



PORT MARINE SAFETY CODE - MARINE SAFETY PLAN 2023 -2025

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1. Introduction

As required by the Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC) Blyth Harbour Commission will publish a Marine Safety Plan every three years. The plan details how Blyth Harbour Commission conducts marine operations within the Port of Blyth Statutory Harbour Limits and the Blyth Pilotage District.

In order to conduct marine operations in a safe and effective manner Blyth Harbour Commission publishes policies, plans, procedures and guidance documentation in support of its statutory powers. All such documents are based on a formal risk assessment process to ensure that all risks are either eliminated or reduced to as low as reasonably practicable (ALARP).

Details of marine policies and procedures together with supporting guidance can be found in the marine section of the port's website at: www.portofblyth.co.uk

2. Marine Policy

Blyth Harbour Commission has published a Marine Policy, confirming the duty holder's commitment to compliance with the PMSC. The overarching policy statement regarding navigational safety has been signed by the Chief Executive Officer with the MCA statement of compliance signed by the chair of Blyth Harbour Commissioners on behalf of the duty holder.

The latest version of the marine safety policy can be downloaded from the marine section of the port's website at: www.portofblyth.co.uk

This policy is supported by additional marine policies covering the environment, marine enforcement, PMSC Policy and marine leisure activities, as well as other corporate policies, particularly those relating to health and safety.

3. Marine Procedures and Guidelines

Procedures and guidance documentation for all marine navigation and operations within the Blyth Statutory Harbour Limits and the Blyth Pilotage District are produced following consultation between port stakeholders and the Port of Blyth marine management team. All such documentation is reviewed regularly and following any changes to operations or following post incident investigation.

Together the policy and procedures outline those activities which have been identified as necessary to ensure the safe and efficient management of marine activities within the port environment, and making best use of Blyth Harbour Commission statutory powers and responsibilities.

Such activities may be divided into those that are established and on-going (routine) in their support of PMSC compliance, and those which are additional (or temporary) management targets or procedures seeking to ensure continuous improvement in port marine safety.

4. The Management of Established Marine Operations

All marine operations are managed by the Harbour Master & the marine management team and this Marine Safety Plan commits Blyth Harbour Commission, within the boundaries of its powers and authority, to properly manage and regulate marine operations within its Statutory Harbour Limits. The scope of this management plan is to ensure safe navigation for all river users and to protect the harbour environment.

Safety is paramount and in managing marine navigation and marine operations, Blyth Harbour Commission will always put the safety of life and vessels first. In order to maintain these high safety standards it may be necessary to delay vessel movements or operations on the river which may at times inconvenience other harbour users. Whilst such delays will always be kept to a minimum, safety will always take precedence.

Blyth Harbour Commission shall ensure effective processes and procedures are in place to maintain the Marine Safety Management System. The Port of Blyth marine management team shall undertake a number of activities to ensure that continual compliance with the PMSC including regulatory & statutory obligations are met and all risks are assessed as ALARP.

The following activities are the responsibility of the Harbour Master & marine management team and are undertaken on behalf of the duty holder to cover all marine activities:

- Produce & review top level MSMS documentation and marine policy
- Hold periodic marine services team meetings to review the MSMS including document/procedure review schedule, incident reporting, training and progress on tasks/projects
- Hold weekly marine operations management team meetings
- Undertake comprehensive marine reporting and incident investigation and implement a marine incident recording system
- Conduct detailed marine/navigation risk assessments

- Host periodic PMSC liaison meetings with stakeholders including terminal operators, agents, tugs, boatmen and pilots
- Hold port user/stakeholder liaison meetings twice yearly in addition to stakeholder annual review meeting
- Conduct an internal audit programme
- Undertake three yearly external independent PMSC audit
- Create & implement emergency response plans and procedures with regular response exercises and training conducted
- Recruit trained, experienced and competent personnel with continual professional development identified through annual appraisal

5. Management & Performance Targets

Permanent Targets:

	Activity	Target
1.	Local port services & vessel traffic management	Maintain an effective 24/7 Port Control in accordance with national, IALA and IMO standards. Ensure infrastructure is properly maintained.
2.	Navigational and marine incidents	Thorough reporting, investigation and analysis ensure all risk assessments, procedures and guidelines are appropriate to reduce the likelihood of any major navigational or pollution incident.
3.	Provide trained and qualified pilots to ensure an effective 24/7 pilotage service	24/7 pilotage services maintained (subject to weather) without any serious Incidents. Training programme in place.
4.	Maintain conservancy and hydrographic surveying	Ensure bathymetric survey and dredging are maintained and Survey charts are published following survey. Through appropriate maintenance and response ensure AtN availability meets TLHS & LLA standards.
5.	Liaise and consult with port users & stakeholders	Routine liaison meetings held with stakeholders
6	Policies, Plans and Procedures	Ensure all Port policy, plans and procedures reviewed, updated and published as required.

6. Management Targets for Continued Improvement (“Marine Safety Plan”)

The Port of Blyth may have additional improvement plans covering local issues but this plan aims to address high level improvement targets which will benefit all marine activities and fulfils the requirement of the PMSC for the duty holder to maintain a “Marine Safety Plan”.

1.	Port Marine Safety Code External and Internal Audit	Ensure all Outstanding Recommendations and Improvements opportunities from such PMSC audits are formally addressed and closed out.
2.	Pilotage Directions	Complete a review of the current parameters and criteria of current directions
3.	Harbour Office Staff Training CPD	Conduct a skills review of Marine Department to enhance CPD
4.	Pilot Training / Tug Staff CPD	Conduct Training/Skills Review of Pilots/ Tug Crew to ensure CPD
5.	Marine Safety Management System	Conduct a full review and update of the MSMS incorporating industry best practice and to bring in line with ISO 9001 standards.