



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

St Mary's Harbour Marine Safety Plan 2024-2026



Introduction

As required by the Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC), St. Mary's Harbour Authority (SMHA) publishes its Marine Safety Plan for the conduct of marine operations within St. Mary's Harbour every three years; this plan covers the period 2024 – 2026.

This Marine Safety Plan commits SMHA to undertaking the proper management and regulation of marine navigation within the scope of its powers and authority, according to the St. Mary's Harbour Pier & Harbour Order 1890, the Harbour Docks and Piers Clauses Act 1847, the Pilotage Act 1987 and the PMSC.

SMHA have a responsibility for maintaining the safety of navigation within the limits of St. Mary's Harbour, together with a duty to improve and conserve the harbour and its environment.

St. Mary's Harbour is a private port owned and operated by the Duchy of Cornwall. The Duke of Cornwall is the Statutory Harbour Authority (SHA) for St. Mary's and the Competent Harbour Authority (CHA) for the Isles of Scilly Pilotage District.

The PMSC has established an agreed national standard for every aspect of port marine safety and a measure by which harbour authorities can be held accountable for their legal powers and duties to run their harbours in a safe manner. Its aim is to enhance safety for everyone who uses or works within the harbour's marine environment.

Marine Safety Management System

SMHA achieves compliance with the PMSC through the implementation, compliance, review, and monitoring of its Marine Safety Management System (MSMS). The MSMS comprises of a suit of policies, manuals, procedures, and reports that seek to enhance safety by identifying hazards and applying appropriate procedures, policies, and control measures to reduce risks to as low as reasonably practicable.

External audits of SMHAs compliance with the PMSC are undertaken annually by the Designated Person, supplemented by regular internal audits and external industry health checks.

Marine Policies

St. Mary's Harbour has produced the following policies that can be viewed online and are available from the harbour office upon request:

- Navigational Safety Policy
- Pilotage Policy
- Consultation Policy
- Enforcement and Prosecution Policy
- Training Policy
- Environmental Policy

All policies are included within the Marine Safety Management System (MSMS) along with additional non-marine policies such as Health & Safety which are applicable to SMHA members of staff. Copies of non-marine policies in use by the wider Duchy of Cornwall estate can be obtained at the harbour office. All harbour policies undergo annual review internally and are part of the external audit every three years.

Management of Marine Operations

This Marine Safety Plan commits SMHA to undertaking the management and regulation of marine operations, within the scope of its powers and authority, in a way that safeguards the port, users of the port (including members of the public), and the environment.

SMHA will undertake its roles and responsibilities to ensure that it provides an efficient and effective service in support of all activities within the harbour and to facilitate the safe and prompt transit of vessels through the port and its approaches. In ensuring the continued provision of services, SMHA will keep the safety of its personnel, harbour users and members of the public as a priority. At times, this may mean that services and therefore vessel movements or activities are subject to alteration at short notice.

Established Management Activities

A number of key functions underpin the operation and maintenance of the MSMS in addition to the fundamental services provided by SMHA. The following processes ensure the ongoing provision of an effective harbour authority and assists in the compliance of the PMSC:

- Weekly harbour staff meetings
- Monthly Senior Harbour Management Monthly meetings
- Annual Harbour Executive Committee meetings
- Annual submission of reports to the Secretary & Keeper of Records
- Regular Harbour Users Group meetings for stakeholders
- Regular Navigational Advisory Panel meetings
- Investigation of all reported incidents within areas of jurisdiction within one month to ascertain the cause and reduce the likelihood of recurrence.
- Regular internal and external audits of the MSMS, its functions and procedures

Ongoing Targets for SMHA

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.

DfT Security

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

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.

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.

Environmental

Continue to research and use environmentally practises associated with harbour operations to reduce our environmental impacts. Liaise with regularly with Natural England on harbour related

topics. Monitor the effect of mooring equipment on the sea grass within the harbour through aerial photography – sharing this information with Natural England.

Training

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

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.

- 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.

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

Achieved through regular meetings held throughout the year.

- 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.

- 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.

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

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