

Port Marine Safety Code

Dorset Council Harbours Marine Safety Plan

2025 – 2028



Monitoring & Review - September 2025

Introduction

Dorset Council is the Statutory Harbour Authority for the Local Authority Harbours at:

- Bridport (West Bay)
- Lyme Regis
- Weymouth

For Dorset Council the safety and security of its Harbour activities is paramount to ensure a safe environment for all those who use, work, operate or visit. It is committed to meeting the requirements of the Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC) which requires the Harbour Authority Duty Holder to publish a Marine Safety Plan.

Each Harbour maintains an Operations Plan and a Marine Safety Management System which complement this Marine Safety Plan. These can be found at:

[Bridport Harbour Operations and Marine Safety Management System](#)

[Lyme Regis Operations Plan and Marine Safety Management System](#)

[Weymouth Harbour Operations Plan and Marine Safety Management System](#)

The Marine Safety Plan is in place to ensure safe and effective Safety Management Systems for the regulation of marine operations within Dorset Council Harbours. The plan provides the framework to monitor, improve and develop our safety and environmental performance. This is based around the agreed objectives set out below.

Policy

Dorset Council is committed to the safety of its Harbour Operations and provision of a safe Harbour Environment. All policies will comply with the 1974 Health and Safety at Work Act and the Port Marine Safety Code and the Council will:

- Carry out all harbour and associated marine operations in a manner which protects the safety and health of harbour users, the general public, employees and others with business in Harbour areas and which minimises adverse effects on the environment and the community.
- Undertake regular consultation with stakeholders through consultative groups established for each harbour and wider stakeholder consultation on significant programmes and projects.
- Ensure Harbour investment is financially sustainable.

Dorset Council's wider Health Safety and Environmental Policies can be found at:

[Dorset Council Health and Safety Policy](#)

[Dorset Council Protecting our Natural Environment](#)

[Dorset Council Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy](#)

Specific Navigation Policies, Procedures, Notices and Directions can be found at:

- [Bridport Harbour](#)
- [Lyme Regis Harbour](#)
- [Weymouth Harbour](#)

Under **Navigation** and/or **Resources**.

Ownership and Review

Dorset Council has appointed the Cabinet Member for Place Services, Cllr Jon Andrews, as the Duty Holder. This Marine Safety Plan will be owned by the Duty Holder supported by a Designated Person with advice on its content being provided by the Harbours Advisory Committee.

The Harbours Advisory Committee meets quarterly to review Harbours performance. The committee will be responsible for receiving reports of progress against the plan and ensuring that the objectives remain relevant and in collaboration with Dorset Council Cabinet, adequately resourced.

The Marine Safety Plan will be reviewed at least annually to record status and progress against the plan and refreshed as objectives are met, or circumstances change. At 3-year intervals, the plan will be fully reviewed and republished.

Plan and Objectives

No.	Objective	Action Owner	By When	Comment
1	To complete Review of Progress and report to the Harbours Advisory Committee and Duty Holder annually	HM	Annually on publication	
2	Harbours Advisory Committee and Duty Holder to be Aware of top Navigational Risks	HM	Annually	Report top 5 navigational risks as part of the SMS Review.
3	Review the Safety Management System Risks and Procedures annually or after every accident/incident	HM	Annually. Accidents and incidents to be reported quarterly	Accidents and incidents to be reported quarterly to the Duty Holder and immediately for significant events. There should be ongoing checks for trends and learning points.
4	Review of Bridport Competent Harbour Authority Status	HM	Ongoing. Awaiting HRO sign off by MMO	Review completed in September 2023. Awaiting conclusion of HRO and creation of General Directions prior to final removal of Pilotage service.
5	Review General Directions Bridport and Lyme Harbours	HM	-	Will start when HROs come into effect at Bridport and Lyme Regis Harbours. HROs currently with MMO following successful conclusion of consultation.
6	Review of latest DP Audit recommendations (if any)	HM	As appropriate	Added to Safety Plan March 2024. Following an audit by the Designated Person, any recommendations made will be presented to the Committee. Results from audit of Weymouth presented to Committee in September 2024.
7	Maintain an independent DP Audit Programme	HM	Annually	Lyme Regis – 25 th March 2025 Bridport – 2026 Weymouth – 2027 Lyme Regis – 2028 Bridport – 2029
8	Implement accident and incident trend reporting system with KPIs for report to Duty Holder and Harbours Advisory Committee	HM	June 2025	Review and adoption of revised Incident Reporting System complete in Weymouth February 2025. System to be adopted by Bridport & Lyme Regis. Analysis of 2024/25 incidents to be presented at June HAC.