

Management Objectives

Management Objectives for the Marine Safety Plan have split its into two sets, the first addresses 'Standing Objectives' the second set addresses 'Period Objectives'. This plan is owned by Exeter City Council on behalf of the Duty Holder and aims to address high level targets which will benefit all port and harbour locations and fulfils the requirement of the PMSC for the Duty Holder to maintain a Marine Safety Plan.

** Updated since last meeting*

Standing Objectives

	Number	Provision	Objective	Target	Evidence
	1	Duty Holder	Duty Holders to have received training on their role and responsibility under the Code in the last three years.	To appoint ECC Executive Committee as DH	Action complete. ECC Executive are now appointed as Duty Holder, all members have received training
	2	Designated Person	To have undertaken an operational tour of Exeter waterways in the last three years.	DP selected, awaiting confirmation of appointment	* Mr James Hannon from ABPmer now appointed, first visit to Exeter Port Authority will be in late March 2025
	3	Legislation	Report by the Designated Person to the Duty Holder at least once per year.	Not yet, but will be an annual review	* Will be forthcoming after the first visit
	4	Duties and Powers	MAIB Reportable Incidents: make all reports to the MAIB within 24 hrs, with investigation followed up.	24 hrs initial report, investigation at incident close	Maritime activity report
			Incidents recorded and investigated (if necessary) within the agreed timeframe.	Initial action 7 days, investigation closed in 30 days	Maritime activity report
	5	Risk Assessment	All Marine Risk Assessments to be in date.	100% complete	* Strata Gateway meeting held this week re the adoption of MARNIS and the HazID workshop. Agreement in principle that the system can be procured, awaiting confirmation from Jo Yelland

	Number	Provision	Objective	Target	Evidence
	6	Marine Safety Management System	All Policies reviewed on a three-yearly basis.	To have plan produced and available to all stakeholders within 6 months.	Not yet completed. See below.
			The Marine Safety Management System will be reviewed annually (or following any significant incident, industry or legislative changes).	To distribute widely, to keep numbered and dated reviews. To liaise with other stakeholders on the waterways about their own responsibility to the PMSC	To keep as an agenda item at the Port User group meetings. Once MARNIS system adopted, contractor will conduct a HAZ ID exercise with key stakeholder groups
	7	Review & Audit	Internal Audit	Staff reviews annually. Document checks annually	* Audit complete, matters raised have been addressed
	8	Competence	Ensure staff with marine safety responsibilities are trained to undertake their duties.	100% of Essential & 80% of Desirable completed	Maritime activity report
	9	Plan	Publish a three yearly 'Marine Safety Plan' (this plan).	Plan currently being prepared	Internal Audit
	10	Conservancy Duty	Aids to Navigation: Three-year performance meets or exceed IALA performance threshold	To carry out annual liaison and inspection with Trinity House	Constant monitoring of navigation channels.
			Hydrographic surveys in date	Survey of the approaches completed March 2025	* Other surveys further in the river to be completed by the end of March 2025. Results of all surveys will be shared with the chair of the Port User Group and will be promulgated on the Waterways web pages

Gap Analysis update

	Number	Provision	Objective	Target	Evidence
	13	PMSC	Liaise with marinas and boatyards confirming work towards compliance	2024	* Done, emails sent by HM to two boatyards signposting towards PMSC training and compliance with the code
	15	Harbour assets confirmed with MCA	Assets declared on the list held by the MCA in case of Civil Contingencies Act 1984	2025	* Done, list of assets compiled and sent by HM to the MCA
	6	Update Admiralty chart no2290	Port limits to be shown on Admiralty chart no2290	2025	* Done, liaised with UKHO, now illustrated on the current chart no 2290 Task complete

Period Objectives

	Number	Provision	Objective	Target	Responsible Officer
	1	Duties and Powers	General Directions	Introduce General Directions and repeal current Bye-Laws – With lawyers Ashford's currently.	Harbour Master * This work is still on-going, awaiting HRO
	2	Duty Holder	Marine Facilities	Identify Marine Facilities within the port area and seek compliance with the PMSC	Duty Holder, on-going training with Harbour Master
	3	Competence	Training	Issue Training Matrix and ensure all staff have appropriate training as required to undertake their duties	* Harbour Master List of training requirements identified at both waterways team locations. Liaising with the Operations Manager re funding for courses

