

MEETING	Abermaw Harbour Consultative Committee
DATE	28th March 2023
TITLE	Harbourmasters Report
AUTHOR	Abermaw Harbourmaster

H 1 Navigational Issues

- 1.1 Harbour staff have continued to monitor the course of the navigable channel to the harbour during the winter Period. It has become evident that the dynamic nature of the river, particularly near the seaward entrance to the channel at the Bar, will require re-location of the Port and Starboard hand aids to navigation in that vicinity shortly.
- 1.2 A newly refurbished 'Fairway buoy' has been prepared and is ready for deployment in safe water on the approach to the navigable channel. The buoy, fitted with new mooring equipment, is to be placed on station as soon as possible subject to the availability of the mooring contractor in association with favourable weather and tidal conditions.
- 1.3 Following authorisation from Trinity House, a new Port Hand aid to navigation has been established in the navigable channel at position 52°42.908'N 004°03.308'W, between the harbour breakwater and the South Cardinal Mark located at the Perch.
- 1.3.1 The new buoy is marked No 10 with an authorised flash character of FL R (4) 15s. The buoy has been placed in the navigable channel to assist mariners in negotiating a spit of sand that has begun to encroach into the channel at that point.
- 1.4 There are currently two Local Notice to Mariners in operation at Barmouth Harbour:

Local Notice to Mariners 05/22: The Fairway Buoy at position 52°42.796N 004°04.906W is currently "not on station".

Local Notice to Mariners 02/23: The number 10 Port hand aid to navigation is now on station at position 52°42.908'N 004°03.308'W.
- 1.5 An inspector from Trinity House attended the Service on 24th January 2023 to conduct an audit of the records of the availability of the local aids to navigation, under the management of Gwynedd Council. Following the inspection, a report was received to state that everything was found in good order and there were no matters arising which required further comment.
- 1.6 Mariners are reminded of the need to contact the harbour office prior to departure or arrival at the harbour to obtain latest navigational and weather information.

H 2 Operational issues

- 2.1 Following a routine inspection of the road trailer supporting the harbour 'Powercat' patrol vessel, the Service were advised of the need to purchase a new trailer for the transportation of the vessel.
 - 2.1.1 A company specialising in the manufacture of such trailers were contacted and a new trailer has been supplied at a net cost of £3820 to the Service.
- 2.2 Following a number of maintenance issues experienced with the engines on the harbour patrol vessel last season, the Service were advised to replace the twin engines on the vessel. The work to fit the new engines has commenced and is being undertaken by a local company. It hoped that the work will be completed at the beginning of March.
 - 2.2.1 Following regulatory changes in vessel coding requirements the 'Powercat' vessel has also been subject to construction, stability and equipment inspection checks, in conformity with Maritime and Coastguard Agency vessel operating requirements.
- 2.3 Following routine servicing, the maritime patrol vehicle has recently been fitted with a new roof warning light and tannoy system. The new system will assist staff working on the beach to alert the public of any safety issues or hazards apparent at the relevant time.

H 3 Maintenance

- 3.1 Harbour staff have undertaken maintenance on a number of aids to navigation during the winter period, including the attachment of new mooring equipment.
- 3.2 The large and small trot moorings operated by the Service are currently subject of routine inspection and maintenance in preparation for the forthcoming season. New link lines and floats have been attached to the small trot moorings and the Service is in the process of attaching new link lines to the larger trot moorings.
 - 3.2.1 Harbour staff have started to number all moorings located in the harbour for ease of reference in confirming vessel and ownership particulars.
- 3.3 The wooden doors to the harbour refuelling station have recently been renewed using timber that will withstand inclement weather. The installation has included new locks and new ventilation ports into the building. New doors to the main store access of the SS Dora building are also to be fitted shortly.
- 3.4 Staff have commenced maintenance of the historical 'Round House' and the surrounding area to keep it clean and free of discarded waste and weeds.
- 3.5 The Service wish to thank the owners of small tender vessels sited on the tender rack at the harbour frontage, for the removal of their tenders to facilitate maintenance over the winter period.

H 4 Other Matters

- 4.1 **Barmouth Rail Bridge Restoration Works:** The Service are currently in discussion with project staff regarding the removal from the harbour of the existing iron works on the bridge, prior to the installation new structures. Any effect on navigation will be notified through the issue of a Local Notice to Mariners.

- 4.2 **Barmouth Beach Sand Dunes:** Harbour staff have recently installed additional lengths of paling fencing near Ynys Y Brawd and the associated causeway, to help with the development of sand dunes. It is hoped this will assist in preventing sand from being deposited onto the causeway and the Ynys Y Brawd area.
- 4.2.1 It is anticipated that the sand currently covering the causeway, will be cleared before the Easter period.

H 5 Events

- 5.1 The Service have received notification of the following events to be held in and around the harbour area this year.
- 'Three Peaks' Yacht Race scheduled to take place on the 10th June
 - Road race (10km) to be held on the 10th June.
 - 'Food Festival' to be held over the weekend of the 1st - 2nd July
 - Kite Festival also to be held over the weekend 1st – 2nd July
 - Vintage lorry rally to be held on the 16th September
 - Motorcross event.
- 5.2 The Service wish to advise organisers of proposed events of the need to provide early notification to the harbour office. This is to ensure that all safety protocols and administration processes can be assessed before an event. Events will not be permitted to take place unless written permission has been obtained from the Service.