

Weymouth Harbour Report

Harbours Committee
16th March 2022



Jamie Joyce,
Weymouth Harbour Master

Weymouth Harbour Statistics as of end of January 2022

Current situation

	2019	2020*	2021*	2022*
Number of marina berths let (out of 402)	244	240	248	306
Number of commercial berths let (out of 109)	87	84	87	86
Number of visiting leisure vessels nights	4,707	5,204	1,707	5,180
Number of bridge lifts	1,379	1,240	926	1,383
Number of vessels transiting bridge	7,077	6,314	6,151	7,251
Number commercial visiting fishing vessels	420	264	369	141
Slipway income (£)	£6,285	£6,246	£15,973	£12,880
PWC income (£)	£3,340	£3,454	£6,984	£7,037
Number of acts of Pilotage	1	0	0	0

*Both years impacted by Covid restrictions

Summary:

Annual leisure berths:

- Berth allocations have increased this year with occupancy month by month up between 10 and 25%.
- As a result, income is expected to be up from last year by £100k.
- Temporary berths are also up by 5.5k.

Visiting vessels

- Despite Covid restrictions in April and May which severely impacted our visitor numbers we have recorded the same number of visits as the last pre-covid year.
- Income is up by 10k.
- Slipway and PWC permits are both double the levels of income we are used to getting.

Port Marine Safety Code:

Safe and efficient port marine operations:

Defect and incident reporting:

1. Defects: The team to date have completed the defects from 2021 and are currently engaged in preventive maintenance programme, e.g., strengthening of pontoon supports, replacing safety grip strips on walkways and deep cleaning of infrastructure.
2. Incidents: We have reviewed and completed all incidents from 2021 and utilised this information to update the Safety Management Risk Register and provide factual evidence to formulate the forthcoming General Directions.

Operations

3. Cousens quay car park: We have worked with Car Parking Services and Engineers to reconfigure the trailer car park at this location and produce 45-degree angled parking to accommodate both vehicle and trailer in the same space. This will represent an improvement in safety and service offering to the slipway customers, as opposed to the old methodology of having to disconnect the trailer and then finding a separate car parking bay. It is also anticipated that this will free up spaces in the Cousens quay car park that these customers would have utilised, allowing more Charter customers to park at Cousens quay.
4. New online booking systems will shortly be available for the following activities:
 - (a) visitor vessel booking
 - (b) Town Bridge lift booking
 - (c) Notification of Bunkering vessels - Commercial

Open Port Duty:

- Work has commenced at Commercial Berth 1 and Berth 4, which has restricted the number of alongside berths available at this location. This work has been the subject of delay, due to problems faced by the principal contractor. Updates on progress will be provided when a principal contractor has been appointed.

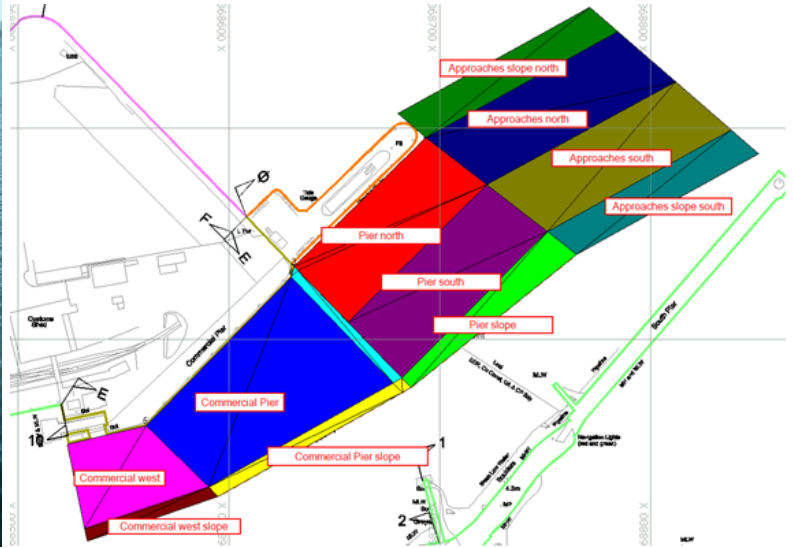
Staff Training and competency:

- 1 x VHF Course
- 2 x RYA First Aid Course
- 1 x RYA Sea Survival Course
- DC Internal Courses covering Manual Handling, Risk Assessment, Fire and General Health and Safety
- We have also commenced the recruitment process for front office staff and will shortly be commencing the process to recruit an Assistant Harbour Master. The objective of recruiting to these positions, will be to improve service delivery, communications, and provision of cover to facilitate training, staff progression and annual leave periods.

