



**DUCHY OF CORNWALL  
ST MARY'S HARBOUR  
ISLES OF SCILLY**

**PORT WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

This Port Waste Management Plan (PWMP) has been prepared to ensure that St Mary's Harbour provides adequate and effective waste reception facilities for vessels using the harbour, in accordance with current UK legislation and guidance issued by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA).

The plan applies to all organisations and individuals operating within the jurisdiction of St Mary's Harbour Authority, including:

- Commercial vessels
- Passenger vessels
- Fishing vessels
- Visiting yachts and pleasure craft
- Harbour users and tenants
- Contractors operating within the harbour

The objectives of this plan are:

- To prevent pollution of the marine environment
- To provide adequate waste reception facilities
- To ensure waste is handled safely and legally
- To comply with UK legislation and MARPOL requirements
- To support environmentally responsible harbour operations

St. Mary's Harbour is a registered carrier of waste with the EA – registration number CBDU181132. All bins are checked/cleaned upon emptying and inspected/recorded monthly as part SMHAs extensive maintenance procedures.

## 2. REVISION DIARY

Date	Revisions	Author (revisions)	MCA Approval Date
02/07/08	Previous Plan Revised	Glenn Covell	
19/07/10	General re-write, waste types added, charges reviewed.	Alan Hartwell	27/07/10
03/01/12	Amendments to sect: 4.3 4.4 4.5 5.1 5.8 6. Change of font throughout	Alan Hartwell	
08/01/13	Amendments to sect: 1 4.2 5.1 5.8 6 Addition of Annex A- Disposal sites diagram. Addition of sect. 7 Sent to MCA for approval	Alan Hartwell	08/01/14
14/01/14	Approval date added Sect 4.2 Works to Porthloo added Sect 5.1 Availability to increase waste collections added Sect 5.8 Update on cruise ship numbers added	Alan Hartwell	
06/01/15	Amendments to sect: 4.2 4.3 4.5 5.3 5.4 5.8 6 and 7 (all minor changes of information). Updates to legislation	Alan Hartwell	06/01/15
07/07/16	New diagram in annex A. Sect 5.1 amended to include registration no. sect 4.5 'grt' changed to 'gt'	Dale Clark/Alan Hartwell	07/07/16
16/09/17	Diagram adapted in Annex A. New 1000ltr bins added to text. New EA Registration number added. General annual figures updated	Alan Hartwell	16/09/17
03/09/18	General text changes. Legislation checked.	Alan Hartwell	
28/06/19	General review	D. Clark	
26/09/20	General review. Changes to handling of SCY waste and bin maintenance schedule	Alan Hartwell	28/07/19
06/01/21	Changes to oil reception facility (sect 5.3) Changes to ICW (sect 5.6)	Alan Hartwell	28/07/19

	Changes to Porthloo Boat Park (sect 7)		
30/09/22	General update and changes to text. Submission to MCA for approval.	Alan Hartwell	24/04/23
31/03/26	Document overhaul and re-write prior to submission to MCA	D. Clark	

This plan will be reviewed:

- Every three years, or
- Whenever significant changes occur to harbour operations, waste facilities, legislation, or vessel traffic

Any amendments will be submitted to the MCA for approval where required.

### 3. CURRENT LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE

This plan has been prepared in accordance with the following legislation and guidance (current as of 2026):

- The Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Port Waste Reception Facilities) Regulations 2003 (as amended 2009 and 2016)
- The Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Pollution by Garbage from Ships) Regulations 2020
- MARPOL Annex I (Oil)
- MARPOL Annex IV (Sewage)
- MARPOL Annex V (Garbage)
- Marine Guidance Note MGN 563 (M+F) Amendment 2 – Port Waste Reception Facilities and Management Planning
- MCA Annex D – Port Waste Management Planning: Guide to Good Practice (latest edition)

This plan will be submitted to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) for approval as required by the Regulations.

### 4. DESCRIPTION OF THE HARBOUR

St Mary's Harbour is the main port serving the Isles of Scilly and operates as a mixed-use harbour supporting passenger traffic, cargo operations, fishing vessels, commercial operators, visiting yachts and cruise vessels at anchor.

The harbour is owned and operated by the Duchy of Cornwall, acting as the Statutory Harbour Authority.

#### Harbour Jurisdiction

The harbour limits extend from a line drawn between the westernmost point of Newford Island and Newman Rock, as shown on Admiralty Charts 883/34.

The Harbour Authority also manages Porthloo Boat Park, which includes small business operations and a slipway used by local vessels.

## **Types of Vessels Using the Harbour**

The harbour regularly accommodates the following types of vessels:

- Passenger ferry services
- Cargo vessels
- Inter-island passenger vessels
- Local fishing vessels
- Commercial operators
- Visiting yachts and pleasure craft
- Visiting cruise vessels (at anchor)

The mix of commercial, fishing and leisure traffic varies seasonally, with peak demand during the summer months.

