



Port of Wisbech

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Port Marine Safety Code - Duty Holder's Summary of Performance of Safety Management Systems for 2020.

1.0 Introduction

Fenland District Council has the responsibility for the Municipal Port of Wisbech. Wisbech Port Authority (WPA) is the Statutory Harbour Authority (SHA) for the approaches to along with the River Nene and the Competent Harbour Authority (CHA) for the waters of the Nene Ports Pilotage Area with a jurisdiction from Bevis Hall (between Wisbech and Guyhirn) downstream to the Bar Flat buoy in The Wash.

There are two operational Nene ports, Wisbech Port is owned by Fenland District Council and operated by a private entity Port of Wisbech Ltd and Port Sutton Bridge which is owned and operated by CRO Ports.

The Port marine Safety Code, published by the Department of Transport (DfT) requires harbour authorities to publish a safety plan for marine operations. The WPA Marine Safety Management System Manual (MSMSM) has been developed to meet the requirements of the Code.

2.0 Policy Statement

The Port of Wisbech is fully committed to providing a safe environment for any person within our harbour limits. The MSMSM has been formulated in such a way as to embrace all of the concepts and standards of the Port Marine Safety Code. The system has been implemented following a formal risk assessment with the findings of that assessment informing the system which will be reviewed on a regular basis or as external factors and changes in marine operations dictate.

3.0 Plan Objectives

The Council is committed to:

- The continued development of a culture of safety within all spheres of operation of the Port of Wisbech through formal risk assessment
- Complying with and keeping under review existing powers and duties
- The provision of adequate resources to enable the effective operation of the system's safety plan, policies and procedures
- The provision of adequate resources to allow Marine Services to manage commercial operations and to carry out their duties effectively and safely
- The provision of competent people responsible for safety of navigation and high quality training programmes
- The promotion of safety as one of the important responsibilities of all employees

4.0 Annual report

Following an assessment of the WPA operations during the past year I am pleased to report that the objectives within the MSMSM have been met.

1) **MSMSM**

A formal review of risk assessment was completed in October 2020 with updates to the MSMSM completed in January 2021.

All marine staff have been provided with, and signed for, a copy of the MSMSM document that they are required to understand, comply and also contribute to updates where applicable.

The Designated Person role under the MSMSM is fulfilled by Strategic Marine Services Ltd (SMSL) with its Director Capt. C. N. Hallam nominated to support WPA.

2) **Navigational Incidents**

There was 1 incident during 2020, there was in total 12 near miss reports received from vessels, an appropriate assessment has been undertaken by the Harbour Master and lessons learnt incorporated into the operational procedures and the MSMS where appropriate.

3) **Conservancy and Hydrographic Surveys**

The provision and maintenance of Aids to Navigation met the requirement of Trinity House as the General Lighthouse Authority.

Surveys undertaken for the purposes of safety of navigation were all carried out in accordance with the agreed survey programme and shipping movements.

4) **Pilotage Services**

All pilots were assessed in the form of in house check trip by a suitably qualified member of the marine service team. Pilot's licences were all issued following the assessments. All pilots maintain their local knowledge with regular low water inspections of the navigation channel.

5) **Personnel Training**

Training for all external qualifications have been placed on hold until the Covid-19 pandemic has eased and social distancing measures removed

6) **Liaison and Consultation with Stakeholders**

Regular consultations have been held with port operators and other river users and the adjoining Authorities' Harbourmasters.

7) **Audit of the Safety Management System**

The annual Audit was carried out in 13th & 14th October 2020 by the Designated Person from SMSL which found no major deficiencies and resulted in an overall score of 97% compliance with further recommendations which have been subsequently addressed.

8) **Management Review**

The annual review of the SMS was undertaken jointly by the Designated Person in conjunction with the Harbour Master. The next audit is due in September 2021.

The Port Management Group (PMG) chaired by the Duty Holder meets on a regular basis to review and update safety issues. The role of the Duty holder is now undertaken jointly by Carol Pilson (Corporate Director) & Peter Catchpole (Corporate Director Chief Finance Officer)

9) Legislation/Jurisdiction

Legislation has been reviewed at monthly PMG meetings and considered relevant and does not require updating. The limits of jurisdiction remain unchanged for the Port of Wisbech Harbour Authority.

Carol Pilson
Corporate Director and Duty Holder
Fenland District Council

Peter Catchpole
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Fenland District Council