

Meeting: Harbour Committee

Date: 30th March 2026

Wards affected: All wards

Report Title: Harbour Masters Safety and Management Report – Q1 2026

When does the decision need to be implemented?

Director Contact Details: Matt Reeks, Interim Director of Tor Bay Harbour Authority
matt.reeks@swisco.co.uk

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To provide Members of the Harbour Committee with an update on the current safety and management considerations of the Harbour

2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

- 2.1. As required by the Port and Marine Facilities Safety Code, Members of the Harbour Committee as duty holders are required to be aware of safety and management issues.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

- 3.1. That Members of the Harbour committee note the contents of the Harbour Masters report.

4. Appendices

- 4.1. None.

5. Background Documents

- 5.1. None.

Supporting Information

6. Safety

6.1. All safety inspections and general safety precautions have been conducted as per policy.

6.2. Marine incident data for 2026 to date:

- Pollution incident within the trawler basin at Brixham Harbour involving diesel discharge. Tier 1 response, no external support required.
- Near-miss involving PWCs operating near Breakwater Beach.
- Loss of Control incident involving a sailing vessel. Vessel was towed to Brixham Harbour
- Equipment failure, lost anchor during storm conditions. Anchor has been retrieved.
- Fishing vessel contact with Berry Head.

All incidents have been recorded within MarNIS and investigated in accordance with the Marine Safety Management System.

6.3. A Dynamic Risk Assessment Framework has been successfully implemented across all three harbours and is embedded into daily operations.

6.4. Toolbox talks have been delivered covering:

- Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER)
- Cold weather working
- Safe use of forklift trucks

6.5. Courses undertaken/planned:

- 3-day Forklift Course for new Harbour Staff at Brixham Harbour – Completed January 2026
- SCaN security training for Operations Staff – Completed March 2026
- MCA 2P Oil Spill Response Training – Scheduled 31st March 2026 at Torquay Harbour for all Operations Staff
- Port Facility Security Officer Course – Scheduled 1st – 3rd April for Deputy Harbour Masters
- Operation Kraken training – Scheduled for April 2026
- MCA 5P Executive Commander Oil Spill response training – Scheduled May 2026 for Deputy Harbour Masters

7. Regulatory

7.1. The Marine Safety Management System (mSMS) has been rewritten to fully align with the updated code.

7.2. The Marine Safety Plan 2026-2029 has been developed and submitted to this committee for approval.

- 7.3. Audit of the Harbour Authority's mSMS is scheduled to be conducted by the Designated Person on the 26th March 2026.
- 7.4. The Harbour Authority is required to submit a Statement of Proportional Compliance to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) by 31st March 2026.
- 7.5. Formal risk assessments have been completed for:
- Provision of a Pilotage Service as a Competent Harbour Authority
 - Level of Navigational Traffic Service within Tor Bay
- Both assessments confirm that current service levels remain appropriate.
- 7.6. The following plans have been reviewed and submitted to the MCA:
- Oil Pollution Response Plan
 - Waste Management Plan
- 7.7. Annual review of the Harbour Emergency Plan has been undertaken.
- 7.8. The following policies have been submitted to the Committee for approval:
- Debt Recovery
 - Appointment of Designated Person
 - Commitment to the Port and Marine Facilities Safety Code
 - Revalidation of Maritime Qualifications

8. Engagement and Consultation

- 8.1. Engagement activities undertaken so far this year:
- Completion of bridging documents with all marine facilities
 - Brixham Liaison Forum held in February
 - Brixham Open Forum hosted in February for all harbour users (8am-6pm)
 - Sea Safety Forum held in February at Torquay Office
 - Meetings with MDL, Waterdance and Brixham Shipping Agency
 - Councillor Leaders operational visit to Torquay Harbour
 - Oxen Cove development presentation delivered to Brixham Town Council residents and members of the public
- 8.2. A meeting is scheduled with Carolyn Custerson (ER Bid company) and Councillor Jackie Thomas to discuss the future direction of Cruise Torbay with the aim of increasing the number of Cruise Ship visits to the Bay.

9. Asset and Plant

- 9.1. A periodic hydrographic survey has been completed in Torquay Harbour, with Brixham scheduled for W/C 23rd March 2026.

- 9.2. Barrier installations are underway in Paignton and Brixham to improve control of access to the harbour estate.
- 9.3. The upgrade to the latest version of MarNIS remains ongoing, with required software adjustments being progressed between the provider and Torbay Council IT. The existing system remains operational.
- 9.4. New storage facilities within Brixham Harbour Estate have been installed and now being leased out to commercial fishing operators.
- 9.5. Storm Ingrid brought severe weather conditions across Tor Bay impacting predominantly Torquay Harbour, including Force 10 winds and rough sea states.

