

<b>MEETING</b>	<b>Abermaw Harbour Consultative Committee</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>19th October 2021</b>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Update on Harbour Management Matters</b>
<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>Senior Harbours Officer</b>

## **1. Introduction.**

- 1.1 The Committee's 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 period March 2021 to October 2021, in order to receive feedback from the members on safety matters and the operational matters of the Harbour.

## **2. Barmouth Moorings and Boat Registration.**

- 2.1 There were 54 boats on annual moorings within the harbour of Barmouth in 2021. This compares with 31 boats on moorings in 2020.
- 2.2 On the whole when comparing all Gwynedd Council Harbours, there has been an increase in the number of customers over the past year in all harbours. The increase in the number of vessels moored in the harbours reflects the gradual release of the Coronavirus lockdown restrictions in Wales.
- 2.3 This season the Service provided the opportunity for members of the public to register powered craft on-line through the Gwynedd Council Website.
- 2.4 748 Personal Watercraft (Jetskis) were registered on-line.
- 2.5 516 Powerboats were registered on-line.
- 2.6 In addition to the above figures, 1131 Personal Watercraft and Powerboats were registered on paper by persons visiting the various maritime offices across Gwynedd, providing a total of 2395 as the number of vessels registered.

## **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.

- 3.1.2 The Service regularly reviews the Port Marine Safety Code for the harbours under its jurisdiction in order to remain in full compliance with the current requirements of the Code. As part of the review

process, it is necessary 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, particularly with relevance to the harbour activities, navigational aids, suitability of by-laws, safety matters and general day to day work at Barmouth Harbour.

#### **4. Staffing Matters.**

The staffing level Barmouth harbour has remained unchanged since the previous report to the Committee. The assistant harbourmaster is currently undertaking most functions required to ensure safe operations within the harbour. We anticipate that the 'vacant' post of Harbourmaster could be advertised early in 2022. The assistant harbourmaster is ably supported by the harbour assistant who is currently performing all functions albeit on a temporary basis. The Service has been able to call upon staff based at the harbours of Porthmadog and Aberdyfi to assist with work in the harbour of Barmouth when required.

#### **5. Financial Matters.**

5.1 A brief summary of the harbour budget and current financial situation up to the end of the quarter will be provided by the Maritime Officer.

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

- Maintenance of navigational aids and beacons
- Inspection and maintenance of Council moorings
- Maintenance and operation of the of Harbour patrol vessel
- Maintenance of lands and benches

#### **5.3 Fees and Charges. 2022/23.**

With regard to the prospective fees and charges for Barmouth Harbour together with the Powerboat and Personal Watercraft launching fees for 2022/2023 season, it is the intention of the service to adjust the fees in line with the rate of inflation. At this time the Service is yet to receive confirmation of the rates to be applied.

#### **6. Dredging Feasibility Study**

Following a successful financial bid and with the generous support of FLAG the Council has commissioned a dredging feasibility study for Abermaw harbour. The study area is focusing on the area immediately adjacent to the quayside within the area already occupied by swinging moorings.

To date, the following tasks have been completed.

- Bathymetric survey completed.
- It has been identified that dredged volumes of 70,000m<sup>3</sup> will be required if a depth of -0.5m below Chart Datum is to be achieved.
- The material sampling plan has been agreed and approved by Natural Resources Wales.
- Samples of the sediments have been taken and have been delivered to the testing laboratory. We are awaiting the results of the sediment testing.
- Options appraisal has commenced with regard to disposal of dredged material. The results of the sediment samples will determine options.
- The first completed draft report is expected in November.

## 7. Vessel Registration

During the early part of the summer it became possible for Powerboat and PWC owners to register their vessel and purchase the annual launching permit on-line.

It is pleasing to report that the system worked very well and has reduced the administrative work significantly especially on beaches.

In 2022 we will not be accepting postal applications and will not be processing in person applications in harbours, marinas or on beaches. All applications will be on-line.

## 8. Ports Division - Consultation

**Department of Transport Consultation Paper:** The Service draws to the attention of Committee members the Department of Transport consultation paper on “Strengthening enforcement of the dangerous use of recreational and personal watercraft”.

In essence the consultation paper proposes altering legislation to bring recreational and personal watercraft within the scope of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995, to ensure safe practices. The document is available for viewing on the United Kingdom government website by following the below link:

[www.gov.uk/government/consultations/strengthening-enforcement-of-the-dangerous-use-of-recreational-and-personal-watercraft](http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/strengthening-enforcement-of-the-dangerous-use-of-recreational-and-personal-watercraft)

Comments on the proposal should be sent to [maritimesafety@dft.gov.uk](mailto:maritimesafety@dft.gov.uk).

The consultation closes at 11:45 pm on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021.

9. **Harbourmasters Report.** The assistant harbourmaster at Barmouth will provide a summary of the Navigational and Operational matters undertaken and encountered during the period March 2021 to October 2021 inclusive, including maintenance issues.