

MEETING	Abermaw Harbour Consultative Committee
DATE	19th March 2024
TITLE	Harbourmasters Report
AUTHOR	Barmouth Harbourmaster

H1 Navigational issues

- 1.1 Throughout the winter period, harbour staff have continued to monitor the course of the navigable channel on the approach to the harbour. Following the re-location of the Port and Starboard hand aids to navigation at the seaward approach to the channel last year, the course of the navigable channel has remained relatively constant.
- 1.2 Harbour Staff will continue to monitor the movement of the sandbanks in the navigable channel and make any necessary changes to the navigational aids, to provide the safest route in and out of the harbour. With a 7% increase in harbour customers last season, the Service are hopeful that the forthcoming season will also be busy.
- 1.3 There are currently two Local Notice to Mariners in Force:
- 1.3.1 Local Notice to Mariners No:6/23: This information Notice has been active since the 4th of September 2023. It was issued to advise mariners of the on-going restoration works to the historic rail bridge spanning the harbour. The notice will remain in force until the works have been completed and existing scaffold structures around the bridge pillars removed.
- 1.3.2 Local Notice to Mariners No:1/24: The light on the No1 Starboard hand aid to navigation positioned at 52°42.739N 004°04.373W is currently non-functional. Repairs to the light will be effected as soon as practicably possible, subject to suitable weather and tidal conditions.
- 1.4 Until all works and equipment associated with the restoration of the railway viaduct across the harbour have been finalised and removed, the Service would like to remind mariners of the need to contact the harbour office before commencing a passage underneath bridge, so that a safe passage can be afforded.
- 1.5 The Service would also like to remind mariners of the need to contact the harbour office prior to departure or arrival at the harbour, to obtain latest navigational and weather information.

H2 Operational Issues

- 2.1 The harbour 'Powercat' patrol vessel is currently undergoing maintenance in preparation for the forthcoming season. As part of Maritime and Coastguard Agency vessel coding requirements, the vessel is to undergo a survey by an approved Marine Surveyor at the end of February, after which the vessel engines will receive an

overhaul from a local marine engineer. The vessel will then return to operational duties.

- 2.2 The road trailers utilised by the harbour for transportation of the harbour patrol vessel and general use have received their annual service. Unfortunately, a further smaller trailer that had been used for off road work is beyond economic repair and has now been de-commissioned.
- 2.3 After many years of use, it became necessary to change the VHF apparatus in the harbour office due to poor transmission and reception communications. Following the upgrade last year, a new VHF aerial is now required to complement the new apparatus.
- 2.4 Work is currently being undertaken to the internal layout of the harbour office to accommodate a working environment for the newly appointed Beach Officer. Although based at Barmouth, the Officer will be working along the coastline between Barmouth and Aberdyfi.

H3 Maintenance

- 3.1 The starboard hand No 1 buoy and the port hand No 8 buoy are to be serviced prior to the start of the busy summer period, as part of a rolling programme of maintenance of the channel buoyage. The work is to be undertaken by a local mooring contractor, who will maintain the visitor moorings operated by the Service at the same time.
- 3.2 Harbour staff are continuing to number vessel moorings in the harbour for operational ease of reference. Staff remain committed to removing any abandoned or derelict moorings from the harbour waters.
- 3.3 During the winter period sections of the harbour pontoon have been removed from the water for the purpose of maintenance. The maintenance is scheduled to be completed before May, after which the pontoon will be re-assembled and placed back in the water. The Service would like to thank the Members of the Town Council for their involvement in the maintenance of the structure and its continuing existence in the harbour.
- 3.4 During the winter months harbour staff have undertaken a programme of maintenance of structures around their working environment. This has included work conducted on the harbour front at Barmouth and at Fairbourne, where work required on flag poles and seating benches has been addressed.

H4. Other Matters:

- 4.1 **Harbour Security:** The service has invested in a new CCTV system which has recently been installed around the harbour. The system is separate to the town CCTV. In addition to enhancing the security of the harbour, the system will provide staff with a visual overview of harbour activities when office duties prevent staff from patrolling outside.
- 4.2 **Fisherman's Compound:** With the assistance of plot holders in the Compound, Harbour staff have continued to tidy and clear unwanted items and rubbish from the

site. Multiple loads of waste have been taken to a local waste disposal site, with further work to be done to improve the condition of the area.

- 4.3 **Compound Road:** The introduction of new parking bollards last season on Compound Road has been successful in providing water based commercial operators with an area to park during the months of April to October when parking around the harbour is at a premium.
- 4.3.1 The lifting barrier at the entrance to Compound Road has had to be removed as it has become beyond economic repair. To improve security and prevent indiscriminate parking along the road leading to the Fisherman's Compound, the Service are currently in the process of installing an electric barrier which will require a "FOB" to gain access.
- 4.3.2 With the provision of allocated parking on Compound Road and enhanced security provided by a new barrier, for this season onwards it has been necessary to charge a fee for the parking of vehicles in that area.
- 4.4 **Fairbourne:** Harbour staff have fitted bollards at the top of the new pedestrian access ramp to the beach, to prevent vehicular access. The ramp to facilitate access over the shingle bank to the lower section of the beach has received very favourable feedback from the local community, and it is hoped that a similar arrangement will be in place for the upcoming season.

H5 Events

- 4.1 The Service has received advanced notification of numerous events proposed to take place at Barmouth this year. These include;
- Barmouth Carnival
 - Food Festival
 - Kite Festival
 - Running events
 - Three peaks Yacht Race (July)
 - Motocross event
 - Hurly Burly swimming event
- 4.2 The Service wish to advise organisers of proposed events of the need to provide early notification and all relevant paperwork to the harbour office. This is to ensure that all safety protocols, staffing arrangements and administration processes can be assessed. Events will not be permitted to take place unless written permission has been obtained from the Service.