 Operational Issues

- 2.1 The service remained operational throughout the first Coronavirus lockdown ensuring all regulations were upheld. The Coronavirus epidemic and the associated Welsh Government restrictions imposed on the lives of individuals to curb the spread of the

virus, had a major impact on Harbour operations during 2020. In consequence, it has been necessary for the Harbour Authority to issue Local Notices to Mariners to advise harbour users of the restrictions imposed as time has progressed. Despite the issue of such Notices, the Service have been inundated with requests from individuals requesting to know what activities may or may not be undertaken within the harbour.

- 2.1.1 From June to October 2020 the service priority was with water safety both onshore and afloat. With an increase in visitor numbers and several locations along the coastline being identified as more hazardous, the maritime unit worked closely with other local services and volunteers to provide safety advice and responded to incidents when needed. The service would like to thank the local community for their assistance and vigilance.
- 2.1.2 Commercial fishing operations continued shortly after lockdown with proprietors selling the catch locally until the markets reopened.
- 2.2 It is expected that the Coronavirus epidemic will, to some extent, continue to affect harbour operations for the forthcoming 2021 season. Works are currently being carried out in preparation for the lifting of the existing lockdown

H 3 Maintenance

- 3.1 Maintenance work has been carried out at the western end of the harbour to provide a barrier against the increased level of the beach in that area. Local contractors and the golf club have assisted in removing the sand once built up in this area.
- 3.2 The wooden railings at the top of the harbour jetty landing stage have been replaced with galvanised tube clamp fencing and a gate included.
- 3.3 Continued work will be carried out to tidy and maintain the dinghy storage area.
- 3.4 Information notice boards will be installed and updated pre-season. Craft exclusion markers will be overhauled and in place for May.
- 3.5 A recent increase in carcasses on the foreshore has led to several days of reactive work being carried out by the Service. The Service requests that any sightings be reported to them at the earliest opportunity. A live stranding of a common dolphin was reported to the office in mid-January. Unfortunately due to poor health the animal was euthanized on-site by a local veterinary Surgeon.
- 3.6 In expectation of a busy summer period, work is currently on going to prepare for the upcoming season with the emphasis on safety ashore and afloat.

H 4 Other Matters

- 4.1 **Quayside Wall Improvement Scheme:** The contract documents in respect of the engineering works to replace the quay wall is to be resubmitted to tender during the end of February towards the middle of March. This is with the knowledge that material and other associated costs has increased since before the pandemic commenced. Whilst this delay is of concern it was not possible to avoid such further necessary work. Further information and update will be presented at the meeting.

- 4.2 **Picnic Island:** Work on the design of the new bridge is progressing. Discussions have taken place with Railtrack who have issued the Council with a draft License which will enable for an appointed contractor to work on the project to remove and install a new bridge. Outward Bound Wales have been consulted and are part of the working group. Funding for the bridge is through support from Cyngor Gwynedd and the Outward Bound Trust. A FLAG Application awaits assessment and it is hoped that FLAG will be able to partly fund the project.
- 4.3 **Canolfan Dyfi:** Tenants have been offered the opportunity to take up tenancy of the vacant offices at the Canolfan Dyfi.
- 4.4 **Harbour Fencing:** Work has been carried out at the western end of the harbour to provide a barrier against the increased level of the beach. Local contractors and the golf club have assisted in removing sand once built up in this area.
- 4.5 **Harbour Car parking:** Work has been carried out in the storage area at the western part of the harbour to provide parking for the harbour vehicle and commercial operators. The area for water/wind sports containers has also been addressed and tidied.

H5 **Events**

- 5.1 It is regrettable that a number of planned events which were due to be held at Aberdyfi harbour during 2020 had to be cancelled as a consequence of the Coronavirus epidemic. It is not anticipated that any major event will be approved in 2021.
- 5.2 For all proposed future events, the Service would like to remind members that it is essential to comply with the prevailing Coronavirus Regulations and advice produced by the Welsh Government at the time and to liaise with the Harbour Authority at the earliest opportunity to gain permission to stage the event
- 5.3 At this present time the service has received early notification of a proposed PWC Gwynedd Blackrock Blast event with a date set for 19th June 2021 and which visit Aberdyfi as part of the event. The organisers will be monitoring the Coronavirus situation as the year progresses and event organisers will need to fully conform with Wales Government directives with regard to managing events.