

MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING – 5th February 2018

AGENDA ITEM	NOTES	ACTION
1.1 Welcome	1.1 The Chairman (Dr J.O'Sullivan) welcomed everyone to this MAC meeting this morning.	
2.1 Present	2.1 Those present then identified themselves and the organisation whom they represent: R.Sharp – Natural Resources Wales Dr J.O'Sullivan – V.Dock Berth Holders Assoc. D.O'Neill – Caernarfon Harbour Trust N.Bristow – Port Dinorwic Sailing Club A.Price – Ynys Mon Council J.Judge – Royal Welch Club S.Bunting – RNLI T.Bailey – Menai Marine K.Fitzpatrick – RYA Cymru I.C.Thomas – Caernarfon Harbour Trust D.Rhys Prytherch - Caernarfon Sailing Club E.W.Jones – Pilot	
2.2 Apologies	2.2 Apologies :	
2.3 Nominations	S.Morgan – Plas Menai 2.3 Awaiting nomination – Welsh Government Fisheries Unit	
3. MAC Minutes Review	3.1 The Minutes from the previous MAC meeting that was held on 2 nd October 2017 were agreed by all those present.	Harbour Master
4. Additional Members	4.1 The Harbour Master informed the meeting that he is awaiting for MSFORMA to notify him as to who is their representative to serve on the MAC.	
5. Rib Ride Proposal	5.1 The Chairman welcomed P.Scott (Rib Ride) to present his proposal to operate an 80 knot Rib "Velocity" on the Menai Strait. The official launch for this project is to be on the 19 th February 2018. During the course of his presentation the following points were made: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This will be the 13th year that Rib Rides have been operating on the Menai Strait. • Originally P.Scott worked at Plas Menai. • His 5 Rib's (but also at Menai Bridge, Holyhead, Beaumaris and Caernarfon) carried approximately 15,000 passengers last year, on average between 10 to 12 passengers (i.e. approximately 1,500 trips pa). • Various tourist award have been awarded to Rib Rides. • P.Scott is quite willing to work with other Rib operators on the Menai Strait. • In marketing terms he seeks to provide a 'safe fast water experience' on the Menai Strait and surrounding waters. • Citing the example of "Zip World" which have recorded a zip run at 118mph; the average will be approximately 80mph. There will be a significant difference between the perception of the speed travelled at as against 'what is provided'. • Rib Rides has received the support from the Welsh Government to market the Menai Strait as having 'the fastest rib experience'. • A Sterling 34 hull has been acquired and converted into a Rib containing 3 Yamaha 3,300HP engines that could travel at 80 knots. • Apart from working with his insurers/underwriters in designing/building this vessel, he has also had the assistance of the MCA, etc. relating to the risk assessment. • Each trip will consist of 4 passes within a defined qualified area for one mile on the Menai Strait. The first 2/3 passes will be at approximately 25 knots to identify the water conditions in order to allow for 1 or 2 passes at high speed. • Although the perception is that it is a fast boat – concern will be given at all times to other water users. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In his research P.Scott disclosed a reluctance by the authorities (e.g. MCS, RYA) to define what is 'high speed'. • In theory the first trip for "Velocity" will be on the 26th May 2018. • The skipper of "Velocity" will be seated at the stern of the vessel so that should anyone fall overboard that he/she will have seen the incident, but that all the passengers will be wearing a buoyancy aid. The minimum age for this trip is 8, but this is under review and may switch to that of the inside leg measurement. • All the 15 Rib Ride skippers (with some upto 60 years of age) receive comprehensive training when they join to ensure that they have all the necessary maritime/first aid certificates, etc. This also involves during their training sitting in the front seat of the Rib so that they can appreciate the experience of the passenger. • The challenge for each of his skippers is to decide where to go on the water, which manages the expectations of their customers of the speed that they perceive that they are going. • For boatowners within the jurisdiction of the CHT (following the marketing launch on 19th February 2018) to be comprehensively informed about this new Rib Ride on the vessel "Velocity". • It was decided that a spring loaded hydraulic seat would best be provided for the skipper of "Velocity" due to 'shock mitigation'. • Although there is nothing within the current MCA Code to prevent the vessel "Velocity" from operating within the Menai Strait. The CHT could nevertheless decide to stop this project if they felt that it was unsafe. In certain areas, due to habitat regulations, permission would also be required to protect mammals/birds. • A meeting is to be arranged between P.Scott (Rib Ride) and R.Sharp (NRA) to discuss underwater sound, etc. and how it may effect mammals/birds on the Menai Strait. • P.Scott (Rib Ride) confirmed that he had contacted the Marine Dept. at Bangor University concerning the vessel "Velocity". <p>The Chairman thanked P.Scott (Rib Ride) for his excellent presentation, which in pushing forward the 'boundaries' it meant that legislation, etc. had not yet caught up. Following a discussion the MAC, after a proposal by the Chairman and seconded by K.Fitzpatrick, agreed to recommend to the CHT that in the event of a significant incident involving a super-fast Rib (within the jurisdiction of the Trust) that it should cease all trips pending an investigation.</p>	<p>CHT</p>
<p>6. Fees & Charges</p>	<p>6.1 Following a discussion the MAC agreed to the CHT proposal to raise its fees/charges by 3% for 2018. N.Bristow reminded the meeting that it was Gwynedd Council and not the Trust who set the prices for the V.Dock.</p> <p>6.2 I.Hughes informed the meeting that Ynys Mon Council have decided to retain the current price structure for 5 years in respect of its 15 charter vessels (i.e. at £440 plus VAT per vessel) in order to assist tourism on the island. In addition, discussions are taking place with Rib Ride for them to base vessel(s) at St. George's Pier, Menai Bridge.</p>	<p>CHT</p>
<p>7. Lobster Pots</p>	<p>7.1 Following a discussion concerning lobster pots, the MAC recommended to the CHT that there should be none in the Swellies, navigable channels and in the vicinity of the bridges.</p>	
<p>8. Any Other Business</p>	<p>8.1 The meeting discussed the implications of a third bridge being built across the Menai Strait (i.e. environmental/social impact as well as that relating to navigation).</p> <p>8.2 K.Fitzpatrick (RYA) informed the meeting that unless there is an emergency, then a planning licence would be required to repair the slipway at Porth yr Aur.</p> <p>8.3 The Minutes of the MAC meeting will be issued to MAC members as soon as possible, but if anybody had a point that they wished to raise for discussion for it then to be placed on the Agenda for the next MAC meeting.</p> <p>8.4 The Harbour Master is to circulate his Y Felinheli shallow area soundings to all the MAC members.</p> <p>8.5 The Harbour Master is to investigate reports of metal spikes in the water off the Anglesey Sea Zoo.</p>	<p>Harbour Master Harbour Master</p>

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	8.5 The Caernarfon Sailing Club are seeking a grant to acquire a defibrillator. The Dock Master is to be contacted as to whether it should be placed on the Gate House itself so that it is available to all members of the public in the event of an emergency; but whilst also ensuring that it is safe from theft.	
9. Items to be referred/ recommended to the CHT	9.1 The following topics are to be recommended to the Trust: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rib Rides• Fees and Charges• Lobster Pots	
10. Date of Next meeting	<u>10.1 The MAC members agreed that the date of the next meeting will be on 8th October 2018 at 10.00am at the Harbour Office.</u>	