

Weymouth Harbour Report

Harbours Committee
16 June 2021



Jamie Joyce,
Weymouth Harbour Master

Weymouth Harbour Statistics as of end April 2021

Current situation

	2018	2019	2020*	2021*
Number of Marina berths let (out of 413)	266	263	257	301
Number of Commercial berths let (out of 106)	87	82	80	87
Number of Visiting Boats Nights	227	337	0	141
Number of bridge lifts	126	136	0	154
Number of vessels transiting bridge	419	591	0	452
Number commercial visiting fishing vessels	72	41	32	12
Slipway income (£)	530	971	575	2467
PWC income (£)	398	1404	975	2216
Number of acts of Pilotage	1	0	0	0

*Both years impacted by Covid restrictions

Summary:

- Moorings team have recorded the highest number of Marina Berths let compared with the same period over the last four years.
- Slipway and PWC recreational permits have both seen a significant increase in takings following the introduction of the online payment facility.
- Visiting vessels still impacted by Covid regulations during this reporting period.

Port Marine Safety Code:

Safe and efficient port marine operations:

- The automated Incident Management System has been working effectively on the Weymouth Harbour Website since January 2021, for both defect and incident reporting:

Defects: The team to date have received 68 defect notifications ranging from split hose pipes to pontoon floats misaligned. On average the defects are being rectified within a 48hr period.

Incidents: We have received 21 incident reports ranging from requests to assist disabled vessels to underwater obstructions. All incidents have been investigated and resolved.

- The automated payment system for the slipway, trailer parking and recreational permits has operated successfully with over 106 transactions taking place within the first 6 weeks of operation. All personal watercraft (PWC) data tags are checked against the data tag database, of which 13 have been identified as not being registered or incorrect details. These vessels have been stopped from launching as we have been unable to verify the owner's details.
- Following a review of the asset management programme and sea trials on all of our vessels to ensure fitness for purpose of the Harbour fleet, we have recently sold three of our vessels, most notably our pilot and work vessel 'Melway'. She has gone to Blue Seas Protection group who will complete refurbishments at the Isle of Wight and will then commence her new role in environmental protection of the marine environment.



- To ensure continuity of service provision we have signed an agreement with Portland Port to provide a pilot vessel on request and have placed an order for a 7m, Highfield rigid hull inflatable vessel with twin outboards. Whilst awaiting the construction of the vessel, Highfield will be supplying a replacement rigid inflatable vessel as an interim measure.

Open Port Duty:

- The current COVID reopening of the marine industry in England guidelines have been followed which allowed self-contained visitor vessels to stay overnight from April 12th.
- The second stage of re-opening commenced on the 17th May and bookings have been increasing leading to full capacity for visitor berths over the May bank holiday weekend.

Staff Training and competency:

- 18th February – 4P Oil response command course – HM.
- 18th March – Sea survival training for vessel operators.
- 22nd March First aid at work training – 2 members.
- 31st March – Manual handling training – all members.
- 26th April – Power boat 11 course for 3 members.
- 05th May – Port facility security Officers Course – HM.

Conservancy:

- The Harbour has commissioned a four-year analysis of hydrographic surveys in order to understand the changing levels of the Harbour over this time period. Four years was chosen as a comparison due to 2016 being the first time a multi beam survey was conducted, which gives a near full coverage of depths and allows for comparing the same data sets, thus giving an accurate comparison. Further analysis of this information will be completed in consultation with the engineering team to establish control depths at locations throughout the harbour and generate a dredging regime to maintain these depths.

Environmental Duty:

- Oil Spill notification exercise was completed on 8th April and all key contacts updated.
- Waste Management Plan has been expanded through collaboration with Odyssey recycling to provide a collection service for old nets and hard plastic from May 13th.
- We have had some issues with bins on both marinas over the past month with waste being put into recycling bins and oversized objects left by the bins resulting in a refusal to collect the marina waste. The Harbour team has had to regularly separate items in the recycling and rubbish bins over this time period taking members over two hours a time to resolve.

To tackle this situation:

1. We have put new signs on all the bins to help customers to avoid mistakenly using the wrong bin.
2. Increased the size of general waste bins will mean that on NQ in the summer, we will double the bin capacity and on WW Road increase by 50%.
3. Mixed Recycling: increased capacity by 60%
4. Extra Glass Recycling bins.
5. Emailed customers to advise them of the above improvements.

- Bird management, corresponded with DC Ecological Officer and Natural England on best method for area, no preference suggested but scaring allowed by hawking without licence requirement. Will contact WTC to discuss a collaborative approach.
- Sea bins – investigations so far – Quotes from Zwanny (PortBin) and Seabin, both £3-5k per bin, managed service (£8k per year) but they can be self-managed. Good feedback from other Zwanny customers.

Aids to navigation:

- On the 13th April the day mark located at Green hill was re-painted.

Pilotage:

- A pilotage review of our current directions is currently being undertaken by Maurico Marine and Harbour staff to ensure that the directions are fit for purpose.
- As previously mentioned, an agreement has been signed with Portland Port to provide on request, a pilot vessel to transfer Weymouth Pilots.

Weather:

- Weymouth harbour has fared well throughout this reporting period.
- The Stone Pier to the beach, which were dislodged during Easterly winds in mid-February are with the contractors for minor repairs and will be re-installed at the earliest opportunity.

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.

Demolition work is now complete, and the construction phase is about to commence.

Harbour consultative group members have been instrumental in providing the contractor with valued insights into the infrastructure required at the fish landing quay to facilitate bait, catch storage, ice machines and fish equipment storage areas.

In addition, the engineering team have contracted WSP to ascertain the load ratings of commercial berth 1, following completion of the wall works at this location. This report provides crane contractors with precise maximum applied pressure and distances from the wall that a variety of cranes can be safely sited. This will be invaluable to the future aspirations of this area and open up the opportunity to facilitate abnormal loads.

Harbour Walls

See Engineering Report.

Commercial road – Lighting and power supply - EMFF Grant

A grant was applied for and approved by the European Maritime and Fisheries fund, to improve the safety for commercial operators berthed at Commercial Road by ensuring that both lighting and electrical supplies are readily available to the berth holders.

Work has been completed by our contractor Rolec and consultation has been held with the utility company SSE to provide the connection for these services.

Weymouth Sailing Club – update

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).

Both the MMO and Environment agency have agreed the project and issued a permit, with a restriction that piling work was not to commence before the 19th April to allow for sea trout smolt to migrate.

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

Harbour Revision Order

Authority was given by the Statutory Harbour Authority (Full Council) on 22nd 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 HRO came into force on 17th February 2021, work has commenced on defining the General directions relating to the current Notice to Mariners that are in force and following legal advice will be submitted for consultation with stakeholders.

New business:

- Weymouth Harbour welcomes Griffin Towage, who specialise in sea towage of barges and ships, both on routine contracts, and emergency towage. Griffin Towage also offers tugs for port operations, emergency rescues, firefighting, supply and crew transfers, standby tug or guard vessel.
- On the 14th April 6 new jet ski versa docks arrived and were positioned for customers use. Out of the 6 new jet ski berths we have let 3 from 1 May 2021. The remaining three will be utilised for weekly hire for visiting jet ski customers.

Asset Management update

- Claire will present an overview of the new Asset Management programme for Weymouth harbour.

Maritime and Local Events

- Most events were cancelled due to COVID restrictions and national lockdown in this reporting period.

Future:

- Confirmation of booking has been made by the sailing cruise vessel Golden Horizon in June, to tender approximately 270 passengers into Weymouth Harbour. This will be subject to Covid regulations of the time.