	4	Marine Safety Management System	Management of Navigation	Carry out a formal Risk Assessment of navigable waters	Harbour Master
	5	Conservancy Duty	Aids to Navigation	Review of all AtoN's in the port	Graham Manchester
	6	Marine Safety Management System	Liaison and consultation with stakeholder	Improve lines of communication in place with Port User Groups. Regular meetings with the Commodores from sailing clubs around the river to ensure collaborative approach to managing the different racing areas	Harbour Master * Done. Initial meeting with sailing club Commodores, working agreement reached

Maritime activity report

Canal team

At the canal the team have been trying to concentrate on winter maintenance tasks. This has been difficult because there is still a team member on long term sick and there is still a vacancy to fill. Fortunately, there are seven candidates coming forward for interview on the 19th of March.

Unfortunately, because the team are so short staffed, vegetation cut back has not advanced as well as we would have wanted. The Exmouth team helped out with clearing some overhanging trees.

Work to make temporary repairs to the lock gates at Turf continues, unfortunately we have still yet to appoint a Waterways Engineer to work on infrastructure projects. The advert has just gone out again.

The sunken trawler at Gabriel's Wharf called Marie Claire has been lifted and disposed of. The last two Commercial fishing vessels constructed at the Wharf have been launched and are due to leave the canal in the very near future and are bound for Scotland. The builder at the yard is moving his operation to Stornoway.

The 72ft yacht Big Spirit has been launched, currently berthed at Regent's Wharf in preparedness for transiting down the canal to make passage to Holland.

The derelict and abandoned trawler Strathspey has been moved to Gabriel's Wharf. Hopefully we will be able to dispose of this vessel in due course.

Three other vessels that are in a dilapidated state are due to leave the canal this spring.

The canal team are now preparing for the spring launch of vessels into the canal and the subsequent convoy's down to the Turf.

River team

Work to replace the piles at Topsham Quay is almost complete. This work was done in January. All that is left to do now is finish off the fitting of some safety chains and four piles at the southern end of the quay.

The moorings barge Port Constructor has been beached outside the Buoy Store in Exmouth for some small refit work before the start of the main moorings work. New anodes were fitted, some machinery has been serviced, checked and certificated for use.

The servicing of customers moorings is now the main working priority when the weather allows.

After all the storms and spells of bad weather that have hit the Exe this winter, some salvage work of grounded and abandoned vessels is yet to be done.

The survey of the approach channel has now been done; the results are being studied to see if we need to make any alterations to the positions of the aids to navigation.

The results of the survey have also been passed to the Port User Group and are going to be posted on the Waterways web pages.

The area of the Bight still causes some concern with the moving of the sand on Bull Hill bank. Some moorings are being removed from that area to allow for a safer passage up the river.

The areas between no's 18 and 25 buoys will be surveyed later this spring.

Inspection of Local Aids to Navigation, Merchant Shipping Act, 1995, Section 198(1)

We are pleased to advise you that the local aids to navigation under the management of Exeter City Council were inspected on 21/01/2025 by an Officer of Trinity House and found to be in good and efficient order.

Volunteers

We have 10 active volunteers trained and ready for the 2025 season. During the winter we delivered an evening's practical and theory session that included some night navigation for the volunteer team. Three members of the volunteer team also undertook a one-day assessment in February and training (with the harbour team) to gain their RYA Level 2 Powerboating qualification.

We are now using an App for booking in volunteer patrols, which we hope will improve the forward planning and staffing of patrols. The patrols will start in April, mostly at weekends but including some evening during busy periods. We also hope to have some combined patrols with Southeast Devon Wildlife Habitat Regulations Team. We have also spoken to and hope to be joined by some of the Exmouth Neighbourhood Police Officers for a handful of patrols during the year, this should greatly assist in addressing anti-social behaviour of a small number of persistent speeders on the estuary.

Incident Statistics

From December to March, we have recorded the following incidents

Incident type	Number
Sinkings	2
Groundings	1
Collisions	
Speeding vessels	
Machinery failure	
Engine breakdown	
Injury afloat	
Vessels adrift	2
Swimmers in the main channel	
Navigation errors	
Capsized vessels	
Man overboard	
Vessels parted from moorings	5
other	

Grahame Forshaw

Harbour Master

5th March 2025