



**COWES HARBOUR
COMMISSION**

Marine Safety Management Plan

Issue Version 5.0 – 2022 to 2024

Document	Marine Safety Management Plan
Issue Version	Issue 5.0 – Jan 2022
Amendment	0

Marine Safety Management Plan, 2022-2024

1. Introduction

As required by the Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC), Cowes Harbour Commission (CHC) publishes its Marine Safety Management Plan for the conduct of marine operations in Cowes Harbour every three years; this plan covers the period 2022 – 2024.

This Marine Safety Management Plan commits CHC to undertaking the proper management and regulation of marine operations within the scope of its powers and authority, according to Cowes Harbour Revision Order 2012 (as amended) and the PMSC. CHC has the primary responsibility of maintaining safe access to an 'Open Port', managing and supporting the safety of vessels, the general public and all users of Cowes Harbour, together with a duty to conserve the river and its environment. In managing the safety of navigation and the provision of services, CHC always has the safety of life and vessels as its highest priority.

2. Marine Policies

The CHC Board has developed several marine policies in support of the management and regulation of marine operations that safeguards the harbour, its users, the public and the environment within harbour limits. The Cowes Harbour Advisory Committee are an integral part of the formal consultation process prior to implementing new harbour safety policies or regulations.

CHC's 'Navigational Safety Policy' is based on a continuing, formal assessment and mitigation of risk in consultation with river users. CHC ensures compliance with this policy by actively communicating and educating, via various media, both of which are underpinned by clear and precise rules and regulations.

CHC's 'Enforcement Policy' comprises the promulgation of regulation and guidance, training of staff, effective surveillance of harbour users, incident investigation and where appropriate formal warning and prosecution. This policy is based on education in the first instance and generally only reverts to prosecution for repeat offenders; for offences bringing significant risk of serious injury or loss of life or when users threaten or abuse our staff members.

Other policies have been developed in line with the PMSC and 'Guide to Good Practice on Port Marine Operations'. These include, but are not limited to:

- Pilotage
- Hydrography
- Conservancy
- Consultation

All policies are included in CHC's Marine Safety Management System (MSMS) and are subject to periodical review.

3. Marine Safety Management System (MSMS)

A comprehensive overview of CHC's structure, management and maintenance of the MSMS and CHC's compliance with the PMSC in support of this Plan, is contained in the full MSMS Manual and available at the Harbour Office.

External audits of the MSMS and CHC's compliance with the PMSC are undertaken at least every 3 years, and through an annual rolling programme, supplemented by regular internal health-checks. The next external audit is planned for February 2023.

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Audit Schedule:

Year	Type
2022	Internal
2023	External
2024	Internal

4. Safety Management Objectives

Number	Service Provision / Activity	Objective
1	To ensure that empowering legislation available to CHC is appropriate and fit for purpose.	Review legislation and required risk assessment control measures a minimum of annually.
2	Provide a safe environment for all employees, stakeholders and harbour users.	To maintain an effective Marine Safety Management System with zero non-conformances' identified at audits. Consult with stakeholders on the annual SMS and relevant risk assessment review.
3	Conservancy: Provide a safe and navigable harbour for all users.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To survey and maintain navigation channels at charted depth. Satisfy the GLA minimum availability requirements for aids to navigation. Issue LNTMs in a timely manner
4	Provide management and /or support in any emergency within the harbour or close to its boundaries.	To maintain emergency response and counter pollution plans and the ability to implement them.
5	Carry out regular reviews of applicable safety control measures and ensure effectiveness to reduce incidents.	No serious incidents, major injuries or Tier 2 level pollution incidents as the result of a failure of CHC's SMS and / or of associated CHC safety control measure provisions.
6	Provide a safe, efficient and effective pilotage service.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain a roster of authorised pilots Review the pilotage directions annually. No serious incidents resulting from errors made by authorised Cowes Pilots or PEC holders.
7	Provide safe and cost effective marine services for the benefit of all stakeholders and harbour users.	To reduce the occurrence of accidents or incidents within our commercial marine services activities. Regularly review charges.
8	Provide suitably qualified management structure to the benefit of all stakeholders and harbour users.	To ensure that those with marine safety responsibilities are competent and trained to undertake their duties.
9	Seek to reduce the number of CHC work place accidents annually.	No incidents requiring staff to take time off work.