MEETING	Abermaw Harbour Consultative Committee.
DATE	23rd March 2021
TITLE	Update on Harbour Management Matters
AUTHOR	Senior Harbours Officer

1. Introduction.

1.1 As a reminder, 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 Barmouth 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 yearly period ending March 2021, in order to receive feedback from the members on safety matters and the operational matters of the Harbour. It is regrettable that the March and October 2020 meetings had to be postponed as a consequence of the Coronavirus epidemic.

2. Barmouth Moorings and Boat Registration.

2.1 In 2020/21 figures for 'on moorings' in the Harbour were as follows:-

2.2 There has been 31 boats on annual moorings in 2020, compared to 70 in 2019. The figure has been greatly affected by the impact of the Coronavirus epidemic and the associated restrictions placed upon individuals by the Welsh Government. Many vessel owners decided not to utilise their vessel in 2020.

2.3 The effect of the Coronavirus epidemic has affected all of the harbours across Gwynedd. On the whole when comparing all Gwynedd Council Harbours, there has been a substantial decrease in the number of customers over the past year.

2.4 There were 831 Power Boats registered in Gwynedd in 2020 compared to 894 in 2019. 42 Boats were registered at Barmouth Harbour compared to 66 in 2019.

2.5 There were 843 Personal watercraft registered in Gwynedd in 2020 compared to 827 in 2019. This increase reflects the popularity and current trend of those individuals wishing to enjoy themselves on the water. It has also been indicated by local businesses that purchases have been made by individuals instead of travelling abroad for a holiday.

2.6 There were 68 Personal watercraft registered at Barmouth harbour compared to 78 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 Barmouth Harbour.

3.1.2   Following a thorough inspection of the Gwynedd Harbours Port Marine Safety Code and its associated safety management system by examiners from the Maritime and Coastguard agency last year, the Service intend to send a letter of compliance with the code to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.   This will be completed after an annual external audit of the safety management system has been undertaken.

4.   Staffing Matters.

4.1   Harbour staff have continued to work from the harbour office throughout the Coronavirus pandemic to ensure the safety of the harbour. Adaptations have been made to the public counter area of the office and signage has been put in place around the harbour to assist in compliance with existing Welsh Government Coronavirus Regulations and to ensure staff remain safe in their working environment.

4.2   After a period of 16 years working on the harbour at Barmouth, Mr Glyn Jones the Harbourmaster decided to leave his post and at the end of August 2020 and head for pastures new, undertaking a role with the Welsh Ambulance Service. The Maritime Service wish to place on record their thanks for his commitment and dedication to the role during his time spent with Gwynedd Council.

4.2.1   The full time Assistant Harbourmaster has continued to work from the harbour office in the absence of the Harbourmaster, supported by fellow Service personnel and a seasonal member of staff whose employment period has been extended to the end of 2021. Both members of staff will continue in their respective roles pending the appointment of new Harbourmaster in due course. It is emphasised that the maritime service fully support both members of staff in Barmouth and that such support will continue unabated throughout the summer period.

5.   Financial Matters.

5.1   A brief summary of the harbours budgets and current financial situation will be discussed at the meeting by the Principal Maritime Officer. The Coronavirus epidemic has had major impact on the income gained from the harbour. In accordance with the instructions of the Cabinet of Gwynedd Council, a reduction in the mooring fee required from mooring holders was applied for the 2020-2021 season.

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

- The extension of staff employment terms
- Maintenance of navigational aids and beacons
- Inspection and maintenance of Council moorings
- Maintenance and operation of the of Harbour patrol vessel
- Maintenance of land and street furniture
- Tools and equipment

5.3   **Fees and Charges. 2021/22.**

The Service currently awaits confirmation with regard to the prospective fees and charges for Barmouth Harbour together with the Powerboat and Personal Watercraft launching fees for 2021/22 season.

6.   **Harbourmasters Report.** The Assistant Harbourmaster at Barmouth has provided a brief summary of the Navigational and Operational matters undertaken and encountered during the period October 2019 - March 2021 inclusive, including maintenance issues. A copy of her report is attached.