## **5. ASSESSMENT OF NEED FOR WASTE RECEPTION FACILITIES**

A review has been carried out based on:

- Types of vessels using the harbour
- Seasonal increases in visitor numbers
- Passenger ferry operations
- Commercial cargo operations
- Visiting yachts and recreational craft
- Fishing vessel activity

Waste generation is highest during the summer season due to visiting yachts, passenger traffic, and tourism-related activity. The facilities provided are designed to accommodate peak seasonal demand as well as normal year-round operations.

The Harbour Authority monitors waste volumes and adjusts provision where required.

## **6. TYPES OF WASTE ACCEPTED**

Waste is accepted in accordance with MARPOL categories and UK legislation.

The following waste types are accepted within the harbour:

General Garbage – to include.

- Domestic refuse
- Packaging waste
- Plastics
- Food waste
- Mixed general waste

There are several 80 litre bins placed around the quay which are decanted into 1000ltr bin as required. These bins, when full, are either collected by the Local Authority or delivered to the waste processing site by Harbour staff.

#### Recyclable Waste

- Glass
- Metal

Glass waste is stored in a dedicated Biffa bin and transported to the local Council waste site weekly (if required). Metal waste is stored in an open skip on the quay and shipped to a recycling centre on the mainland when full.

#### Oil and Oily Waste (MARPOL Annex I)

- Waste oil
- Oily rags
- Oil filters
- Bilge waste in reasonable quantities

The harbour does not have a dedicated bunded oily waste storage facility on the quay; however, the harbour does accept oily waste from harbour customers in sealed (intact) containers. These are taken to the Councils waste site.

#### Sewage and Sanitary Waste (MARPOL Annex IV)

St Mary's Harbour does not currently provide pump-out facilities. Vessels are not permitted to discharge sewage within harbour limits. Shore-based toilet facilities are available 24 hours per day.

#### International Catering Waste (ICW)

Any vessel arriving from outside of the UK (including the EU) must treat all catering waste as ICW, classified as Category 1 Animal By-Product. The ICW transfer form must be completed by the vessel wishing to dispose of ICW at St. Mary's Harbour – this can be obtained from harbour staff. ICW must be segregated from all other waste streams. Vessels may dispose of ICW in a dedicated, covered and leak-proof bin which is labelled **Category 1 Animal By-Product – for disposal only**. St. Mary's Harbour will arrange for the transfer of ICW to an authorised waste reception facility in accordance with DEFRA regulations. All movements of ICW will be recorded and retained for inspection by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA). After each use, the ICW container will be cleaned and disinfected

#### End-of-life Fishing Waste

SMHA has coordinated a project with Waterhaul, Council of the Isles of Scilly, local fishermen, Kraken Marine Services and Biff to accept end-of-life fishing gear free of charge that will be sent to the mainland for recycling. There are dedicated Biffa bins provided for this on St. Mary's and all off-islands which are labelled with the type of waste that can be accepted.

## 7. WASTE RECEPTION FACILITIES

Waste reception facilities are located throughout the harbour and include:

- General waste bins
- Recycling facilities for metal and glass
- Acceptance of waste oil containers
- Oil spill response equipment
- End-of-life fishing gear

Facilities are inspected regularly to ensure they remain adequate for the needs of vessels using the harbour.

## **8. WASTE HANDLING PROCEDURES**

SMHA ensures that:

- Waste is stored safely
- Waste is removed regularly
- Waste is transferred to authorised disposal facilities
- Records are kept where required
- Spill response procedures are in place

SMHA are registered carriers of waste in accordance with the Environment Agency requirements however, if required to use contractors, SMHA ensures that they are licensed and operate in accordance with UK waste regulations.

## **9. CHARGING SYSTEM**

Charges may apply for the disposal of certain types of waste, particularly oil and hazardous waste. Visiting vessels will be charged should they request to land waste ashore however; every effort is made to encourage vessels to hold their waste until they reach a mainland port so as not to add pressure on the Islands' waste disposal infrastructure

The charging system is designed to:

- Encourage vessels to dispose of waste legally
- Ensure costs are recovered fairly
- Prevent illegal discharges into the sea

Details of charges are available from the Harbour Office.

## **10. REPORTING INADEQUATE FACILITIES**

If a vessel believes that the waste reception facilities are inadequate, this must be reported to:

Harbour Master,  
St Mary's Harbour,  
The Quay,  
St Mary's, Isles of Scilly,  
TR21 0HU

The Harbour Authority will investigate all reports and take corrective action where required. Where appropriate, reports may also be submitted to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA).

## **11. CONSULTATION**

This plan has been prepared in consultation with key stakeholders, including:

- Local Authority
- Commercial operators
- Ferry operators
- Fishing representatives
- Harbour tenants

Consultation will continue during future reviews of this plan.

## **12. MONITORING AND REVIEW**

The Harbour Authority will:

- Monitor the effectiveness of waste reception facilities
- Review waste volumes annually
- Review user feedback
- Update the plan when required

## **13. CONTACT DETAILS**

St. Mary's Harbour Authority

Harbour Master: Dale Clark

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