

Weymouth Harbour Report

Harbours Committee
8th December 2022



Dave Brown
Assistant Harbour Master Weymouth

Claire Connolly
Weymouth Harbour Business Manager

Weymouth harbour statistics as of end of October 2022

	2019/20*	2020/21*	2021/22*	2022/23
Number of marina berths let (out of 402)	254	261	313	367
Number of commercial berths let (out of 109)	83	84	87	83
Income visiting leisure craft (£)	£129,483	£50,602	£136,503	£149,872
Slipway & PWC income (£)	£9,113	£22,303	£19,526	£24,527
Number of bridge lifts	1,105	835	1,176	1,102
Number of vessels transiting bridge	6,026	5,958	6,731	5,703
Number commercial visiting fishing vessels	209	225	110	41
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 overall visitor numbers are 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:

The contract with Marico Marine for the supply of Designated Person services to the harbour finished at the end of September. We now have a new three-year contract with ABPmer to provide this service. James Hannon – Associate Maritime Consultant at ABP who has extensive experience in port marine safety will be Dorset Council harbours designated person.

Operations

- **Town bridge repairs** are now in full swing and progressing well. The works are on time, dry weather conditions are needed to lay the asphalt, but it is anticipated that works should be completed by the 25th November 2022 a little ahead of schedule.

Whilst the works continue on the bridge, lifts are limited to three per day Monday to Friday 08:00 / 12:00 / 18:00 the midday lift is a single leaf lift. Weekend bridge lifts are all operating as normal. For all bridge lifts, booking must be received by 16:00hr the day before. Due to the change in scheduled lifting times, it has been necessary to temporarily remove the option to book bridge lifts online.

- **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.
- **The Port Local Traffic 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 has now been embedded onto our website.
 - Updated digital VHF equipment.
 - Updated VHF aerial equipment.

Open Port Duty:

- Port Waste Management Plan has been reviewed and approved by the Maritime Coastguard Agency and will run until 2025.
- Oil Spill Response Tier 2 contract was due for renewal in December 2022. Quotes were sought and after comparing annual and Incident Management Exercise costs, Adler & Allan have been chosen to continue gold level service.

Staff Training and Competency:

- 1x Oil Spill 2P Pollution course
- 1x Oil Spill 4P Management pollution course
- 2 x commercial endorsement on powerboat licence

- The process of appointing a Harbour Master for Weymouth is in progress.

- Recently appointed Assistant Harbour Master Matt Brown has resigned from his post. Progress to find his replacement is underway and interviews have taken place.

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:

- **The Sea Hives** (4 in number) were installed on the northern side of the Pleasure Pier and are monitored by the harbour team and SeaHives Ltd. They are well inhabited, encouraging sea-life to that area of the harbour (see photos below)

The chains that secure them seem to be wearing at a faster rate than first thought which has resulted in one being re-sited and another one laying on the seabed, secured to the pier. This isn't unexpected as it was an experimental project, we are working with Seahives limited to find a solution to refixing them.

Educational presentations to local schools have taken place with funding secured to deliver more.

- **Pleasure Pier** enhancements, Claire Nutall Art was awarded the contract to paint a mural at Building N, the design complements the Seahive installation and brightens up the area. With funding and sponsorship from partners, benches have been purchased and information boards are being designed to promote the Seahive installation. The information boards will be a combination of text and images from local primary schools that have been provided as part of a competition. The harbour has allocated funds in the in-year asset plan to replace the railings. We are in the process of obtaining quotes for this.



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; these can be seen the legal distance being (Pleasure Pier 6 mile) and (Stone Pier 9 mile)

The Stone Pier light had a failure. A temporary light was fitted whilst contractors source a replacement due at the end of month. The temporary light on the stone pier has a distance of 5 miles. The light failure was reported to Trinity Lighthouse.

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.

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

Surveys

- The harbour team have assisted the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk management Team and Brunel to carry out surveys of the harbour walls and Pleasure Pier, further information will be given when the reports are received.
- The re-scheduled works to the railway lines in the Loop car park on Commercial Road is now complete with all trip hazards being rectified.

Marinas

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

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

Peninsula Development

- There are ongoing talks with the new principal contractor Knights Brown to complete the public realm improvements and commercial area works. Two site visits have recently been conducted and the harbour team are working towards clearing the site in advance of the contractors getting on site, which is imminent.

Pleasure Pier

- 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 to give formal advice on future works to the Pleasure Pier including the railings. There has since been a meeting about the way forward with the repair works and it was agreed that the work on improving the railings would be a priority and there will be a condition survey of the joining wall F1 before a full commitment on how to proceed with the underside repairs.

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 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. Intermarine have been awarded the contract and plan to be on site March /April 2023.

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 Peninsula 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	£30,000
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:

- 5th November - Weymouth Fireworks and fire on the beach
- 25th December - Christmas day swim