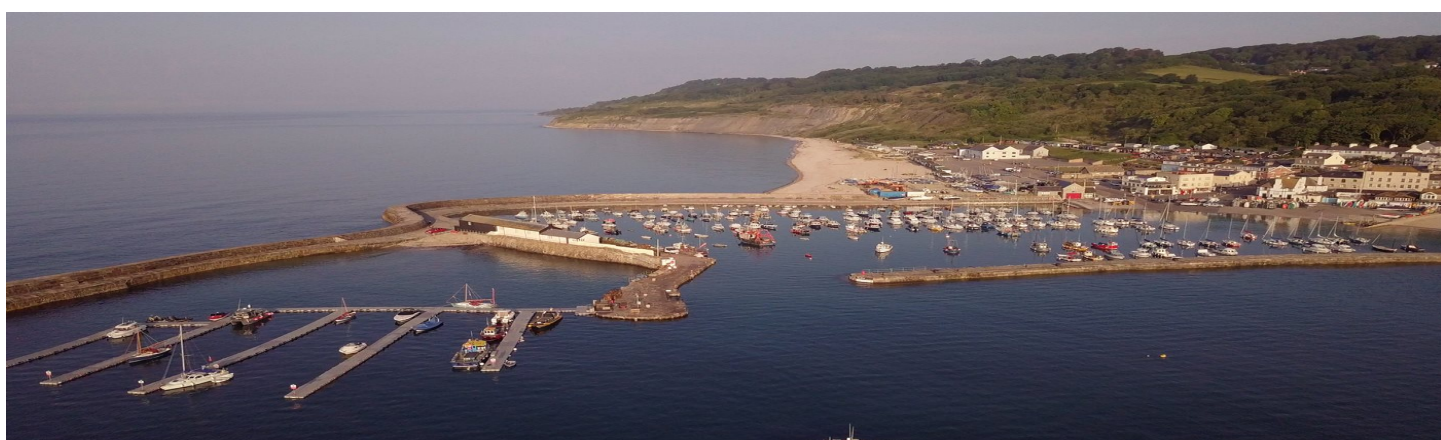


Bridport (West Bay) & Lyme Regis Harbours Report

Harbours Advisory Committee
4th March 2026



James Radcliffe

Bridport (West Bay) and Lyme Regis Harbour Master

Harbour Statistics Report

1. Bridport's performance remains broadly comparable to this time last year in terms of season tickets and visiting boat nights. There has been an increase in single launches, reflecting higher day-use activity. Shop income remains in line with last year, while diving air fills are slightly lower, which is consistent with the current weather patterns affecting diving conditions.

2. At Lyme Regis, the increase in season ticket sales compared with last year has been offset by a reduction in day launches, resulting in a broadly balanced overall activity level. Visiting boat nights have performed well, showing strong demand from the visiting fleet. Quay-side parking continues to perform exceptionally strongly, already exceeding last year's full-year total, and the shop is also trading well, contributing positively to overall income.

3. Relinquishments

At Bridport, 11 moorings have been relinquished, with 6 new offers accepted.

At Lyme Regis, 23 moorings have been relinquished, including 5 removed due to non-use and therefore not meeting harbour criteria. A total of 15 new mooring offers have been accepted.

4. Mooring Occupancy:

Bridport: Mooring occupancy is 68% for private moorings and 14% for commercial moorings.

Lyme Regis: Mooring occupancy is 74% for private moorings and 62% for commercial moorings.

Bridport Harbour Statistics as of 1 February 2026

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2024/25 (Feb 25)	2025/26 (Feb 26)	Against Previous Year Profile
Season Tickets	85	82	85	66	66	69	4.5%
Single Launches	525	489	404	318	318	371	16.6%
Visiting Boats Nights	167	157	163	160	160	150	-6.2%
Boat Lifts	£9,033	£11,098	£7,785	£9,285	£6,765	£9,043	33%
Quay Side Parking	£9,763	£8,478	£10,024	£13,795	£13,039	£11,383	-12.7%
Shop	£37,799	£26,278	£17,740	£17,764	£15,404	£16,427	6.6%
Diving Air Fills	£14,134	£28,239	£23,134	£27,462	£25,518	£22,731	-10.9%
Waiting List – Leisure	37	17	9	10	10	5	-50%
Commercial	6	6	7	6	6	6	0%
Leisure Moorings (out of 137)	124	124	110	95	95	94	-2.0%
Commercial Moorings (out of 26)	26	23	21	12	12	12	0%

Lyme Regis Harbour Statistics as of 1 February 2026

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2024/25 (Feb 25)	2025/26 (Feb 26)	Against Previous Year Profile
Season Tickets	54	61	78	51	51	78	53%
Single Launches	213	211	159	181	181	160	-11.6%
Visiting Boats Nights	185	375	313	168	168	199	18%
Boat Lifts	£7,450	£14,722	£11,341	£12,375	£11,273	£11,221	-0.45%
Quay Side Parking	£4,828	£15,535	£21,541	£61,560	£21,058	£62,709	198%
Shop (New July 2021)		£6,626	£11,772	£10,825	£8,417	£10,156	20%
Waiting List – Leisure	24	32	14	13	13	10	-23%
Commercial	11	11	09	11	11	12	9%
Leisure Moorings (out of 209)	193	195	158	140	140	156	11%
Commercial Moorings (out of 35)	34	35	30	30	30	22	-26%

Staff Training and Competency

Staff Update

We are saying goodbye to Harry Cornwell, who has decided to put his apprenticeship training to good use by travelling abroad to work on vessels. We wish him well as he takes this next step in his maritime career.

