

Present

Tim Day	TD	Chair and Clubs of Weymouth Representative
Ed Carter	EC	Weymouth Harbour Master
Jamie Pullin	JP	Charter Boats Representative and Vice Chair
Cllr Rob Hughes	RH	Harbours Advisory Committee Chair
Will Holmes	WH	Weymouth Beach / Leisure Users Representative
Mary Harris	MH	Weymouth Harbour Watch and Harbour Traders Representative
Simon Kershaw	SK	RNLI Representative
Cllr Kate Wheller	KW	Weymouth Town Council
Sara Cornick	SC	Training, Education & Schools Representative
Dan Bell	DB	Commercial Passenger Carrying Vessels Representative
Alan Hall	AH	Boat Owners Inner Harbour Representative
Sarah Johnston	SJ	Minute Taker

1. INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

TD opened the meeting and members of the group introduced themselves.

Apologies for absence were received from Adrian Best, Paul Swain, Amanda Anderson and Andy Alcock

Welcomed Sara Cornick now representing Training & Educational Schools as Callum Seggie's tenure had ended.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

TD asked if anyone had any points from the previous minutes. No objections raised; minutes deemed accepted.

4. HARBOUR MASTER UPDATE

1. Harbour Use

The Harbour Master reported that marina occupancy remains below historic peak-season levels, reaching approximately 88% during August. This reflects wider trends across the recreational boating sector, with an increasing number of customers opting for shorter-term berthing arrangements rather than traditional annual contracts. Demand for larger vessel berths remains positive.

To help increase occupancy and visitor numbers, a targeted marketing campaign will be explored over the winter period, including advertising through boating publications and social media channels.

Visitor income was initially below the previous year's levels but recovered following a strong August and is now exceeding 2024 figures. Revenue from the slipway and personal watercraft operations has increased significantly, reflecting growth in day boat users and trailer-launched vessels. Bridge lifts and vessel transits have both increased, with transits rising by almost 12%.

The Harbour Master noted that periods of strong easterly winds have continued to affect harbour operations and visitor numbers throughout the season.

The return of the Seafood Festival to the harbour area was reported as a major success, generating significant visitor activity. Pedestrian counter data was collected as part of the Weymouth Quay Generation Project and will be reviewed alongside event debrief information. The Artisan Markets were also well attended, with five events already scheduled for next year. The new quay space adjacent to the Fish Landing Quay is proving to be a valuable events area and opportunities for additional events will be explored.

2. Incidents and Enforcement

Since the previous meeting, 64 incidents have been recorded. The majority related to vessel operations, including speeding and wash offences, bridge red-light infringements, mechanical failures and minor collisions.

Sixteen incidents involving crime, theft and antisocial behaviour were recorded, excluding the ongoing youth-related antisocial behaviour incidents that are monitored separately. Two minor personal injury incidents were recorded, together with one fatality. A harbour safety review is underway pending the Coroner's findings.

Six minor pollution incidents were reported, primarily linked to vessel operations and mechanical issues. None required activation of the Oil Spill Management Plan and all were resolved without significant environmental impact.

Two prosecutions relating to offences committed in 2025 are currently progressing through the courts, with several further investigations underway. The Harbour Authority remains committed to proportionate enforcement where necessary to protect harbour users and maintain safety.

Youth-related antisocial behaviour remains a significant operational challenge during the summer season, particularly involving swimming and jumping from harbour infrastructure within operational areas. The Harbour Authority continues to work closely with Dorset Police, Community Safety Accreditation Scheme officers, CCTV operators, youth services and Weymouth Town Council. The Harbour's internal Antisocial Behaviour Management Plan has been expanded to cover the entire harbour area and all harbour staff are now equipped with body-worn cameras.

3. Operations

Only a small number of minor pollution incidents have occurred during the reporting period. Where sources have been identified, harbour staff have engaged directly with vessel owners to ensure awareness of environmental responsibilities and regulatory requirements.

The annual Trinity House inspection of local aids to navigation was completed successfully, with all records and arrangements found to be in good order and no actions required.

4. Other Harbour Updates

Weymouth Harbour has been approved as an authorised landing port for Atlantic bluefin tuna, following the expansion of the UK's commercial bluefin tuna fishery. Several tuna have already been landed locally during the 2026 season. The Harbour Authority will continue to monitor any potential economic benefits arising from the fishery.

Plans are progressing for a multi-agency emergency response exercise involving Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service, HM Coastguard and other partner organisations. The exercise will simulate a vessel fire within the harbour environment and will test command, communication, casualty management and environmental response arrangements.

