



DUCHY of CORNWALL
HARBOUR OFFICE, ST. MARY'S, ISLES OF SCILLY, TR21 0HU
Harbour Master: Dale Clark

Marine Safety Plan (2024-2026) Review

Introduction

In January 2024, St. Mary's Harbour Authority (SMHA) released its Marine Safety Plan (MSP) covering the period 2024-2026. This review covers the targets set out in that plan over the year 2024 and should be read in conjunction with the MSP 2024-2026. The targets are split into two sections.

1. Ongoing targets for the duration of the plan and beyond.
2. Specific targets to achieve within the timeline of the plan.

Ongoing Targets for SMHA

Marine Safety Management Plan (MSMS)

Ongoing review on the MSMS Documentation with a continuous aim to refine content for ease of use and understanding and maintain compliance with the Port Marine Safety Code.

In March 2024, Captain Tim Charlesworth (Designated Person) conducted an audit and offered assurance of continued compliance with the Code via the certificate of compliance. SMHAs documentation is reviewed annually with updates logged in the MSMS amendment diary.

DfT Security

Continue to comply with the requirements of DfT Security through ongoing review and external audits.

SMHA employed the services of Teamwork Security to assist with the ongoing requirements of the DfT in respect to port security and to provide external assurance to the Duchy in a similar fashion to the role of Designated Person under the requirements of the PMSC. Teamwork carried out their initial (and annual) audit of the harbour in August 2024. SMHA continues to comply with the requirements from DfT.

Pilotage

Provide a pilotage service of well-trained, qualified, and authorised pilots that is supported by the authorisation of pilotage exemptions to similar standards, resulting in no serious incidents caused by errors made by SMHA Pilots.

Throughout 2024 four pilots were retained by the CHA and carried out 103 pilotage acts without incident. There were 629 pilotage acts carried out by Pilotage Exemption Certificate holders with one reported incident.

Emergency Preparedness & Response

Establish and maintain a schedule of regular training and exercises for implementing emergency plans and oil spill procedures.

Run and/or attend exercises with external stakeholders such as local authorities and the emergency services.

Various drills and exercises were carried out by SMHA throughout 2024 such as.

- Search technique training with the local police – ISPS
- Quarterly security drills with Teamwork Security
- Annual ISPS exercise with Teamwork Security and other ports/facilities
- Beach Supervisor course and drill with MCA and Ambipar
- Oil spill exercise with all harbour staff and deployed equipment
- Attended JESIP training with local emergency services and RNLI

SMHA continues to carry out regular drills and training with all harbour staff for fire, oil spill and security. Training dates are logged on Harbour Assist and training requirements are reviewed at the start of each year.

Environmental

Continue to research and use environmentally aware practises associated with harbour operations to reduce our environmental impacts.

In October 2024 SMHA contacted Waterhaul to start work on a project to reduce and remove end-of-life fishing gear from Scilly. This project is about to get underway in Feb 2025.

SMHA continues to use the electric outboard, fitted to the small workboat operating within the harbour.

SMHA have installed non-slip treads to the steps of all off-island quays which has reduced the timeframe for pressure washing resulting in less boat trips being required to the of-islands throughout the year.

SMHA continue to use Above & Below Imagery to take aerial photographs to assist in the monitoring of seagrass within the harbour. This programme is ongoing, and we have shared this information with Natural England.

Training

Provide harbour employees with the necessary training to undertake their roles and responsibilities.

Training courses were undertaken by staff throughout the year and included...

- RYA Advanced Powerboat (commercially endorsed)
- MCA Small Ships Navigation & Radar
- Scaffold Tower Training
- RYA Essential Navigation & Seamanship
- Cyber Education
- Approved Engine Course (AEC1)

SMHA continues to carry out regular “in-house” training and drills with the equipment used.

Specific Targets for SMHA 2024-2026

- No major incidents, serious injuries, or serious pollution within the harbour.

Achieved through continued consultation, sharing best practices/information received from regulatory bodies such as the MCA, investigate all reported incidents from harbour users and share findings, review operator procedures such as fuelling, and close working with operators regarding the movement of passengers on the quay.

There were five recorded Incident Reports and two Near Miss reports in 2024. One incident was a small diesel spill from a yacht in Old Quay which was dealt with quickly and efficiently by SMHA – a POLREP was sent to the MCA.

- Assist in the smooth integration of a new ferry/freight service to the Islands (Harland & Wolff)

Achieved through regular meeting and contact with H&W and other harbour users to ensure a safe and efficient fast ferry service to the islands.

SMHA worked closely with H&W throughout the 2024 up until the end of August when they pulled out of introducing a passenger ferry service to the Islands. H&W no longer have any plans to deliver freight or passengers to the Islands.

- Regular stakeholder and public consultation – at least 3 H.U.G. meetings per year.

Achieved through regular meetings held throughout the year.

Three H.U.G. meetings were held in 2024 – minutes and agendas available upon request. One Navigational Advisory Panel (N.A.P.) was held in 2024 to discuss vessel movements due to the proposal of H&W to introduce a ferry service to the Islands.

- Zero mooring equipment failures of harbour equipment.

Achieved through continued review of practices and equipment used by mooring maintenance providers and harbour-maintained moorings. Regular reviews of mooring maintenance spreadsheet and mooring reports.

There were no mooring failures throughout 2024.

- Receive 100% returns from private mooring holders regarding equipment and inspection details.

Achieved through direct contact with each private mooring holder and external mooring maintenance provider. Mooring reports held on the Shared Drive.

In 2024 SMHA received 90% of all private mooring holders returns relating to inspections and mooring equipment. Three private mooring holders did not return information due to not using the mooring for 2024 or passing on “verbal” information to SMHA. A revised form is being introduced in 2025 to ensure 100% returns.

- Implementation of additional transit lights for entry into the harbour.

Achieved through discussions with local Council planning department and property owner of Buzzza Tower – navigational lights to be installed on Buzzza Tower and the Strand Shelter. Harbour User Group members to be advised.

Sadly, there was no time throughout the very busy year to progress this topic. SMHA will consult with H.U.G. members again in 2025 about this.