

Weymouth Harbour Report

Harbours Committee
28th September 2022



Jamie Joyce
Weymouth Harbour Master

Claire Connolly
Weymouth Harbour Business Manager

Matt Brown, Dave Brown
Assistant Harbour Masters Weymouth

Weymouth Harbour Statistics as of end of August 2022

| | 2019/20* | 2020/21* | 2021/22* | 2022/23* |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Number of marina berths let (out of 402) | 277 | 283 | 320 | 385 |
| Number of commercial berths let (out of 109) | 83 | 84 | 89 | 83 |
| Income visiting leisure craft (£) | £111,151 | £30,884 | £118,377 | £133,576 |
| Slipway & PWC income (£) | £8,710 | £19,868 | £17,622 | £22,718 |
| Number of bridge lifts | 910 | 599 | 905 | 923 |
| Number of vessels transiting bridge | 5,259 | 4,519 | 5,458 | 4,982 |
| Number commercial visiting fishing vessels | 181 | 183 | 79 | 32 |
| Number of acts of Pilotage | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

The table

below shows the split for visiting leisure craft by their length overall

| | Up to 10m | 10-12m | 12-15m | 15-20m | + 20m |
|---------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 2019/20 | 1007 | 1968 | 1572 | 465 | 210 |
| 2020/21 | 299 | 651 | 572 | 158 | 63 |
| 2021/22 | 878 | 1816 | 1814 | 572 | 208 |

*Both years impacted by Covid restrictions.

Current situation

Annual leisure berths: Occupancy of berths in the Marina peaked at 96% in July which is it has been more than 10 years since occupancy rates have been at this level with recent occupancy levels between 65-75%; budget expectation will be exceeded.

Visiting leisure vessels: The early part of the season started well but during June, July and August visitor numbers were lower than last year, most notably there have been less visits from motor cruisers. Income for visitors using the slipway is up compared to previous years.

Port Marine Safety Code:

Safe and efficient port marine operations:

Please see report from Marico Marine (designated person)

Operations

1. We have improved the Port Local service by integrating the following technology into our daily operations:

- AIS (Automatic Identification System) monitoring.
- CCTV installation covering Weymouth Bay, Harbour Entrance and Channel entrance.
- Weather station at Harbour entrance, providing data on tidal information both predicted and actual, wind speed and direction, pressure and temperature. This will be embedded onto our website over the next few weeks.
- Updated digital VHF equipment.
- Updated VHF aerial equipment.



- Investigations are being progressed with Navmoor to transition the Harbour entry light system to the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities recommendation r0111 for port traffic signals:

2. New online booking systems are now available for the following activities:

- (a) Visitor vessel booking
- (b) Town Bridge lift booking
- (c) Notification of bunkering vessels – commercial
- (d) Notification of arrival from visiting commercial vessel

3. The General Directions have been assessed by specialist maritime solicitors and a draft copy has been produced. Whilst the Harbour Master position remains vacant it is recommended that the six-week consultation period is delayed in order that the replacement Harbour Master can have the opportunity to approve the document with a view to ensure implementation by 1 April 2023.

4. Town Bridge repair works are due to start on 26 September; it is estimated that 25% of the deck welds are defective; although this won't be known until the engineers are on site and the surfacing is removed. There will be restricted bridge lifts Monday – Friday but it is hoped that weekend bridges will return to normal routine. If there are more repairs than expected or poor weather creates delays, there may be a requirement to work on Saturdays. This will affect the bridge opening times; advance notice of any changes will be given to mariners.

Open Port Duty:

- Delays to the Quayside Regeneration Project and works to Walls E&9 have had an impact on commercial berths 1 and 4, restricting the number of alongside berths available at this location.
-

Staff Training and competency:

- 1 x Professional Practices and Responsibility RYA course.
- 1 x RYA Sea Survival Course.
- We have completed the process to recruit two Assistant Harbour Masters a replacement Berthing Officer and welcome Dave Brown, Matt Brown and Richard Drabwell to the team.
- We have been actively looking for a replacement Harbour Master but finding a suitable replacement has been challenging having gone out to advert twice. We are currently considering our options and hope to find a replacement in the near future.