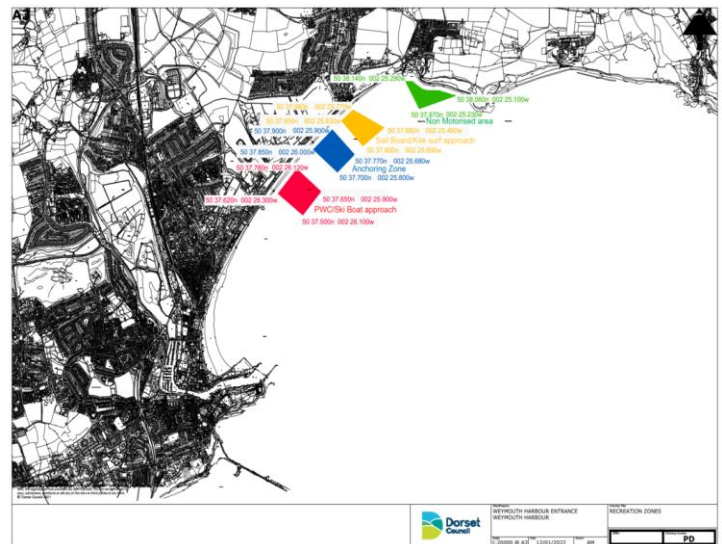
Conservancy:

1 Dredging

- Procurement of a contractor to plough dredge the Harbour entrance has been secured for week commencing the 28th of March 2022.
- Blue area to depth of 5m and the red to a depth of 4.5m



- The new Bay Buoys have been delivered and will be deployed at the end of March to mark out the recreational zones over Summer. The new buoys are larger and have clear lettering to designate the zone use. These will be placed on both the shoreside and seaward sides of the zones to inform both beach users and Mariners.



3. Updates on the retrieval of the FV Gitte



The insurance claim for the cost of removal was concluded in February with the Harbour being fully reimbursed by the insurance company, minus the £5000.00 policy excess.

This includes reimbursement for our own staffing costs and purchase of Harbour equipment that was damaged or lost.

We have also received confirmation from the MCA that due to the complexity and length of this incident, we are able to substitute this event for a major oil spill response exercise, that was to be programmed for this year:

In light of your responses, plus the incident reports and information you've sent me, I'm happy to give this email as the authority to confirm that the FV GITTE Tier 2 incident can substitute as your Tier 2 IME. It's clear that this was a complex incident and a successful test of your IMT and OSRO. Consequently, I have recorded on my records that Weymouth will not need to undertake a T2IME until 2nd October 2024.

Environmental Duty:

1. Bunkering Procedures:

A Safe Code of Practice has been developed for Bunkering procedures by the Harbour Team, based on industry standards and will be implemented for Vessels undertaking refueling. This will consist of a checklist for operators to follow and provide information on actions to be undertaken in the event of a spill. This will also coincide with the development of an online bunkering notification system hosted on our website to allow responsible persons involved in commercial activities to easily notify the Harbour of their intention to conduct bunkering operations.

2. Oil Spill notification exercise took place on the 11th of February 2022.

3. Sea hives and Pleasure Pier:

This initiative has been led by the Harbour team and is a collaborative project between the following organisations:

- Weymouth Harbour
- Weymouth Town Council
- Seahives.com
- Sea Life Weymouth

Sea Hives are made of recycled fishing nets and plastic bottles roto moulded to make hexagonal tubes. These provide multiple habitats for marine life to occupy, maximising their benefit to the marine environment. These will be suspended on the northern side of the Pleasure Pier and will be supported by educational signage and monitoring through the Sea Life Centre.

This will also be complimented by improving the appearance of the Pleasure Pier, with the first stage of the project being:

- commission an artist/selection of artists to produce a mural design based around the marine/coastal prime location which forms a collaboration with the Seahives project, covering the building known as 'Building N' on the harbour peninsula (North side of the harbour entrance). This will become part of the Weymouth Mural Trail.
- Benches for Pleasure Pier.
- Signage and information boards on Pleasure Pier.
- Educational presentations to local schools.

The aim of this project is to attract and inspire a wide range of residents, education providers and visitors to explore the diverse marine life that nestles on the harbour coastline and enjoy outdoor artworks inspired by the history and culture of the town.



