



Harbour Master's Newsletter - 2014

Poole Harbour Commissioners Mission Statement – “to promote the safe and sustainable use of Poole Harbour, balance the demands on its natural resources, develop strategic infrastructure, work closely with our stakeholders, support the safe management of appropriate activities within the Harbour, and work strategically with key agencies in order to manage the Harbour in a sustainable and responsible manner.” Additionally, with specific reference to the Leisure Sector: “to support initiatives to improve the marine safety management of Poole Harbour to the benefit of its stakeholders; and to support the safe and enjoyable use of the Harbour for recreational activity, which will be managed in accordance with the Navigational Safety Management Plan, Poole Harbour Byelaws and the Poole Harbour Aquatic Management Plan”.



Marine Safety – The Safety of Navigation is paramount in the harbour and I am pleased to report that the downward trend continues. During the busier period 1st April to 30th September 2013, there were 73 reported incidents comprising of 21 navigation incidents and 52 byelaw infringements. This compares to 100 in 2012 and 114 in 2011 during the same periods. All reported incidents and near misses are recorded in the Harbour Control log and are then included in the Annual Marine Safety report. The report covering the period 1st April 2012 to 31st March 2013 is available to view on the PHC website at www.phc.co.uk. The period 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014 will be available to view in the next few months.

The majority of incidents are due to speed and wash with some near misses and minor collisions with thankfully very few injuries. All incidents are investigated and action taken accordingly either by verbal education from Patrol Officers or a written warning from myself. In some cases, where there is sufficient evidence, prosecution proceedings may commence. Getting accurate and timely information regarding an incident is important to fully understand what happened and from both points of view if more than one party involved. The Initial report of any incident should be made to Harbour Control by VHF (Ch 14) or phone (01202 440230). This will allow us to progress any investigation and gather evidence. A follow up detailed written report may be requested. To help with this a generic incident report form is available to download on our website.

Byelaw Enforcement – All mariners should make themselves fully aware of the Byelaws, General Directions and Local Notices to Mariners (LNTM) relevant to Poole Harbour. This is for your own safety and the safety of others. Although we have an excellent safety record, occasionally we have to prosecute Byelaw offenders. This past year a number of offences were heard in court including careless navigation, speeding and oil pollution; these resulted in fines and costs ranging from £1100 to £4100.

Kite Surfing – The Poole Harbour Commissioners Harbour Revision Order 2012 came into force on the 23rd July 2012. This HRO gave the Harbour Master the powers of General Direction which allows for appropriate legislation to be introduced in a timely manner. This year Poole Harbour Commissioners will be introducing a General Direction to regulate the sport of Kite Surfing in Poole Harbour Commissioners area of jurisdiction (including outside the Harbour, along Sandbanks and Shell Bay). Anyone wishing to kitesurf in Poole Harbour, from 1st April 2014, will be required to purchase a permit and abide by terms and conditions. It is hoped that better management of this activity will improve safety. For further details please contact the harbour office.

Harbour Control – Harbour Control is an essential control measure in the mitigation of navigational risk in Poole Harbour. It provides a vital 24 hour information and vessel monitoring service to all that use the harbour. There are a number of resources available to the Harbour Control Officer which include CCTV cameras, Radar, VHF and AIS that are all recorded 24 hours, 365 days a year. Other resources include patrol vessels, pilot vessels, workboats, other organisations and you the harbour user. PHC strive to improve and have recently agreed two harbour monitoring additions which include a second radar and better AIS coverage. 3D VTS Vessel monitoring equipment has also been installed. It is recommended that all vessel owners consider having AIS transmitters installed on their vessels for improved safety.

Harbour Dues – It is coming to that time of year when you should be thinking about purchasing your harbour dues for 2014/2015. Dues in Poole Harbour are one of the lowest on the South Coast but despite this the Commissioners have agreed to only increase dues by RPI which will be 2.7%. The public right to navigation is dependent on paying the appropriate dues and therefore can I request that you kindly purchase your dues by the 1st April 2014. This will ensure that expensive but necessary resources are not wasted chasing up late or non payers. Resources can be better utilised by increasing patrols in the Harbour. Dues and watersport permits can be purchased online at www.phc.co.uk, via your PC or smart phone, at the Harbour Office or from your yacht club or marina. Mariners are reminded that the conservancy of the Harbour for present and future generations is partly dependant on the revenue from harbour dues.

Port Master Plan – Following an unprecedented lengthy consultation period on a Draft Port Master Plan I can advise that the final Plan is now published and available to download from our website. The Plan highlights the strategy of the Board over the next 25 years with projects that will ensure the sustainability of the Port and Harbour for future generations. Before Poole Harbour Commissioners decide on which projects to take forward they must take into account the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) which should be completed by April 2014.

Harbour Patrols – Joint patrols with Dorset Police have been well received within the harbour community and will continue throughout 2014. The Partnership Agreement was signed in 2013 which provides an additional 800 hours of patrolling to assist with crime prevention, detection, response and to act as a deterrent. PHC are not obliged to police the harbour in this way but the Commissioners have agreed to continue investing circa £40k in 2014 to maintain this important harbour community service. Marinas, yacht clubs and vessels on moorings will be checked as part of the patrols which will be at random times both day and night.

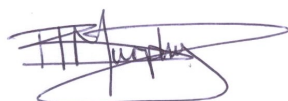
Moorings – This year has seen a number of vessels breaking adrift from their moorings especially during the storms we suffered over the winter period. Can I ask you all again to please check your top gear and to ensure that your mooring is serviced annually, as required, and that the paperwork is forwarded to the Moorings Department at PHC. Can I also remind all owners of the requirement to have adequate insurance for third party risks and to check that your policy covers you after September.

Small Craft Emergency Protocol – Last year Poole Harbour Commissioners introduced this voluntary protocol following a lengthy consultation with local yacht clubs, MCA, RNLI, RYA and SW Ambulance service. The main aim of this protocol is to improve communication between all parties should an incident occur during an organised event in Poole Harbour. If you are organising an event then please contact the harbour office for more details.

A Final Thought!

Remember that safety in the Harbour is essentially dependent on your actions on the water. Always remain vigilant and be courteous to your fellow Harbour user. Please watch your wash and speed, keep a proper lookout, including astern, and be prepared.

Above all..... KEEP SAFE!



Capt Brian Murphy AFNI
Harbour Master