

Safety Plan for Marine Operations

Introduction

The Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC) has established an agreed national standard for port marine safety and a measure by which harbour authorities can be held accountable for the legal powers and duties that they have to run their harbours safely. The Code is supported by a Guide to Good Practice on Port marine Operations, which is kept under continuous review.

The Statutory Harbour Authority for Langstone Harbour is the Langstone Harbour Board (LHB), which includes representatives from Havant Borough Council, Portsmouth City Council, Hampshire County Council and the statutory Advisory Committee. The terms of reference of the Langstone Harbour Board are to administer Langstone Harbour in accordance with the 1962 Act (as amended) and the principles of governance promoted through published governance guidance. LHB will meet or exceed the standards required by the Port Marine Safety Code and safety law.

The 1962 Act incorporates certain sections of the 1847 Harbours, Docks and Piers Clauses Act that give the Harbour Master statutory powers, including powers of special direction, for the management of the Harbour. Additionally, the 1964 Harbours Act empowers the Board to fix rates at the level required to meet its statutory obligations.

Langstone Harbour Board is the Competent Harbour Authority (CHA) under the Pilotage Act, 1987 for Langstone Harbour and its approaches. Its jurisdiction as CHA extends into the Eastern Solent.

LHB is publishing this Safety Plan for the period 2019 to 2022 in compliance with the requirements of the PMSC.

Marine Policies and Procedures (Navigation Safety Policy, Legislation & Regulation)

The obligations and statutory duties which are placed on the Harbour by, among other enactments, the Pier and Harbour (Langstone Harbour) Confirmation Act 1962 (as amended) and the Pilotage Act 1987 are discharged through the plans, policies and procedures supporting the LHB Marine Safety Management System (MSMS). LHB will comply with the requirements of the PMSC and encourage a culture of engagement and improvement in order to maintain the standards published in "A Guide to Good Practice in Marine Operations".

LHB maintains procedures relating to pilotage, conservancy, administration and harbour activities. The procedures are consistent with the Board's legal obligations and with the control measures used to reduce the risk inherent in harbour activities to 'as low as reasonably practicable'.

The Management of Marine Operations

This safety plan commits LHB to managing and regulating marine operations within its jurisdiction in accordance with its powers in order to safeguard the harbour and its users and to protect the natural environment of the harbour.

LHB aims to undertake its statutory role and provide its services in an efficient, effective and objective manner. The safe movement of commercial vessels in the harbour will be facilitated and regulated through the provision of a comprehensive pilotage service. Competing priorities will be subject to risk assessment. Resources will be made available to regulate and control recreational activities in the harbour.

All users are encouraged to report accidents and near-misses; LHB will maintain records of all such incidents of which it is aware and will adhere to its mandatory reporting obligations.

Marine Safety Plan Objectives

The following objectives contribute to the effectiveness of LHB's Marine SMS and support compliance with the requirements of the PMSC.

- Appointment of an independent Designated Person and provision of appropriate training for Board members and marine personnel
- Marine SMS to be subject to annual external audit
- Statutory powers to be periodically reviewed to ensure full compliance with PMSC
- The risk inherent in all marine activities to be reduced to 'as low as reasonably practicable' by a process of risk assessment
- Incident reports and associated risk assessments to be analysed to assist in the identification of appropriate control measures
- Comprehensive operating procedures to be provided for the guidance of all personnel engaged in marine activities
- Aids to navigation to be maintained and non-conformities recorded to enable the General Lighthouse Authority to determine availability statistics for navigation assets in the harbour
- Stakeholders to be kept informed using annual Services Guide, leaflets, Local Notices to Mariners and LHB website
- LHB emergency plans and procedures to be maintained and exercised where appropriate

Performance

LHB will report annually on the results of the MSMS audit and its performance against this plan for Safe Marine Operations.

This plan will be reviewed in 2022.