

PORT MARINE SAFETY CODE UPDATE

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Argyll & Bute Council (A&BC) appointed Marine and Risk Consultants Ltd (Marico Marine) in January 2015 on a three year contract to provide an independent Designated Person (DP) service, as described in the Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC).
- 1.2 The DP has highlighted a need to undertake a number of specified works that have been identified through recent audits. The status of actions arising from the recent audits is provided in the appendix to this report.
- 1.3 A draft Safety Management System (SMS) document has been produced along with Navigation Risk Assessments (NRA's) for all main ports.
- 1.4 Stakeholder meetings have commenced and are currently ongoing. A database using specialist marine software (MarNIS) is being set up for use by key marine staff.
 - 1.4.1 A number of key actions have been identified to ensure that work started with the aid of external specialists is carried on apace.

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2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report follows on from the report on the same subject presented to the Harbour Board in August 2015.
- 2.2 It was explained in the August report that Argyll & Bute Council (A&BC) had appointed Marine and Risk Consultants Ltd (Marico Marine) to provide an independent “Designated Person” (DP) service, as described in the Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC), on a three year contract which will expire on 31 December 2017.
- 2.3 As Members are aware, each harbour authority must appoint a DP to provide independent assurance directly to the “Duty Holder” that the marine Safety Management System (SMS) is working effectively. Their main responsibility is to determine, through assessment and audit, the effectiveness of the Marine SMS in overall compliance with the Code. To ensure compliance with the code, the Council has also employed the services of Fisher Associates and ABP Marine Environmental Research Ltd (ABPmer).

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That Members note this report and, in particular, the planned ‘next steps’ identified in section 5.4 of this report.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Council operates 39 piers and harbours located throughout Argyll and Bute (23 of which are income-generating) together with 4 lifeline ferry services to island communities. Many of these are “Statutory Harbour Authorities” (SHAs), which means that the Council has obligations set out in national legislation (notably the Harbours Act 1964).
- 4.2 All SHAs are subject to the PMSC. It is a statement of best practice for the safety of marine operations (not quay side or land side) within the SHA’s geographic marine limits, and the approaches to these. The Code is not statutory, but it has a relevance and moral force that means it is obligatory.

4.3 Compliance with the Code requires the identification of hazards, assessing of risks with respect to these, and development of measures to address these (these 3 steps are generally termed a “Navigational Risk Assessment” (NRA)). This exercise is used to improve upon the “Safety Management System” (SMS), which then sets out how safe marine operations will be delivered in practice.

5.0 DETAIL

5.1 Audits were carried out by the DP in Rothesay (January) and Oban Harbours (April) together with site inspections of jetties and slipways during April at the following locations:- Oban Times Slip, Port Beag Slip, Crinan Ferry Slips and Crinan Harbour Quay. The findings and actions arising from these audits are attached to the appendix to this report along with their status.

5.2 Fisher Associates and ABP Marine Environmental Research Ltd (ABPmer) has assisted the Council in addressing specific audit-related tasks.

5.3 The following work has now been completed:-

- Both Fisher Associates and ABPmer have worked with ABC Piers and Harbours staff to produce Navigational Risk Assessments (NRAs) for Craignure, Oban North Pier, Dunoon, Port Askaig, Campbeltown and Rothesay.
- A generic Safety Management System (SMS) structure / framework document, for application to all piers and harbours, is being prepared and is currently at draft stage.

5.4 The following work is ongoing:-

- Fisher Associates has organised stakeholder meetings to discuss and develop NRA's. Meetings have now taken place with CalMac at Gourock and at Campbeltown and Rothesay, with further meetings planned for January 2016.
- A database using specialist marine software (MarNIS) is being set up for use by key marine staff. All NRA's will be moved onto the MarNIS database. In future, monthly reports produced by Piers and Harbours staff will be filed on the new system ensuring consistency in reporting.

5.5 The next steps:-

- The next audit to be carried out by the DP will take place at Dunoon Pier in late January / early February 2016.
- Specific SMS appendices for the main harbours will be prepared; these will be based upon risks identified in the NRAs.

- All related documentation will be produced in a form suitable for publication in compliance with the PMSC.
- Once documentation has been produced for the main piers and harbours, a similar exercise will be carried out for the less strategic ports.
- Organise 'User Groups' for all main Piers and Harbours to allow interaction between stakeholders.

6.0 CONCLUSION

6.1 A draft SMS has been completed along with NRA's for all main ports. Stakeholder meetings are ongoing. Actions to address issues raised by the DP in last year's audit are either complete or ongoing – as identified in the attached schedule to this report. A number of further actions have been identified and these will be progressed over forthcoming months with update reports being provided to the Harbour Board.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

7.1	Policy	None directly arising from this report
7.2	Financial	The appointment of Fisher Associates and ABPmer will be met through operational budgets.
7.3	Legal	Any failure to implement the PMSC may have legal consequences in the event that there should be a marine incident.
7.4	HR	None
7.5	Equalities	None
7.6	Risk	The Council is undertaking to carry out actions to minimise risk to Council as a result of the operation of our Ports and Harbours
7.7	Customer Services	Having a completed Port Marine Safety Code in place will assist port customers with the use of our Ports and Harbours and Council staff with their safe operation.

APPENDICES – Port Marine Safety Code – Actions Update

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