Conservancy:

We are finalising the sampling plan with the MMO (Marine Management Organisation) to ensure that our disposal dredge licence can be used in the case of any future build-up of material within the Inner Harbour. A maintenance dredge to the harbour approaches and Commercial Berth 1 has been completed by a local contractor. The works continue to maintain a safe navigable channel and reduce the risk of vessels coming aground near the pleasure pier.

Annual dredging in this location is programmed to maintain the design depths.

Environmental Duty:

1. Sea hives and Pleasure Pier:

- The Sea Hives have been installed on the Northern side of the Pleasure Pier
 - The artist has completed the Mural at Building N, the old toilet block
 - Benches have been purchased for the Pleasure Pier.
- Signage and information boards are in progress and funding for these have been achieved. Educational presentations to local schools have taken place with funding secured to deliver more



Aids to navigation:

The Harbour entry lights have been replaced with LED Port Entry Lights and the smart monitoring system to alert the team of any defects to any of the aid to navigation is almost complete.



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

Weather: The weather has been varied over this period with no reported damage to the Harbour infrastructure.

Harbour Works

Marinas

- Deep cleaning of the infrastructure and rolling repair/maintenance to the pontoons.

- We have employed a maintenance person to be responsible for the repairs and maintenance of the two marinas.

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 the new principal contractor Knights Brown to complete the public realm improvements and Commercial area works

Pleasure Pier

- The harbour team engaged with Neighbourhood Policing Team and other partner agencies to manage pier jumpers, anti-social behaviour and the associated dangers. Attending the pier to deal with these issues is a significant drain on our resources
- There are a few areas where the railings have been barriered off due to concerns on their condition. There was an above water and diver visual condition survey of the Pleasure Pier on the 12th and 13th of September to give formal advice on future works to the Pleasure Pier including the railings.

Harbour Walls See Engineering Report.

Commercial Berths

- We have recently completed installation of new 16a and 32a electricity and lighting supply to the Commercial pontoons, east of the town bridge. We were successful in receiving 75% funding towards this project from the Fisheries and Seafood Scheme, which brings a new facility to those commercial berths improving their commercial infrastructure to enable a safe and sustainable working harbour, as well as enabling the fleet to be less restricted by natural light for preparation of catch/next day's fishing thus allowing more time at sea.

Visitor pontoons

Tenders have been received for the replacement of the stretch of 480m of visitor pontoons from No 4 berth to outside the harbour office. The design allowed for an improved specification to ensure an all year-round facility; ability to berth larger vessels and cope with more demanding weather conditions for future proofing.

Weymouth Harbour Asset Management Plan: In Year spend 2022/23

| Project number | Item | Estimated cost | Spend to date |
|----------------|--|----------------|------------------------------|
| IMP-22-001 | Port Traffic Signal: refurbish mast and replace control cabinet | £3,250 | £1,500 |
| IMP-22-002 | Cargo stage works (following relocation of FLQ): To include works to crane removal, resurfacing, fencing, benches) | £51,000 | Await Peninsular Development |
| IMP-22-003 | Provision of local traffic service and weather station | £25,000 | £24,500 |

| | | | |
|------------|---|-----------------|----------------|
| IMP-22-004 | New oil spill provisions | £10,000 | - |
| IMP-22-005 | Replace Pleasure Pier railings | £30,000 | Await survey |
| IMP-22-006 | Works to Pleasure Pier Buildings | £20,000 | £5,000 |
| | Works to be funded from revenue budgets | £139,250 | £31,000 |
| IMP-22-007 | Maintenance dredging | £50,000 | - |
| IMP-22-008 | Pontoon replacement for visiting vessels No 4 berth - Custom House Quay | £550,000 | - |
| | Works to be funded from Harbour Reserves | £600,000 | £0 |
| | TOTAL | £739,250 | £31,000 |
| IMP-22-009 | Whaley Boat Package (To be funded from Capital Receipt reserves) | | £8,000 |
| IMP-22-010 | Electric/lighting installation - CHQ Commercial Berth. Funding £5,190 | | £1,730 |

Maritime and Local Events

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

- Weymouth Firework displays.
- Various sailing competitions
- The Dorset Seafood Festival – SeaFeast
- Weymouth Angling Centre competition
- Reel Master – Saltwater Predator Angling Show and Competition