In addition, Harri Emery has reduced her working hours in order to begin a 40-week boat-building course at the Boat Building Academy in Lyme Regis. This is a great development opportunity for her, and we look forward to seeing the skills she brings back to the team.

With these staffing changes, we are actively recruiting for new team members to ensure we maintain full operational capacity across both harbours as we enter the busy season.

Planned Courses

- MCA Beach Master's Course

Harbour Consultative Group (HCG)

Both HCG groups met beginning of February

Harbour Revision Order (HRO)

The Bridport and Lyme Regis 2026 Harbour Revision Order was laid in Parliament on 26th January and will come into force on 20th February.

Harbour Works

Fisheries and Seafood Scheme (FaSS) Funding

Both harbours have secured funding through the Fisheries and Seafood Scheme (FaSS) to support key equipment replacements. The scheme will fund 75% of the total project costs, which are:

- *Bridport* – Total project cost: £78,421
75% grant value: £58,815.75
- *Lyme Regis* – Total project cost: £9,850
75% grant value: £7,387.50

These grant amounts will be claimed upon completion of the projects, supporting the replacement of the quayside davits at Bridport and the fishermen's crane at Lyme Regis.

Bridport Harbour

Flood Barrier Installation

On 8th December, harbour staff, working alongside our colleagues in FCERM, installed the flood barriers, which resulted in the closure of the esplanade to traffic. This action was carried out in accordance with the trigger levels set by the Environment Agency.

The below photos show the barriers being collected and installed on the Esplanade.





Storm Impact – Bridport

Storm Impact and Shingle Management

Recent south-easterly storms have driven an exceptional volume of shingle onto East Beach, levels not seen in over 20 years. This sudden accumulation has overwhelmed the harbour entrance, with an estimated 10,000 tonnes of material deposited within the harbour.

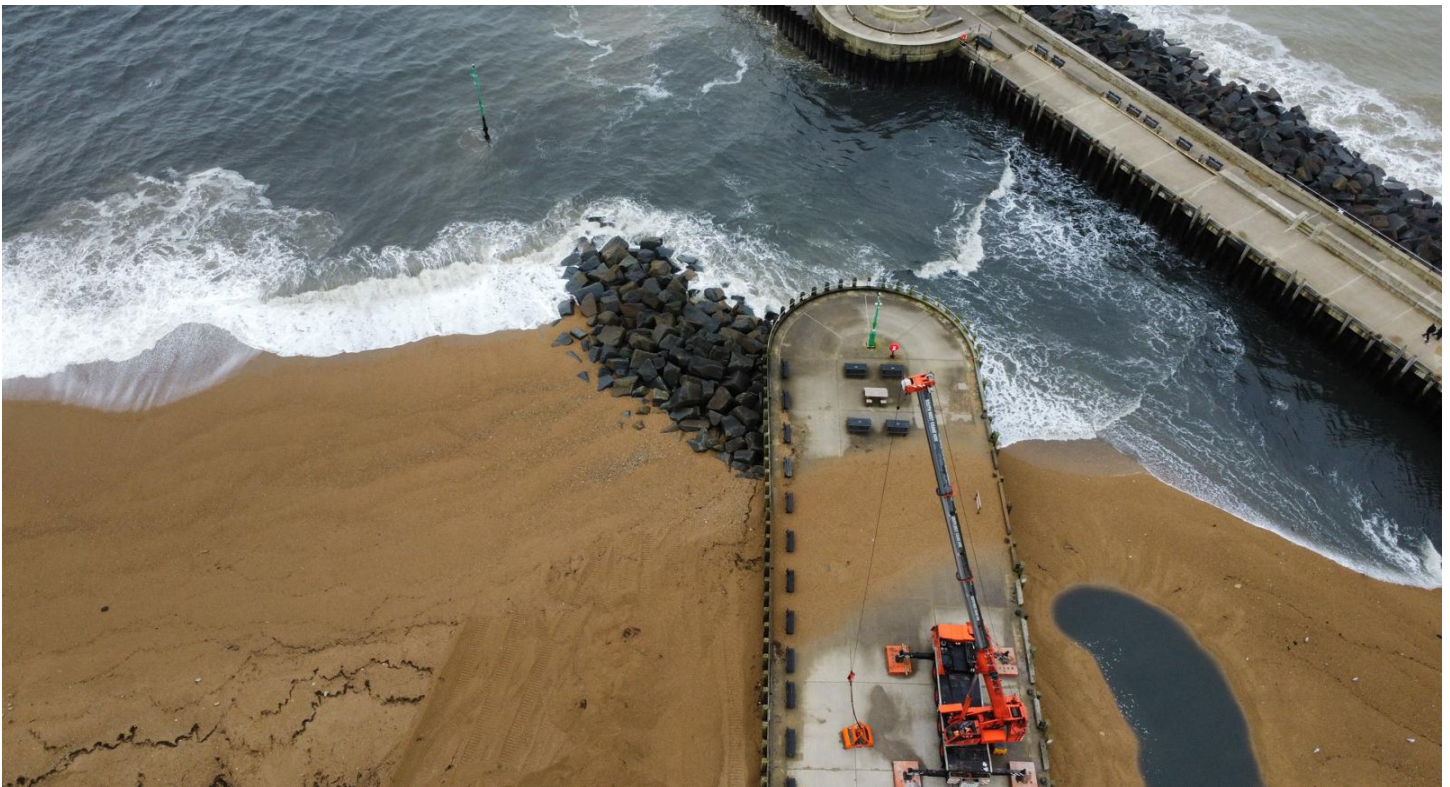
To maintain access and restore safe operations, the team has been using an 80-tonne crane and grab to remove shingle and return it to East Beach. These works are being carried out in coordination with the Environment Agency, who are undertaking parallel beach replenishment operations along the frontage.