Members were also updated on Dorset Council's ongoing parking review. The Harbour Authority will ensure that the Consultative Group's views are fed into the review process, particularly regarding the specific parking challenges faced in Weymouth.

5. Harbour Works

The Cargo Stage railings were completed ahead of the Seafood Festival. Resurfacing works have been delayed until October to avoid disruption to summer events. Additional improvements, including enhanced planting and drainage modifications, are planned.

Refurbishment of the Stone Pier railings has been completed to a high standard, with further improvement works planned for the tower and surrounding infrastructure.

A comprehensive structural survey of the Sand Jetty has confirmed that the structure remains in good condition, with no restrictions recommended on its current use. Replacement of deteriorated timber fendering remains a priority and will be progressed alongside fender replacement works at Custom House Quay.

Minor remedial works have been completed as part of the Weymouth Quay Generation Project, including repairs to concrete surfaces, drainage issues and a

collapsed manhole. However, persistent water ingress issues within several storage and operational facilities remain unresolved and further action is being pursued under warranty arrangements.

Works at Pavilion Car Park (Walls F&G) are progressing well and sections of the car park are expected to reopen as works are completed.

Progress continues on the harbour waste pump-out facility, although installation has been delayed by regulatory approvals and design requirements. Final approvals are awaited, with installation planned for the coming winter.

6. Upcoming Events

Members noted the forthcoming events programme, including:

- RYA IQ Foil World Championships (4 to 12 September)
- Waverley visits (3 to 4, 9 and 13 September)
- Ironman Weymouth (20 September)
- Beach Motocross (10 to 11 October)

Concerns were raised regarding safe vessel transit routes during the RYA IQ Foil World Championships. The Harbour Master agreed to discuss the matter with Portland Port and the Weymouth and Portland Sailing Academy.

No pilotage acts have taken place during the reporting period.

6. CONSULTATIVE GROUP UPDATE

TA - RNLI

- **Ernest and Mabel** retirement has been delayed from June to **November** due to postponed mechanic training requirements.
- A replacement **Severn-class lifeboat** will arrive from Teignmouth, fitted with different MTU engines.
- Station refurbishment contractor appointed.
 - Works due to commence **7 September**.
 - Estimated duration: **6 months** (completion expected February).
 - Scaffolding requirements and timelines to be confirmed once contractor mobilisation begins.
- **Lifeboat Week** was considered successful, with improved signage and good community support.

RNLI Operations Report (2026)

January to May

- 44 taskings.
- 37 launches:
 - 11 All-Weather Lifeboat (ALB)
 - 26 Inshore Lifeboat (ILB)

June to Date

- 32 taskings.

- 30 launches:
 - 9 ALB
 - 21 ILB

Year to Date

- 76 taskings.
- 65 launches:
 - 20 ALB launches
 - 45 ILB launches
- Activity remains on track with the station's expected annual workload of approximately 100 launches.

PS – Premier Marina Weymouth

- Transfer to **Premier Marinas Ltd** completed.
- Some local signage still requires updating.
- Visitor numbers increasing, partly due to Premier Marina customer benefits across the marina network.
- Annual berth occupancy slightly down due to economic conditions.
- Optimism for increased occupancy next season.

DB – Commercial Passenger Carrying Vessels – Nothing to report.

AA/AT - Dorset Police

- Marine activities currently low
- Posters supplied advertising Project Kraken – to be provided to local businesses to promote as well.
- One incident, where youths had accessed the NQ pontoon via the harbour, anticlimbing paint has now been deployed.

MH - Harbour Traders Association/Harbour Watch

- Youths attempted to force entry into a Trinity Street property.
- Concern raised regarding a TikTok trend involving entering vacant buildings.
- Harbour Watch membership now stands at **71 members**.
- Harbour businesses encouraged to display Harbour Watch and Project Kraken information. **SJ** to provide posters for distribution.

JP - Charter Boats

- Charter fleet remains very busy during the summer season.
- Fisheries Minister visited Weymouth Harbour.
- Meeting broadly positive, although organisation and communication around the visit were criticised. **KW** to feed back.

TD - Clubs of Weymouth

- There are a couple of events but they are currently just in the planning stage -TBC.
- Discussion regarding hosepipe ban exemptions. Confirmation sought and confirmed that most boat-related cleaning and maintenance activities appear exempt, including:
 - Health and safety requirements.

