

Bridport (West Bay) & Lyme Regis Harbours Report

Harbours Advisory Committee
23 September 2026



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Bridport (West Bay) and Lyme Regis Harbour Master

Harbour Statistics Report

Bridport Harbour

Season ticket numbers at Bridport appear lower than the previous year. However, this is principally due to changes in the charging structure, whereby increased storage fees now include a season ticket for slipway use. Demand for storage remains strong, with the boat park currently at full capacity and additional storage space being utilised on the pier.

Single launch numbers are slightly lower than last year. This can also be attributed, in part, to the revised storage arrangements, as some users who previously paid for individual launches are now covered by the season ticket included within their storage agreement.

Boat lift activity remains broadly comparable with the previous year, while quayside parking income is ahead of the same period last year.

Retail sales within the harbour shop have performed particularly well and have already exceeded last year's total income. Diving air fills are also ahead of the same period last year and are expected to surpass last year's overall figures, subject to favourable weather conditions for the remainder of the season.

Lyme Regis Harbour

Season ticket numbers are slightly lower than last year for reasons similar to those experienced at Bridport, with changes to charging structures influencing the figures.

Single launch activity has increased compared with the same period last year, while visiting vessel overnight stays remain broadly comparable. Quayside parking income currently appears lower than last year; however, once August income has been processed and included, figures are expected to be broadly in line with the previous year's performance.

As with Bridport, retail sales within the Lyme Regis harbour shop have performed strongly and have already exceeded total sales achieved during the previous year.

Mooring Occupancy

Bridport: Mooring occupancy is 78% for private moorings and 58% for commercial moorings.

Lyme Regis: Mooring occupancy is 81% for private moorings and 69% for commercial moorings.

Weather Impact

Weather conditions throughout the season have generally been favourable, with extended periods of settled weather supporting consistent harbour activity across both Bridport and Lyme Regis. Whilst good weather is typically beneficial to harbour operations and associated income streams, experience suggests that prolonged periods of fine weather do not necessarily result in significant peaks in activity. Instead, they tend to generate steady and sustained levels of use.

In contrast, short periods of favourable weather following prolonged unsettled conditions often result in more pronounced increases in harbour activity, as users seek to maximise opportunities on the water. As such, whilst the season has benefitted from generally good weather, activity levels have remained consistently strong rather than experiencing the sharper peaks commonly associated with improvements in weather following poorer conditions.

Bridport Harbour Statistics

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2025/26 (Sept)	2026/27 (Sept)	Against Previous Year Profile
Season Tickets	85	66	69	69	38	-45%
Single Launches	404	318	371	337	281	-16.6%
Visiting Boats Nights	163	160	150	140	102	-6.2%
Boat Lifts	£7,785	£9,285	£9,043	£3,304	£4,364	32%
Quay Side Parking	£10,024	£13,795	£11,383	£8,288	£11,451	38%
Shop	£17,740	£17,764	£16,427	£9,480	£16,514	74%
Diving Air Fills	£23,134	£27,462	£22,731	£11,147	£13,350	20%
Waiting List – Leisure	9	10	5	12	11	-8%
Commercial	7	6	6	8	8	0%
Leisure Moorings (out of 137)	110	95	94	119	112	-6%
Commercial Moorings (out of 26)	21	12	12	18	15	-17%

Lyme Regis Harbour Statistics

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2025/26 (Sept)	2026/27 (Sept)	Against Previous Year Profile
Season Tickets	78	51	78	78	50	-36%
Single Launches	159	181	160	136	153	12.5%
Visiting Boats Nights	313	168	199	186	173	-7%
Boat Lifts	£11,341	£12,375	£11,221	£4,979.60	£6,950.13	40%
Quay Side Parking	£21,541	£61,560	£62,709	£54,193.68	£47,845.24	-12%
Shop	£11,772	£10,825	£10,156	£7,259.43	£10,624.24	47%
Waiting List – Leisure	14	13	10	21	18	-14%
Commercial	09	11	12	09	12	33%
Leisure Moorings (out of 209)	158	140	156	169	174	3%
Commercial Moorings (out of 35)	30	30	22	30	24	-20%

Staff Training and Competency

Staff Update

Sam Harding, Assistant Harbour Master at Lyme Regis, will be leaving the service in October. We thank Sam for his contribution to the harbours and wish him every success in his future career within the Fire Service.

There will also be changes within the seasonal team. Mark Taylor will be leaving to undertake an extended sailing venture over the next five years. Max Collins will be departing at the end of the season to spend the winter abroad, with the intention of returning to the harbour team next year. We thank both for their hard work and commitment during their time with the harbour service.