In addition, the Bridport Harbour team will continue its routine use of the sluice gates to flush accumulated sediment from the harbour system. This activity is typically undertaken on evening low tides, as staff are generally working within the harbour on ground chains during daytime spring tides, making evening sluicing the safest and most practical operational window.

The picture below shows the significant shingle build-up at the harbour entrance before removal operations commenced.



The next photo shows how far the beach has migrated seaward, now extending approximately 40–50 metres further out than before the storms. The beach line has advanced beyond the end of the rock groyne, clearly illustrating the scale of movement.



We will be using an excavator to recover material from the lower section of the beach in an effort to reduce the build-up of sand and shingle. The recovered material will then be utilised by the Environment Agency as part of their ongoing sea defence replenishment works, ensuring it is put to beneficial use while helping maintain beach and harbour access.

Storm Impact – Lyme Regis

Following the recent storms at Lyme Regis, hundreds of tonnes of pebble were washed off Monmouth Beach and deposited across the Cobb Causeway, with additional material carried into the harbour. This required contractors to be brought in to remove the accumulated shingle and restore safe access.





Separately, the extended platform became undermined after beach levels dropped significantly. A swift repair was completed within the same footprint to prevent further erosion and additional undermining of the structure.



Dredging

Water Injection Dredging (WID)

Following the initial WID trials carried out in November, we reviewed the early results and concluded that the severe weather conditions at the time did not give the method a fair opportunity to demonstrate its effectiveness. To obtain a clearer assessment, we commissioned further trials with a different contractor.

These additional trials have produced encouraging early results, and the east basin has now returned to previously dredged levels, although a formal survey is still pending to confirm this.

From 16th February, we will continue WID trials in the outer harbour to build a more comprehensive understanding of overall performance and inform future dredging strategy.

Accidents and Incidents / PMSC Issues

A commercial fishing vessel appears to have settled into a depression it had created in the seabed and subsequently listed too far to one side, preventing it from refloating on the rising tide after low water. The vessel was successfully refloated later the same day, after which it was lifted out of the harbour and removed from the site





Aids to Navigation

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

We wish to advise you that the local aids to navigation under the management of Dorset Council at Bridport were inspected on 26/01/2026 by an Officer of Trinity House and were found to be in good and efficient order, except for the following:

Place	AtoN No	Aid To Navigation	Position	Aid Type	Defect
P0952	N08244	Black Ledge Rock Groyne	50° 42.450' N 002° 46.300' W	Unlighted Beacon	Requires Painting

We plan to address and complete the required painting works as soon as weather conditions allow.

We are pleased to advise you that the local aids to navigation under the management of Dorset Council at Lyme Regis were inspected on 27/01/2026 by an Officer of Trinity House and found to be in good and efficient order.

Maritime and Local Events

A full list of a events can be seen below with more event information on our harbour websites.

Bridport

- West Bay Days Pirates Weekend 23rd & 24th May 2026
- WBSAC 18 July 2026 Open Boat Weekend
- OCRDA Race 25 July 2026
- West Bay Days West Bay Weekend 1st & 2nd August 2026
- Gig Club Regatta 8th August 2026
- Earth my Earth art project 13 September 2026
- West Bay Days Bonfire by the Beach 31st October 2026

Lyme Regis

- Bridgewater Harleys Group 2nd May 2026
- RNLI Blessing of the boats 10th May 2026
- LRGC Masters regatta 16th & 17th May 2026
- Lyme Regis Sailing Club (LRSC) Fireballs Open 21st June 2026
- LRSC Youth Regatta 11th July 2026
- LRSC Regatta 1st & 2nd August 2026
- Lyme Splash Water Polo 1st & 2nd August 2026
- Lifeboat week 15th – 23rd August 2026
- Lyme Splash 6th September 2026