

MEETING	Abermaw Harbour Consultative Committee
DATE	19th October 2021
TITLE	Harbour Report
AUTHOR	Assistant Harbourmaster

H 1 Navigational Issues

- 1.1 The course of the navigable channel into the harbour has remained constant over the summer period, in consequence, any movement of the channel buoys has not been required.
- 1.2 The channel approach to the harbour will continue to be monitored by harbour staff during the forthcoming period and whenever necessary, changes will be made to the positions of the navigation marks following approval from Trinity House utilising a local contractor
- 1.3 The Service is to receive its annual inspection of the Navigational Aids within the Harbour of Barmouth and the channel approach by Trinity House staff on the 28th September 2021. A report on their findings will follow. The result of the report will be relayed to the Harbour Committee once received.
- 1.4 There are currently no Local Notice to Mariners in force concerning the navigation marks in the channel.
- 1.5 Mariners are reminded of the need to contact the harbourmasters office prior to any departure or approach, to obtain the latest navigational and weather information.

H 2 Operational Issues

- 2.1 **Summer Season:** The harbour has seen a significant number of visitors to the area during this year, caused by the effect of the coronavirus restrictions on travel abroad. The harbour staff have been on constant watch both ashore and afloat, to ensure the safety of persons enjoying the environment, with regular patrols undertaken in the Barmouth channel.
 - 2.1.1 Whilst the vast majority of visitors to the area were respectful of the harbour environment, there was a noticeable increase in the number of incidents of staff subjected to verbal abuse or gestures during the performance of their duties. The wanton discharge of litter around the harbour, and the ignorance of the existing Coronavirus epidemic by certain individuals has also been of concern.
 - 2.1.2 During the summer season a total of 47 vessels visited the harbour and stayed for at least one night. This figure was assisted by a new 'deep water' visitors mooring, that had been installed in the harbour by a local mooring contractor at the start of the season, positioned near to the harbour bridge.

H 3 Maintenance

- 3.1 Inspection and maintenance of the 'small trot' moorings in the harbour was carried out at the beginning of the season by harbour staff, with any worn equipment replaced from existing stock.

- 3.2 The 'large trot' moorings in the harbour await replacement by a local mooring contractor. Mooring equipment including anchors, chains and shackles, has already been purchased for the work, at a cost of £7082.04 to the service.
- 3.3 Repairs have been carried out on the harbour ladders attached to the quay wall following damage caused by vessels that had been moored alongside. Further work is to be conducted including the replacement of timber fendering before the winter period.
- 3.4 Along the quayside, harbour staff have replaced damaged railings and installed 'mooring rings' on the ferry steps and also along the quay wall, to assist with the mooring of vessels.
- 3.5 Scottish Power have erected new signage to warn harbour users of the presence and danger of the underwater power cables that extend across the estuary.
- 3.6 The Assistant harbourmaster will introduce the maintenance work programme to be carried out at Barmouth harbour during the period October 2021 – February 2022. Feedback from Committee members is requested on any additional work that will need to be considered and included in the work programme.

H 4 Other Matters

- 4.1 **Barmouth Rail Bridge Restoration Works;** During the last meeting, a presentation was made before the Committee, when the programme of works to be conducted on the bridge was explained by Mr Steve Richardson, the bridge works engineering manager for the firm of Griffiths Civil Engineering and Construction. The Bridge work remains on-going with the bridge currently closed to the public whilst a major part of the restoration is undertaken.
- 4.2 **Harbour Compound:** The Service has appreciated the efforts made by plot holders to tidy their individual plots within the compound, in association with harbour staff. Further work is to be undertaken to enable the re-enforcement of individual plot limits.
 - 4.2.1 The Service is looking at the possibility of renewing the traffic barrier at the bottom of compound road with an automatic type, to prevent the unauthorised use of the car parking spaces available. The present barrier is now beginning to show signs of deterioration and is often found left in the 'open' position by harbour staff.

H5 Events

- 5.1 Although a number of events had to be cancelled this year due to the ongoing Coronavirus epidemic, the Three Peaks Yacht Race was able to take place, together with dinghy sailing races under the guidance of the Meirionnydd Yacht Club.
- 5.2 Future events yet to be held this year include a Motor Cross event on the 16th/17th October at Barmouth beach and a Bonfire event also to held on the beach on the 6th November.