



PRESS RELEASE

Harbour Master announces three new initiatives at Port Date: 28th May 2010

Hayle's new Harbour Master is 54 yr old Captain Mark Capon. Mark is a Master Mariner and served 16 years at sea on a wide variety of ships including six years working in the North Sea oil and gas industry.

He went on to qualify as a solicitor (he no longer practices) and is an expert in Merchant Shipping law and Port legislation. After his seagoing career he worked for the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) as a Surveyor of Ships, a Port State Control Inspector and an Examiner of Master and Mates. He formed the first Enforcement Unit and was involved in many investigations and high profile cases.

He will be working closely with the Harbour Board at Hayle Harbour Authority and with Deputy Harbour Master, Peter Haddock and Assistant Harbour Master, Ken Routledge.

He will manage operations at Hayle whilst overseeing the day-to-day management of the Port, which will continue to be undertaken by Peter Haddock and Ken Routledge.

The Harbour Master has set in place 3 new initiatives in response to feedback received from meetings with Town Councillors and other interested parties.

1. Dredging at Hayle to be halted pending a full comprehensive review by the Harbour Master

A decision has been taken to halt dredging at Hayle Harbour pending a full comprehensive review by the Harbour Master into the operational needs and the safe operation of the Port.

Mark Capon explained the background: "We have a to keep under review the need to keep the channels clear but I also have to understand how we might best meet the requirements of all our stakeholders whilst discharging our statutory duties and limiting the impact of dredging on the natural environment."

The decision by the Harbour Master to undertake a comprehensive review means that an application to renew the dredging license has been postponed pending the outcome of the review.

2. *Kite surfing ban lifted from 1st June*

The Harbour Master has also lifted the ban on Kite Surfing: "I need to establish if kite surfing can take place at the entrance to the estuary in a safe and responsible manner without adversely affecting the safe operation of the Port.

After consulting with stakeholders and conducting the required risk assessments, I have agreed to a six-month trial of Kite Surfing commencing June 1st. Kite Surfing is only permitted if all Kite Surfers comply with an agreed a Code of Conduct that has been prepared in conjunction with the British Kite Surfing Association and Kernow Kitesurfing Club."

3. *Monthly Harbour Master surgeries to take place in Hayle*

Mark Capon set out his new approach: "I believe communication together with openness with all stakeholders is of utmost importance and I intend to make myself available each month at "Harbour Master's Surgeries". I wish to meet with all users of the harbour and the local and wider community and anyone can speak to me about any matter that is of interest or concern. The surgeries may be booked via the Deputy Harbour Master at The Harbour Office and surgery times and dates will be published on the new Hayle Harbour website - www.hayleharbourauthority.co.uk <<http://www.hayleharbourauthority.co.uk/>>"

ENDS

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Editors Notes:

The following Statement of Purpose from the New Harbour Master has been issued to Stakeholders and the Local Councils

May 2010

Hayle Harbour Authority * is a body of statute formed to serve the public interest. It has a responsibility to manage, maintain and improve the harbour. The responsibilities of a Harbour Authority remain constant regardless whether the port is governed by a trust, a local authority or is private. The Harbour

Authority remains accountable for the safe, efficient and viable operation of the harbour but it may entrust the operation of the harbour to professionals.

I have been appointed as harbour master in accordance with sec 51 Harbour Docks and Piers Clauses Act 1847, which is incorporated into the Hayle Harbour Act 1989. The day-to-day management of the Harbour will be carried out by Peter Haddock, the deputy harbour master, but I will have overall responsibility for the safe operation of navigation and other marine activities in the harbour and its approaches.

The Harbour Authority, by way of the Harbour Board, will determine policy and strategic plans and operational parameters. Where appropriate it shall seek advice from the Hayle Harbour Advisory Committee and shall consult with stakeholders. I shall implement those plans and ensure the harbour is operated in accordance with the instructions of the Board.

As well as complying with all applicable local and national legislation, the Harbour Authority is committed to complying with the Port Marine Safety Code. To this end, the Harbour Authority has appointed an independent designated person, Mark Robinson, to audit compliance with the Code and provide independent assurance directly to it that the Marine Safety Management System is working effectively.

The jurisdiction of the Harbour Authority is extensive and varied and includes the harbour and its approaches as well as inshore areas and land and I am keen to recognise and hopefully reconcile the sometimes diverse and competing interests associated with the environment, heritage, commerce, leisure and tourism.

Like all Harbour Authorities, Hayle will face challenges and I look forward to assisting the Harbour Authority meet and manage those challenges so that the Harbour can flourish and serve its stakeholders.

- Hayle Harbour Management Limited will be renamed in 2010 as Hayle Harbour Authority Ltd.

Kite Surfing

The Harbour Authority has a responsibility to serve all of its stakeholders and that includes kite surfers. It recognises that interests sometimes compete but it is committed to resolving conflict provided that all the risks associated with marine operations and activities can be managed to As Low As Reasonably Practicable in accordance with the Port Marine Safety Code.

Only in circumstances where the risks cannot be reduced to acceptable levels by implementing sensible and proportional precautions will the Harbour Authority consider prohibiting a lawful activity.

Sensible and proportional precautions may include;

- Limiting the activity to specified times and areas.
- Relying on the existing provisions of the COLREGS, local acts and byelaws and enforcing the law when it is broken.
- Permitting an activity only when all those engaged in it are insured and comply with a voluntary code of conduct.
- Recording all incidents and keeping the risks and the precautions under regular review.

The management of risk often requires co-operation between harbour users and the Harbour Authority looks to all stakeholders to assist in this process. Safety is a team effort.

The Harbour Authority has a responsibility to charge appropriate harbour dues to those that use the harbour and it is right that all that use it should contribute to its running costs.

The Board of the Harbour Authority shall decide on the policy after considering the input of the professionals it engages and where appropriate after seeking advice from the HHAC.