

<b>MEETING</b>	<b>Aberdyfi Harbour Consultative Committee</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>15 November 2016</b>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Update on Harbour Management Matters</b>
<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>Maritime and Country Parks 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 Members' observations on matters directly related to Aberdyfi Harbour.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to present a brief update for the attention of the Consultative Committee on harbour matters for the period March 2016 to October 2016.

## **2. Aberdyfi Harbour**

- 2.1 In 2016/17, the number of boats on moorings in the Harbour were as follows:-
- There was a total of 79 boats on an annual mooring in 2016. This compares with 77 boats on a mooring in 2015. It is heartening to note that 2 boats have returned to Aberdyfi in 2016.
- 2.2 On the whole, when comparing all Gwynedd Council harbours, a small reduction was seen in the number of customers over the last year including at Hafan Pwllheli. The only exception in terms of the number of boats on moorings was at Victoria Dock in Caernarfon.
- 2.3 From the number of boats on a mooring in the Harbour 67% are powerboats with 33% yachts. 60% of the customers reside in Gwynedd, while 32% reside outside the county.
- 2.4 1001 Powerboats were registered in Gwynedd in 2016 and this compares to 989 that registered in 2015. 57 powerboats were registered at Aberdyfi Harbour and this compares to 52 boats that registered in 2015. 7 Powerboats were registered in Tywyn compared to 3 that registered in 2015.
- 2.5 729 Personal Watercraft have registered in Gwynedd in 2016. This compares to 699 that registered in 2015. In Aberdyfi Harbour, 29 Personal Watercraft were registered and this compares to 23 Personal Watercraft that registered in 2015. 4 Personal Watercraft were registered in Tywyn compared to 1 that registered in 2015.

## **3. Marine Safety Code**

- 3.1 An original copy of the Marine Safety Code has already been distributed to all Committee Members and it is also available on Gwynedd Council's website. The Senior Harbours Officer regularly reviews the Safety Code. We anticipate that a Senior Coastguard Inspector will visit the Council early in 2017 to inspect the Marine Safety Code and present feedback on the Code that is relevant to the municipal harbours of Gwynedd Council. It is understood that the inspector will visit every Harbour in Gwynedd and will spend several days inspecting the harbours. It is anticipated that a report will be submitted to the Harbour Committees following the inspectors' visit.
- 3.2 Although the Safety Code is regularly reviewed by the service, it is necessary to receive the comments and views of the Consultative Committee on the suitability of the Marine Safety Code as well as observations on its contents, in order that it may be reviewed as relevant to the activities, aids to navigation, safety and the work at Aberdyfi Harbour.
- 3.3 No matter or cause for concern has been submitted for the attention of the service during 2016 which are linked to the statutory responsibilities and duties of the Harbour.

## **4. Operational Issues**

### **4.1 Navigation**

- 4.1.1 Trinity House Lighthouse Authority conducted a detailed inspection on 26th July 2016. Compared to previous reports the 2016 report confirmed an improvement in the condition and locations of Navigation Aids in Aberdyfi Harbour.
- 4.1.2 The inspector drew attention to Navigation Aid N-02909, namely Tywyn seawall navigation aid, as requiring urgent attention as it was not on station. The service has drawn the attention of Gwynedd Consultancy to this. It is envisaged that it will be re-located as soon as possible in 2017.
- 4.1.3 The Navigational Aids maintenance work programme has been completed in accordance with the permission, instruction and guidance of the Consultative Committee. An update of the current position will be given to Members by the Senior Harbours Officer at the meeting.
- 4.1.4 Two Mariners' Notices are in operation in Aberdyfi harbour. These are for Bar Buoy Number 1 - not on station (notice no. 10), Special Navigation Mark (notice no. 11) not on station. The Service has commissioned a contractor to undertake this work.

### **4.2 Maintenance**

- 4.2.1 Arrangements and a work programme for maintaining the key elements of Aberdyfi Harbour Navigation Aids will be submitted at the meeting by the Harbour Master.
- 4.2.2 The Harbour Master will also submit a maintenance work programme which is to be undertaken at Barmouth Harbour during the October - December 2016 period, and will provide an outline of the work programme which will be undertaken in January - March 2017. Feedback from Committee members is requested on any additional work that will need to be considered and included in the work programme.

