

# Weymouth Harbour Report

Harbours Committee  
9 December 2020



Jamie Joyce,  
Weymouth Harbour Master

## Weymouth Harbour Statistics as at 31 October 2020

	2017	2018	2019	2020 To Date
Number of Marina berths let (out of 413)	299	263	254	261
Number of Commercial berths let (out of 106)	89	86	83	84
Number of Visiting Boats Nights	4,942	4,646	5,126	1,597
Number of bridge lifts	1,155	1,226	1,105	835
Number of vessels transiting bridge	6,259	6,801	6,026	5,958
Number commercial visiting fishing vessels	317	309	209	225
Slipway income (£)	5,451	6,357	6,168	15,816
PWC income (£)	1,946	3,340	3,454	6,487
Number of acts of Pilotage	14	2	8	0

- Number of Marina berths let out is reflective of October numbers in summer the number of berths let out was 313.
- Number of visiting boat nights and bridge lifts are a direct effect of Covid-19 and lockdown restrictions
- Number of commercial visiting fishing vessels has decreased from 2018 as two large fishing vessels, representing a large number of visits, decided to take up an annual berth.
- The increased income from Slipway and PWC permit sales is considered to be the stay-cation effect caused by COVID.

## Harbour Staff

- Harbour Master – Jamie Joyce
- Finance and Admin Manager – Claire Connolly
- Moorings Officers – Rebecca Mustoe, Sarah Johnston
- Promotions Officer – Karen Hood
- Admin and Finance Officer – Corrina Briggs
- Berthing Officers: Simon Powell, Jan Ridd, Stuart Johnson and Karen Womack
- Facilities Attendant / Bridge Assistant – Jackie Blackwell
- Port Facilities Security Officer – Garry Smart

- Port Operatives – Peter Drage, Rob Long

## **Current situation**

- Jamie Joyce was appointed as the Weymouth Harbour Master on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November and took over on this date from the outgoing Harbour Master Keith Howorth.
- The COVID restrictions have seen a decrease in the number of visiting boat nights through initial restrictions of vessels being unable to raft together during the summer period and during the second lockdown, recreational visitors have been prohibited.
- The 5<sup>th</sup> of November COVID restrictions have also reduced the number of bridge lifts and usage of the slipway owing to government restrictions in travel.
- The requirement for seasonal staff during the summer season has been significantly reduced due to these restrictions.
- Seasonal staff have been required to cover long term sickness of full-time members of staff and this will continue until January 2021. Coverage required on average is one member of seasonal staff for two days per week.

## **Port Marine Safety Code:**

### **Safe and efficient port marine operations:**

- No further incidents or accidents to report.
- Incident Management database has been updated.
- Investigations underway to establish if Weymouth Harbour Website is able to host an automated Incident Management System.
- Following a long-term dialogue with the Health and Safety Executive, Custom House Quay area has been risk assessed in consultation with Dorset HSE and Highways with regard to the risk of public falling from Harbour wall. A scope of works has been established to ensure pathways are level then clearly marked as commercial activity areas with supporting educational signage, which will be completed by March 2020. The works coincide with the track removal project and therefore the cost of levelling and painting is included within this project.

### **Open Port Duty:**

As a consequence of the Government National Restrictions commencing on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November for Coronavirus, the following changes to operations have been applicable in Weymouth Harbour in line with government guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november>

- No visitor requests accepted during this period.
- Commercial vessels may continue to operate subject to the criteria for essential work.

### **Conservancy:**

Survey of Harbour waters have taken place and included multibeam (full density soundings) and side scan sonar (subtle feature/ debris object detection). This will provide normal survey data with additional information:

- Depth change colour banding to 1m intervals exactly.
- Check the position of the marina pontoons.
- Add berth names etc. through the harbour.

## **Environmental Duty:**

- Oil Spill response refresher training took place on November the 18<sup>th</sup>, following a COVID compliant course structure and involved members from both the Harbour, Boatfolk Marina, Weymouth Town Council Beach and Parks teams.
- MCA audit of the Weymouth Harbour Port Waste Management Plan took place on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November, this encompassed both Weymouth Harbour and Boatfolk Marina Audit feedback was complimentary and all aspects of the waste management plan were compliant.
- To enhance the Waste Management Plan, questionnaires have been sent out to consultative committee members to seek feedback on current procedures and customer feedback forms have been amended to include feedback sections on waste management.

## **Weather:**

- Weymouth harbour has fared well throughout this reporting period.

## **Harbour Works**

### **Peninsula Development**

The Weymouth Quay Regeneration Project covers the quayside from No.1 Berth to the Ferry Steps. The project is supported by £3.8M from the Coastal Communities Fund, which has to be spent by the end of March 2021. Works have already commenced with the demolition of the Terminal Building (Building A) and resurfacing the area for car parking, demolition of the Ferry Steps Building and repair of Wall D (Ferry Steps).

The wider development of the Peninsula is under review as part of a further assessment of the Council's key development sites in Weymouth town centre.

The next steps of the Weymouth Quay Regeneration Project are to complete preparations for demolishing Building B (Former Departures Lounge on Quayside), a full design for the Quay Regeneration and obtaining the necessary consents.

### **Harbour Walls - Wall D (Ferry Steps)**

See Engineering Report.

Knights Brown have completed the repair to Wall D (Ferry Steps). The Wall D pontoons were modified to fit the new wall layout in time for accepting visitors on the 4<sup>th</sup> July.

### **RNLI Weymouth Inshore Lifeboat**

The new larger Inshore Lifeboat will be housed in the existing boathouse, which will be modified slightly. Works commenced on the 9<sup>th</sup> November.

## **Weymouth Sailing Club**

Weymouth Sailing Club, self-funded Proposal to improve the use of the water in front of the Sailing Club, due to the current piles reaching the end of their working life (25 years). Ideally this would be commenced in spring 2021, subject to approvals, taking approximately two weeks to complete and have a working life of 25 years. This work will be carried out by a contractor whom is yet to be appointed.

The project to replace this infrastructure will be kept within the original footprint of the current location, which would ensure access for the rowing ferry. These works would represent significant enhancement and improvement to the safe access of this facility.

There is an application, both with the MMO and Environment Agency to review and grant licences for this proposal.

## **Harbour Revision Order**

Authority was given by the Statutory Harbour Authority (Full Council) on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018 to prepare and submit a Harbour Revision Order to the MMO in order to modernise and consolidate the current dated legislation relating to the Harbour operations.

The latest estimate for approval of the HRO is 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021 (although this remains subject to change due to COVID/Brexit). If this happens the HRO would come into force circa one month later.

If and when the HRO is approved, work will commence on defining the Directions.

## **Maritime and Local Events**

Most events for this year were cancelled due to COVID restrictions and national lockdown.