- Business/professional use.
- Engine flushing.
- Prevention of invasive species spread.
- Harbour Office to circulate relevant exemption guidance.

KW – Weymouth Town Council – Nothing to report

BH - Weymouth Beach / Resort Leisure Users

- Exceptionally busy summer season reported.
- Fireworks events continue to be popular.
- Council preparing a proposal to introduce:
 - Pedalos
 - Additional watercraft activities
 - Other visitor attractions for next season
- No further shark incidents reported.

SC - Training, Education & Schools

IQ Foil Event (12 September)

- Significant planning and safety preparations underway.
- Alpha Pontoon and Fuel Pontoon allocated for event use.
- Fuel Pontoon closed on event day.
- Try-sailing sessions to operate from Sea Cadet moorings.
- Professional foiling demonstrations planned under strict risk controls.
- Local Notice to Mariners to be issued.

RH - Harbours Advisory Committee Chair

- Councillor **John Andrews** stepped down as Harbour Portfolio Holder.
- **Councillor Jack Jeans** appointed as new Cabinet Member responsible for Harbours.
- Interim Chair appointment announced for the Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA).

AH - Boat Owners Inner Harbour

- Harbour berth holders are encouraged to join the Facebook communication group, currently with **224 members**.
- Request made to improve communication channels through notices at gatehouses.

7. AGENDA ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

- **AH** – Items raised by NQ & WW Rd pontoon berth-holders:
 1. When are shower facilities going to be installed on the WWR pontoons? Many berth holders have suggested that they were promised new facilities when they initially obtained their berths. Can berth holders have an update? **EC** confirmed that funding remains identified within the Harbour Business Plan. Wider North Quay and Westwey development plans have delayed implementation. Pontoon replacement programme now moving forward with consideration being given to:
 - Floating toilet and shower facilities.
 - Improved marina layout.
 - Better parking provision.
 - Potential linking of Westwey and North Quay marinas.

And interim upgrades planned for existing shower facilities.

2. Can carparking be made available for WWR pontoon berth holders? Berth holders have suggested the former tyre company's site along WW Road is council owned. Can this be opened up for the use of berth holders? See above response.
3. Lighting on the WWR pontoons - berth holders have concerns for safety due to what they consider to be a poor level of lighting along the pontoons. Can the lighting be improved? To be reviewed as remedial work has been carried out recently. **EC** and **AH** to meet to review dark spots on the pontoons.
4. The toilets on the WWR pontoons have often been unavailable due to them not being emptied regularly enough. Can the toilets be emptied more frequently so they remain usable by berth holders? Additional emptying has been laid on for busy weekends ie – upcoming Bank Holiday. Will continue to monitor them. Also see above response to point 1.
5. Jet skis' speed within the harbour limits - a number of berth holders have complained about the speed and inconsiderate driving of some jet skis. These appear to be privately owned skis NOT those operated by a local hire company. Many of the skis appear to come down through the Inner Harbour, possibly from the slipway.
6. Pot buoys - berth holders have asked whether there are any regulations concerning the colour of pot buoys. Some buoys that are laid within the harbour limits are black or a neutral colour which make them difficult to see in low light levels or rough conditions. **RH** confirmed that the guidance is it should be fluorescent, orange or dayglow colour. They absolutely should be marked up with a major one with the identity of the vessel that has deployed them. **EC** confirmed that fishing gear within 500 metres of the harbour entrance is prohibited and any gear found within restricted areas is removed. Will contact Portland regarding the area beyond the Stone Pier. **EC** and **RH** to raise item with Fisheries in next meeting. **SK** advised that the Cruising Association have a campaign to log pot markers. WWW.THECA.ORG.UK
- **DB** – PWC concerns with general users and safety policy. **EC** confirmed that the HA actively follows user education and engagement when reports are received of dangerous behaviour within the harbour and bay area. All PWC launches require DataTag registration and permits to operate. Members are encouraged to report vessel DataTags whenever possible. And proposed actions are to have additional speed limit signage, improved information packs for visitors and for the group to hold a review of potential requirement for PWC competency certification within the Harbours General Directions.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- **DB** – asked about the water quality report. **WH** confirmed that it is updated each week and is currently awaiting the latest report.
- **JP** – raised access issues to the Ice Store by the Slipway. **EC** confirmed will review cross hatch markings on concrete in front of it and look to ensure they are clearly visible.

8. DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Harbour Consultative Group

- 11 November 2026
- 10 February 2027

Harbours Advisory Committee

- 23 September 2026
- 02 December 2026
- 03 March 2027