Aids to navigation:

Trinity House conducted its annual audit of Aids to Navigation (AtoN) on 7th February 2022:

Inspection of Local Aids to Navigation, Merchant Shipping Act, 1995, Section 198(1)

*We are pleased to advise you that the local aids to navigation under the management of **Weymouth & Portland Borough Council** at Weymouth Harbour were inspected on 07/02/2022 by an Officer of Trinity House and found to be in good and efficient order.*

Pilotage:

Nil acts of pilotage have taken place during this reporting period.

Weather:

Weymouth harbour infrastructure has fared well throughout this reporting period and through the recent storms. Minor damage was localised to individual vessels.

The Harbour Staff have continually demonstrated their ability to respond to incidents of this nature throughout this period and their efforts have certainly mitigated the extent of damage that could have been caused. Some of the actions taken, are listed below:

- Fixing storm chains to the Outer Harbour Pontoons.
- Fixing ratchet straps to the Outer Harbour Pontoon floats.
- Removing loose piles and debris.
- Re-enforcing approximately 400m of Heras fencing at the peninsula.
- Ensuring the works site left by MIDAS was free from debris and re-enforcing the temporary fences within this work site.
- Putting out storm mooring lines for customers who were unable to attend prior to the weather events.
- Assisting and ensuring the safety of customers who did attend at the Harbour.
- Establishing operational equipment throughout the Harbour real estate to facilitate quick and efficient responses to incidents.
- Working outside of the normal Harbour operational hours to coincide with high wind periods.
- Operating out of hours contact for concerned customers.

I would like to formally commend the actions of the Harbour staff in both this incident and the retrieval process of the FV Gitte. Both events required our professional, skilled and experienced staff members to work in adverse conditions, overcome many obstacles and achieve the positive outcomes reported here today.

Harbour Works

Marinas

- Both of the female shower cubicles have been replaced at the North Quay facilities.

Custom House Quay

- The Boiler and hot water pipework replacement is now complete and will provide our customers with higher water pressure whilst providing efficiencies in heating costs through the new efficient boiler and balanced pipework system.

Peninsula Development

- The Principal Contractor MIDAS has demobilised following their announcement that they were going into Administration. The subcontractor TMS have returned to site to complete the wall remedial work on wall 9 and 10.
- There are ongoing talks with regard to securing a new principal contractor to complete the public realm improvements and Commercial area works.

Harbour Walls

See Engineering Report.

Asset Management progress update:

Weymouth Harbour Asset Management Plan: In year spend 2021/2022

Item	Estimated cost	Project Type	Procurement route	Internal staff input	Funding Source	Updates
Replace Indirect hot water cylinders: Harbour Office	£2,500	A, B, C1	P2	M	X	Work complete £2500.00
Replace boilers - Harbour office	£20,000	A, B, C1	P2	M	X	Work complete £18 586.84
Break tank: North Quay. Request condition survey possible replacement	£10,000	A, B	P2	L	X	£2616.00 New tank ordered
Break tank: Cargo Stage.	£10,000	A, B	P2	L	X	Survey – suggest in good condition, nil requirement to replace
Replace Oil Spill containment boom	£10,000	A, B	P2	M	X	Work complete £9268.80
Environment improvements -Sea Hive habitat/Safety signage	£4,500	A, C1	P2	M	X	£4500.00
Cargo Stage visitor berths - replace wooden decking	£25,000	B, C11	P2	H	Y	Budget allocated to replacement of pontoons in 2022
Custom House Quay - visitor berths - replace wooden decking.	£20,000	B, C11	P2	H	Y	As above
Replacement steps (ferry steps). Request condition survey	£30,000	A,B	P2	M	X	Engineer reports good to fair condition. Roll over funds to next year.
Replace concrete steps: Cove area. Request condition survey	£10,000	A,B	P2	M	X	Engineer reports good condition. However Stone Pier steps require remedial work, quotes requested.
Replace wooden Steps onto Nothe steps onto beach	£2,250	A,B	P2	M	X	Work Completed £2250.00
Maintenance Dredging	£50,000	A,B, C1	P2	H	Y	Establishment of control depths £19000.00
TOTAL	£194,250				Spend to date	£58721.64

Project Type:	
Type A	Normal Harbour Operations
Type B	Safe and Legal
Type C 1	Improved Service to customers - break even
Type C 11	Improved Service to customers - profit
Procurement:	
Type P1	In-house resources only
Type P2	External resource needed
Internal staff input	High, Medium, Low (to be defined)
Funding	
X	Revenue budget
Y	Harbour reserve
Z	Other (Grant funding, Corporate budget)

Maritime and Local Events

From December the following events were able to be supported by the Harbour:

- Christmas Swim
- Supported Weymouth Town Council with Forklift to facilitate Christmas Tree installation