In light of ongoing uncertainty and the continually evolving nature of services provided across the harbours, the current staffing structure is under review. The objective is to develop a more resilient operating model for 2027, providing greater continuity of service and reducing vulnerability arising from reliance on zero-hours seasonal staff.

Advertisements are currently live for Harbour Assistant positions to ensure sufficient staffing levels are maintained across the harbours throughout the winter

Interviews for the Moorings Officer position are scheduled to take place during the week commencing 7 September 2026, and a verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

Staff Training and Courses

- Iosh Managing Safely
- Telehandler Certificates
- Abrasive wheel
- Slinger/Banksman

Harbour Consultative Group (HCG)

The Harbour Consultative Groups have not met since the last reporting period. The next meetings are scheduled to take place in Lyme Regis on 29 October 2026 and in Bridport on 2 November 2026.

Harbour Works

Black Hut Coffee & Ice Cream – Bridport

As shown in the accompanying photographs, the structure of the Black Hut is now complete. Whilst there were some delays at the start of the project, the new building has been well received within West Bay. Once the power connection has been completed, we will be able to hand over the changing room facilities, which occupy one end of the building, to the local swimming groups for their use.

Recruitment for kiosk staff was intentionally postponed until the building was nearing completion. We now expect to advertise these positions shortly, with the aim of opening the facility as soon as staff have been appointed and the remaining internal fit-out works to the kiosk have been completed.



Anti-Social Behaviour – Bridport

Harbour officers have continued to work closely with Dorset Police to address reports of anti-social behaviour within the harbour area. Concerns have been raised through a number of forums, including the Harbour Consultative Groups and Ward Member meetings.

In response, additional CCTV cameras have been installed to improve coverage of identified problem areas. The footage is being monitored by Dorset Police and will assist in both deterring anti-social behaviour and supporting enforcement action where appropriate.

The situation will continue to be monitored, with harbour officers maintaining regular liaison with Dorset Police and local stakeholders.

Mobile Fuel Service - Bridport

A new mobile fuel service has been introduced at Bridport Harbour, based on the successful service already operating at Lyme Regis. A trailer fitted with petrol and diesel tanks enables fuel to be supplied directly to customers throughout the harbour, providing a flexible and convenient service for both resident vessels and visiting boat users. The new service is expected to improve access to fuel and enhance the facilities available within the harbour.

Dredging – Bridport & Lyme Regis

At Bridport Harbour, officers are working with colleagues in the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) team to secure a cutter suction dredger for March 2027. This will allow sufficient time for dredging operations to be completed ahead of the start of the 2027 season in April.

At Lyme Regis Harbour, a different approach is being explored using mini excavators and dumpers to remove approximately 500m³ of material from the pontoon area and return it to the adjacent beach. This operation would be undertaken separately from the planned beach management works. Discussions are ongoing to confirm the permissions and requirements necessary to undertake the works, with the aim of completing them in early 2027.

Community Engagement

Both harbours attended the Melplash Show, providing an excellent opportunity to promote the services and facilities available at Bridport and Lyme Regis Harbours. The event enabled harbour staff to engage with existing harbour users, meet potential new customers, and showcase a range of harbour merchandise available for purchase. The show proved to be a valuable opportunity to raise the profile of the harbours and strengthen links with the local community.

Aids to Navigation

An inspection by Trinity House was undertaken in August 2026, following which a potential Improvement Notice was issued. All aids to navigation were found to be operational, functioning correctly and maintained in accordance with the required standards. However, an outstanding defect

identified during a previous inspection, relating to repainting works, had not been completed at the time of the inspection. These works have now been scheduled.

The potential Improvement Notice related to the communication of maintenance updates and the timely updating of the Trinity House database, rather than the condition or performance of the aids to navigation themselves. Procedures are being reviewed to ensure that future maintenance activities and inspection outcomes are reported and recorded promptly.

Maritime and Local Events

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

Bridport

- UKWR Waterski Race 16 & 17 May 2026
- West Bay Days Pirates Weekend 23 & 24 May 2026
- WBSAC 18 & 19 July 2026 Open Boat Weekend
- WB River Annual Raft Race 23 July 2026
- OCRDA Race 25 July 2026
- West Bay Days West Bay Weekend 1 & 2 August 2026
- Gig Club Regatta 8 August 2026
- Earth my Earth art project 13 September 2026
- West Bay Days Bonfire by the Beach 31 October 2026

Lyme Regis

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