

ARGYLL & BUTE COUNCIL MARINE SAFETY PLAN



Introduction

The Ports & Marine Facilities Safety Code (PMSC) sets out the national standard for every aspect of port and marine safety. Its aim is to enhance safety for everyone who works in, or uses ports, harbours, marinas and other marine facilities.

Marine Safety Management System

Argyll & Bute Council achieves compliance with the PMSC through the implementation, compliance, review and monitoring of its Marine Safety Management System (MSMS). The MSMS is comprised of policies, manuals, procedures and reports that seek to enhance safety. As required by the PMSC, Argyll & Bute Council publishes its Marine Safety Plan every three years.

This plan covers the period: 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2026 inclusive.

It confirms Argyll & Bute Council's commitment to undertaking the proper management and regulation of marine operations within the scope of its powers and authority.

Argyll & Bute Council is a Statutory Harbour Authority (SHA) at 8 locations and the marine asset owner at a further 28 facilities.

The SHA locations are:

1. Bruichladdich Pier, by virtue of the 'Islay Piers Order, 1904'.
2. Carradale Harbour, by virtue of the 'Pier and Harbour Orders Confirmation (No 3) Act, 1901'.
3. Campbeltown Harbour, by virtue of 'Campbeltown Harbour Acts and Orders 1846 to 2011'. In addition, the Council is also the Competent Harbour Authority in respect of Pilotage, under the requirements of the Pilotage Act 1987, at Campbeltown Harbour.
4. Craignure Harbour, by virtue of the 'Argyll County Council (Arinagour and Craignure Piers, etc) Order 1961'.
5. Dunoon Harbour, by virtue of 'The Pier and Harbour Orders Confirmation Acts 1895 to 1906'.
6. Oban North & South Pier, by virtue of the 'Oban Pier and Harbour Orders 1862 to 1988'.
7. Port Askaig, by virtue of the 'Port Askaig Acts and Order 1904 to 1975'.
8. Rothesay Harbour, by virtue of the 'Rothesay Harbour Acts and Orders 1831 to 1937'.

Policies

The Council, as Harbour Authority, recognises that it has a reasonable duty of care to those using its ports, harbours and piers; which means the Council has an obligation for safe and efficient use of its marine facilities. The Council recognises that commercial pressures should not undermine the safe provision of marine services and the efficient discharge of its duties as Harbour Authority and Marine Facility owner. To this end, Argyll & Bute Council's Harbour Board has approved a set of policies in support of the management and regulation of marine operations at our facilities which are embedded in the MSMS.

The policies are:

- Marine Conservancy & Hydrographic Policy;
- Navigational Safety, Pilotage & Towage Policy;
- Marine Training Policy;
- Harbour and Piers Use Policy;
- Harbour Consultation Policy;
- Collection of Fees Policy;
- Harbour Enforcement and Prosecution Policy; and
- Moorings Policy.

Standing Objectives

The following 2024 – 2026 objectives support the ongoing improvement plan for Argyll & Bute Council Ports and Harbours. This plan is owned by the Marine Operations Manager, on behalf of the Duty Holder, and aims to address high level improvement targets which will benefit all port and harbour locations and fulfil the requirement of the PMSC for the Duty Holder to maintain a 'Marine Safety Plan'.

Appendix 3

2024 - 2026 Marine Safety Plan

Number	Provision / Activity	Objective	Measure	Year 1 - '24	Year 2 - '25	Year 3 - '26
1	Duty Holder	Duty Holders to have received training on their role and responsibility under the Code in the last three years	100% of Duty Holders trained	All new Harbour Board Members trained	One member outstanding	
		Duty Holders to have undertaken an operational tour of a Council Port or Harbour in the last three years	100% of Duty Holders undertaken an awareness tour	Fionnphort (Iona) & Craignure spring / summer 2026		
2	Designated Person	External Audit completed at one Port or Harbour per year	Annual	Campbeltown & Carradale	Dunoon, Cuan & Easdale	Due at Oban, Lismore & Appin
		Report to the Duty Holder at least once per year	Annual	March '24 Harbour Board	March '25 Harbour Board	Due at March '26 Harbour Board
3	Legislation	Review legal duties and powers at least once every three years	Three years	Reviewed	Reviewed	
4	Duties and Powers	MAIB Reportable Incidents: make all reports to the MAIB within 24hrs, with investigation follow up	24hrs initial report, investigation sent at incident close	No MAIB reportable incidents	No MAIB reportable incidents	
		Incident investigation: close out all incidents on MarNIS in accordance with defined procedures and closed out within an agreed timeframe.	Close out Incidents on according to nature and severity of Incident: 1 week for minor incidents and 1 month for more serious incidents that may involve other parties	All incidents closed out on time	All incidents closed out on time	
5	Risk Assessment	All Marine Risk Assessments to be in- date	All Marine Risk Assessments to be reviewed in accordance with defined procedures	Reviewed and in date	Reviewed and in date	
6	MSMS	The Marine Management Team will undertake a formal review and re-issue the marine policies on a three-yearly basis.	Three years	Policies reviewed and ready for re-issue March 26		
		The Marine Safety Management System will be reviewed annually (or following any significant industry changes)	Annual	Reviewed	New edition issued	
7	Review and Audit	Complete internal audits to the three-yearly schedule	Complete reviews and internal audits	Completed	Completed	
8	Competence	Ensure staff with marine safety responsibilities are trained to undertake their duties	100% of mandatory training completed	100% of mandatory training competed by staff	100% of mandatory training competed by staff	
9	Plan	Publish a three yearly 'Marine Safety Plan' (this plan)	Published and in-date	Reviewed and ready for publishing March '26		
		Publish an assessment of the organisation's performance against the last period plan	Published review		Publish review by end of 2026	
10	Conservancy	Aids to Navigation: Three-year performance meets or exceed IALA performance threshold	Cat 1 = 99.9% Cat 2 = 99.0% Cat 3 = 97.0%	Cat 1 = N/A, Cat 2 = 99.84%, Cat 3 = 100%	Cat 1 = N/A, Cat 2 = 99.76%, Cat 3 = 100%	
		Hydrographic Survey set out in a survey plan	Surveys conducted to planned dates	Surveys in date	Surveys in date	
		Hydrographic Survey publish within target timescale	Within one month of survey date	Published in date	Published in date	