### **4.3 Staffing Matters**

- 4.3.1 The employment period of the Aberdyfi Harbour Assistant (seasonal) has come to an end since 30th September 2016. In order to ensure support and a continuation in the service across the county the employment period of the Aberdyfi and Porthmadog Harbour Assistants has been extended to the end of December 2016.
- 4.3.2 Both harbour assistants will be part of the wider Maritime team to ensure that it is possible to respond to incidents and complete the maintenance work programme at Aberdyfi, Porthmadog and Barmouth harbours over the Winter months.
- 4.3.3 In order to facilitate the Service's ability to respond to matters that arise, the Barmouth Harbour Assistant's work base has been re-located to Porthmadog for an initial period to ensure additional assistance in Porthmadog over this time.
- 4.3.4 It will be necessary for Aberdyfi staff to assist with work in Barmouth Harbour during the next few months.
- 4.3.5 As reported in the March 2016 Harbour Committee, a Beach Supervisor was not appointed in Aberdyfi in 2016. Due to a cut in the Service budget it is not anticipated that a Beach Assistant will be appointed in the future at Aberdyfi. This means that a Beach Award will not be awarded to Aberdyfi Beach in the future.

- 4.4 Bathing water will continue to be monitored regularly by Natural Resources Wales, and as part of a wider scheme the Bathing Water at 'Cemetery Beach' is also tested by Natural Resources Wales.
- 4.5 **Other matters**
- 4.5.1 **Fishermen's Equipment & Tools** The Service has expressed concern regarding the pots, ropes and fishing tackle stored at the quayside and on the wharf especially during the Summer season. Unfortunately, the equipment and tools are not kept tidily and this causes a risk.
- 4.5.2 **Quay Wall** . An update regarding plans and development of the harbour wall will be presented to Members at the meeting.
- 4.5.3 It is necessary for fishermen who store equipment on the quay to ensure that it is safe and does not cause any risk to other Harbour users. Although we recognise the importance of the fishing industry it is essential that the equipment is kept in order. To this end, the fishermen have received guidance from the Service of the requirement for every rope to be stored in a purposeful box and that no equipment should prevent access to the quay wall or to lifesaving equipment.
- 4.5.4 **RNLI Station** The work of extending the RNLI station at Aberdyfi has now been completed. As part of this work adjacent land was re-surfaced and this work has considerably improved the area's image.
- 4.5.5 **Ystorfa Common Land Waste** Concern continues regarding illegal dumping on land under the Council's responsibility near the Golf Club. Recently, bulky waste was disposed of illegally near the compound fence. The Service aims to commission a contractor to undertake waste clearance work and this should be completed before the end of March 2017. Unfortunately, 'asbestos' type waste has been disposed of on the land and this entails that site clearance costs will be high.
- 4.5.6 It is vitally important that individuals with fishing tackle on the site ensure that all their equipment is tidy and stored correctly. Any fishing equipment will be disposed of if the Service is of the view that equipment is stored incorrectly and unused. It is stressed that the Fishing Association representative should ensure that a clear message regarding this intention is given without delay to the fishermen.
- 4.5.7 Once the work is completed the Service will arrange to install a security fence on the site to prevent unauthorised access.
- 4.5.8 **Coastguard Consultation** The government is conducting a consultation regarding a possible change in legislation regarding Port Waste with an opportunity for Members to submit observations on the proposed changes. The changes will eliminate MGN 253,259 and 326. Although there will be a change in legislation this will have no effect on the Harbour Waste Provision Plan in Gwynedd. It is understood that the change in legislation will come into force on the 9th December 2016.

All documentation is available on the following website.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/implementation-of-directive-20152087-by-means-of-the-merchant-shipping-and-fishing-vessels-port-waste-reception-facilities-amendment-regulations>

## 5. **Financial Matters**

- 5.1 A summary of the Harbour budget is attached that reports on the current financial position.
- 5.2 During this period, it was necessary to commit financial resources for the following: -

- Maintenance and purchasing of Navigation Aids and Lamps
- Maintenance of Council moorings
- Extending staff employment periods.
- Grounds Maintenance.
- New engines Aberdyfi Harbour Patrol Boat (project before March 2017)

5.3 The budgets are monitored monthly and a Second Quarter Review will be undertaken during the first week of October. The appendix is a reflection of the second quarter review.

5.4 **Fees and Charges 2017/18** Attached is a spreadsheet for Aberdyfi Harbour proposed fees in 2017. It is anticipated that the inflation rate of Gwynedd Harbours for 2017/18 will be 1.85%. Despite meeting the budget challenge and the service's income target it is suggested that Aberdyfi harbour fees are increased by 2% on average for the 2017/18 financial year.

5.5 It is stressed that only a draft has been submitted before Members and the fees are subject to the receipt of confirmation from the Portfolio Leader early in 2017.

## 6. Events

6.1 The following events took place in Aberdyfi Harbour in 2016: -

- Aberdyfi Food Festival Event that took place on 29th August 2016. It is hoped that the festival will continue and will be staged again in 2017. Due to the inclement weather in 2016, the festival had to be re-located and therefore it did not take place on the quay this year.
- Annual Dyfi Yacht Club Events. Several events throughout the season.
- Dyfi Rowing Club Events. Rowing Club Regatta at the end of May.
- August Bank Holiday - Dyfi Fest Event organised by a community group.