

Salcombe Harbour Board, 30th November 2004

FISHING BOAT POLICY

Report of the Salcombe Harbour Master

Statutory Powers: The Pier and Harbour Order (Salcombe) Confirmation Act 1954

Financial implications: None

Purpose

1. This report asks the Harbour Board for policy guidance on the allocation of foreshore mooring facilities for registered fishing boats. The contents of this report are linked to CP 6 – ‘the improvement of core services in a cost effective way’

Recommendation

That the Board RESOLVES:-

- (i) that registered fishing vessels are given priority on the foreshore mooring waiting list and each application will be considered by the Harbour Master on a case by case basis.
- (ii) that the Salcombe Harbour policy document is amended accordingly.

The Issues

2. Salcombe Harbour has a shell fishing community that operates from the Fish Quay at Batson. Shellfish including crab and lobster are ‘tipped out’ on the slipway at the quay and is distributed both locally and exported abroad.
3. The fishing industry is increasingly coming under pressure from EU regulations and those seeking to make a living from within the Industry find that many challenges lie ahead.
4. The Salcombe Fishing Industry is changing and those traditionally going to sea in what is described as a ‘medium sized crabber’ are either selling and leaving the industry or are now down-sizing vessels because they are either uneconomical to run or they are experiencing difficulties in finding and retaining crew.
5. The consequence of these new changes is that the Harbour Office is increasingly receiving applications for foreshore mooring facilities from owners of registered fishing vessels who have decided to continue fishing from smaller vessels or new applications from those wishing to pursue a fishing career from a vessel suitable for a foreshore mooring.
6. The Salcombe Harbour Policy Document gives guidance on deepwater mooring facilities but not foreshore; the current policy reads as follows:-

FISHING VESSELS REQUIRING MOORINGS (SH.5/79, SH.53/78, SH.45/99, SH.37/81(ii) and SH.45/99)

1. The total number of fishing vessels on deep water moorings shall not exceed 25.
 2. Three months notice will be required from new fishing vessels, excluding replacement vessels, requiring moorings in the Harbour.
 3. The Harbour Authority should continue to give priority of berthing to recognised local commercial fishing vessels, subject to availability of a suitable mooring
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7. The Board is asked to consider the implications of the aforementioned trend in light of the above policy, and guidance from the Board is sought as to whether foreshore mooring applications from registered fishing vessels should be given priority for foreshore moorings.
 8. To assist the Board to come to an informed decision the Harbour Master proposes that the following is adopted:-
 - (i) registered fishing vessels applying for foreshore moorings are given priority subject to three months notice in writing;
 - (ii) that each application is considered by the Harbour Master on a case by case basis;
 - (iii) that the Board agree an upper ceiling on the number of 'designated' foreshore moorings, as per the deep water mooring policy; the Harbour Master suggests six in number.

Risk Assessment

9. It is important that the Council's Harbour Board constantly review their policies to ensure that they meet the Board's aims and objectives. Should the Board not have in place the appropriate policies in light of current changing demands, certain priority user groups may become disadvantaged.

Human Rights

10. None for the purpose of this report.

Conclusion

11. The fishing industry in Salcombe is changing and the Board needs to be mindful of these changes and ensure that the Harbour Master is provided with the policies to administer the future demands for fishing vessels requiring foreshore moorings.

S E Tooke
Harbour Master

Salcombe Harbour Board
30th November 2004

Paula Brooks
Strategic Director, (Operations)

Background Documents

Salcombe Harbour Policy Document – Fishing Vessels Requiring Moorings
(SH.5/79, SH.53/78, SH.45/99, SH.37/81(ii) and SH.45/99)