Pre-Storm:

- Heavy weather procedures implemented
- Extra rounds ensuring vessels were secured
- Operational readiness of Patrol boat Oscar 4 maintained

During the Storm:

- Two commercial fishing vessels parted their mooring lines. Both successfully made fast with the assistance of Harbour Staff
- Harbour staff assisted with a commercial tenant's unit on harbour estate following a window blowing through due to heavy seas
- Two commercial vessels in the designated anchorages lost their anchors. Both now recovered
- Wooden and steel piles, along with some trailers washed into the harbour basin. Majority recovered by dive team.
- A berth finger on V pontoon in Torquay Harbour sustained structural damage. Repairs to be conducted by pontoon manufacturer.

10. Forthcoming Actions

- 10.1. All three harbours are operating satisfactorily. General maintenance is being undertaken and where possible there is a continuous drive for clearing away rubbish especially in Brixham. Brixham Harbour is now achieving a 100% waste disposal stream. Working with local authorities and national charities to contribute towards achieving a carbon neutral status.
- 10.2. The clearing of abandoned vessels in the Harbours continues. Six arrested vessels have been removed from Brixham Harbour, with dismantling of Accumulate scheduled for May 2026.
- 10.3. Work has started on improving the accessibility of the Authority to Harbour users. The Harbour Authority is exploring options to digitise forms to improve the ease of use for

customers and the administrative burden. The Harbour Authority is also working with the IT Department to improve the delivery of commonly asked questions on our website.

- 10.4. The Harbour Authority in conjunction with Beaches are working on an annual water safety campaign, focusing on Offshore winds. The campaign is planned to run over the summer season.
- 10.5. The bridge and cill for Torquay Harbour is still awaiting repair works to be undertaken by external contractors. Both gates are still functioning as normal but there is a higher risk of failure due to this linkage issue.

11. Equality Impact Assessment

Protected characteristics under the Equality Act and groups with increased vulnerability	Data and insight	Equality considerations (including any adverse impacts)	Mitigation activities	Responsible department and timeframe for implementing mitigation activities
Age	<p>18 per cent of Torbay residents are under 18 years old.</p> <p>55 per cent of Torbay residents are aged between 18 to 64 years old.</p> <p>27 per cent of Torbay residents are aged 65 and older.</p>	There is no differential impact.		
Carers	At the time of the 2021 census there were 14,900 unpaid carers in Torbay. 5,185 of these provided 50 hours or more of care.	There is no differential impact.		
Disability	In the 2021 Census, 23.8% of Torbay residents answered that their day-to-day activities were limited a little or a lot by	There is no differential impact.		

	a physical or mental health condition or illness.			
Gender reassignment	In the 2021 Census, 0.4% of Torbay's community answered that their gender identity was not the same as their sex registered at birth. This proportion is similar to the Southwest and is lower than England.	There is no differential impact.		
Marriage and civil partnership	Of those Torbay residents aged 16 and over at the time of 2021 Census, 44.2% of people were married or in a registered civil partnership.	There is no differential impact.		
Pregnancy and maternity	Over the period 2010 to 2021, the rate of live births (as a proportion of females aged 15 to 44) has been slightly but significantly higher in Torbay (average of 63.7 per 1,000) than England (60.2) and the South West (58.4). There has been a notable fall in the numbers of live births since the middle of the last decade across all geographical areas.	There is no differential impact.		

Race	In the 2021 Census, 96.1% of Torbay residents described their ethnicity as white. This is a higher proportion than the South West and England. Black, Asian and minority ethnic individuals are more likely to live in areas of Torbay classified as being amongst the 20% most deprived areas in England.	There is no differential impact.		
Religion and belief	64.8% of Torbay residents who stated that they have a religion in the 2021 census.	There is no differential impact.		
Sex	51.3% of Torbay's population are female and 48.7% are male	There is no differential impact.		
Sexual orientation	In the 2021 Census, 3.4% of those in Torbay aged over 16 identified their sexuality as either Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or, used another term to describe their sexual orientation.	There is no differential impact.		
Armed Forces Community	In 2021, 3.8% of residents in England reported that they had previously served in the UK armed forces. In Torbay,	There is no differential impact.		

	5.9 per cent of the population have previously served in the UK armed forces.			
Additional considerations				
Socio-economic impacts (Including impacts on child poverty and deprivation)		There is no differential impact.		
Public Health impacts (Including impacts on the general health of the population of Torbay)		There is no differential impact.		
Human Rights impacts		There is no differential impact.		
Child Friendly	Torbay Council is a Child Friendly Council, and all staff and Councillors are Corporate Parents and have a responsibility towards cared for and care experienced children and young people.	There is no differential impact.		

12. Cumulative Council Impact

- a. None.

13. Cumulative Community Impacts

- a. None.