

LOCAL NOTICE TO MARINERS

20-06-2020

Managing COVID-19

This Local Notice to Mariners supersedes previous Notices to Mariners that were issued specifically with regard to the management of COVID-19 within the jurisdiction of the harbours at Aberdyfi, Abermaw (Barmouth), Porthmadog and Pwllheli.

In accordance with The Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (Wales) Regulations 2020, as amended 30th May 2020, Gwynedd Council as the Competent Harbour Authority for the harbour of Porthmadog, and the Statutory Harbour Authority for the harbours of Pwllheli, Abermaw (Barmouth) and Aberdyfi hereby gives further notice that with the exception of Registered and Certified commercial fishing vessel operators, all harbour operations, leisure activities and pleasure craft movements in the harbours of Porthmadog, Pwllheli, Abermaw (Barmouth) and Aberdyfi remain temporarily restricted with exception to the following amended conditions that apply to boarding and navigating pleasure craft, the launching of boats and undertaking other water sport related leisure activities on the coast of Gwynedd:-

- 1. The owner of a pleasure craft and/or crew members residing permanently at the same local address are permitted to access the harbour or marina facility for the purpose of visiting, maintaining, inspecting or sailing their vessel.*
- 2. It is a requirement of the Harbour Authority that the owner (and crew where applicable) permanently reside in the locality of the harbour area and can strictly comply with the general five mile travelling restriction distance guidelines and social distancing guidelines issued by Wales Government.*
- 3. Residing or remaining on board a boat overnight or for any part of the hours of darkness is not permitted.*
- 4. The owner of the vessel shall inform the harbour office or marina office of their intended visit by e-mail or telephone before visiting the harbour or marina.*
- 5. The vessel being used shall be registered to the owner and shall already be afloat on either on a general mooring or on a pontoon berth.*
- 6. Local Park and Launch service providers (Pwllheli and Porthmadog harbours only) are authorised to launch vessels on behalf of their clients on a daily basis provided that the Park and Launch operator can ensure compliance with Council registration requirements and that the owner of the vessel is in full compliance with the general five mile travelling distance guidelines and social distancing guidelines issued by Wales Government.*
- 7. The Harbour Authority will authorise for a vessel to be launched and moored independently into harbour waters if the vessel is launched on the owner's behalf by a local authorised contractor. A local resident residing permanently within the general five mile travelling distance may also independently launch their vessel and secure the vessel to a mooring by prior authorisation from the Harbour Authority.*
- 8. The Harbour Authority will authorise for a vessel that has been towed to the harbour with a private vehicle or towed by hand to be launched from a designated slipway. The owner of the vessel shall request authorisation from the harbour/marina office before arriving at the harbour/marina. For the harbours of Aberdyfi, Abermaw and Porthmadog boat launching and recovery will only be permitted during favourable tide times and tidal heights and by prior arrangement. For launching in Pwllheli the owner of the vessel shall request authorisation from the marina office before arriving at the marina. It is a requirement of the Harbour Authority that the owner (and crew where applicable) permanently reside in the locality and can strictly comply with the general five mile travelling restriction distance guidelines and social distancing guidelines issued by Wales Government.*
- 9. The vessel being launched shall be duly registered in accordance with Council guidelines and shall be charged the registration fee and the launching fee.*

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Managing COVID-19 (continued)

10. *Personal leisure activities intended to be undertaken for exercise such as windsurfing; dinghy sailing; kayaking; canoeing; surfing; paddle boarding (SUP) and rowing are permitted within harbour waters provided that the participant is in full compliance with the general five mile travel distance guidelines and social distancing guidelines issued by Wales Government. Commercial Watersports coaching activities and sessions are not permitted.*
11. *Mariners are advised that activities should be undertaken within the individual's personal level of competency and that the activity should not be undertaken if there is any risk of requiring assistance from the emergency services.*
12. *Shore facilities, toilets and showers, remain closed. Harbour users should be aware of limitation of on shore facilities.*

This Notice is not applicable to licensed passenger ferry boats which remain excluded from operating until further notice.

Except in the event of an emergency or by consent of the Harbour Authority no mooring activity shall be undertaken in any of the aforesaid harbours. Such operations and activities shall include the prohibiting of the laying; lifting or maintenance of any mooring or associated mooring equipment within the jurisdiction of harbour waters.

All other coastal beach access points and beach slipways together with vehicle access points leading on to a beach or part of the foreshore owned or managed by the Local Authority will remain closed to vehicles and boat launching is not permitted at such locations until further notice.

Navigators of all vessels are advised to navigate with extreme caution at sea; in the harbour's channel and within the approaches to each harbour. This is due to sudden and undetected movements in the course of the relevant harbour's navigable channel.

This Notice to Mariners has been issued with regard to the safety and well-being of local residents, staff and harbour users; to minimise the potential requirement for assistance from the emergency services such as the RNLi and Coastguard volunteers; to reduce the spread of the Covid-19 virus in our community and to save lives.

The Harbour Authority will be undertaking further planning work to ensure its harbour management functions and arrangements fully comply with the all relevant Covid-19 Regulations and in compliance with the published Port Marine Safety Code.

For further information please contact the Maritime Unit or your local Harbourmaster.

This Notice to Mariners will be further updated on the 9th July 2020

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