

MEETING	Abermaw Harbour Consultative Committee
DATE	8th November 2022
TITLE	Update on Harbour Management Matters
AUTHOR	Senior Harbours Officer

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 Committee Member's observations and comments on matters relating to Abermaw Harbour and to discuss issues relating to the safe management and operations of the 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 2022 to October 2022, and to receive feedback from the members on safety matters and the operational issues relating to the Harbour.

2. Barmouth Moorings and Boat Registration.

- 2.1 There has been a decrease in the number of moorings being occupied over recent years. In 2022 there were 64 boats on annual moorings within the harbour. This compares with 54 boats on moorings in 2021 and it is encouraging that there has been a slight increase in the total in comparison with 2021.
- 2.2 Whilst other harbours in Gwynedd have reflected a slight decrease in the number of mooring customers, it is pleasing to note an increase in the number of harbour customers at Barmouth this year.
- 2.3 Owners of powerboats and Personal Watercraft who intend to launch in Gwynedd are now required to register their powered craft on-line through the Gwynedd Council Website. This season, 2380 boat owners took the opportunity to register their powered craft on-line. As foreign holidays have seen a boom this year, particularly after a number of years of restricted travel, this may go some way to explaining why the figure reflects a decrease compared to the previous year.
- 2.4 In addition to the above figures, 136 powered craft were registered on paper by persons visiting the various maritime offices across Gwynedd. 82 vessels with an engine under 10 hp were also registered.

3. Port Marine Safety Code.

- 3.1 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.

- 3.1.1 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.

4.1 Following the departure of a key member of staff at Abermaw the Service has appointed a new Harbourmaster to the post at Barmouth. The appointed Harbourmaster commenced in the position on the 1st August this year. Until this appointment, the assistant harbourmaster managed the harbour throughout the season performing all functions of the harbourmaster on a temporary basis.

4.2 The assistant harbourmaster who had been with the Maritime Service for a number of years having commenced his service as a Beach Officer departed the post on the 30th of September. The assistant harbourmaster was a popular member of staff with colleagues and customers alike. He is now embarking on new adventure in Australia. The Service wish to thank the assistant harbourmaster for his dedication to the service and for his work commitment.

4.3 It is anticipated that the position of assistant harbourmaster at Barmouth will be advertised in the new year, with the Service able to call upon staff based at the harbours of Porthmadog and Aberdyfi to assist with work in the harbour of Barmouth when required. A temporary harbour assistant has been appointed to the post for the winter period.

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 Principal 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 and associated trailer
- Maintenance of lands and benches
- Maintenance of tools and equipment

5.3 Fees and Charges. 2023/24.

With regard to the prospective fees and charges for Barmouth Harbour together with the Powerboat and Personal Watercraft launching fees for 2023/2024 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. Harbourmasters Report. The service will provide a summary of the Navigational and Operational matters undertaken and encountered during the period March 2022 to October 2022 inclusive, including maintenance issues.