Marine Safety Plan (2026 – 2029)

Approved by the Board of Lerwick Port Authority

Published: 17/03/2026

Introduction

As part of our commitment to comply with the Ports and Marine Facilities Safety Code (PMSC), Lerwick Port Authority publishes a Marine Safety Plan every three years.

The Marine Safety Plan commits the Authority to undertake and regulate marine operations in a way that safeguards the port, its users and the environment.

Marine Policies

Lerwick Port Authority has three policies that are reviewed each year and approved by the Duty Holder.

- Navigational Safety Policy.
- Environment and Quality Policy.
- Health and Safety Policy.

Marine Procedures and Guidelines

The Authority's fully integrated Health, Safety, Environment, and Quality (HSEQ) Management System encompasses processes related to navigational safety, environmental protection, and conservancy within its jurisdiction. Through this approach, the Authority maintains an effective Marine Safety Management System (MSMS), supported by formalised hazard identification and risk assessment, that establishes processes and procedures which are continuously reviewed.

Management of Marine Operations

The Authority undertakes the management and provision of marine operations and port services including pilotage, towage, mooring, port control, as well as pollution and emergency response, within the multi-user Port. In compliance with the PMSC, the Authority's well established MSMS is used as the basis for continual improvement in marine safety performance.

Marine operations are managed via various methods, including:

- Weekly operational meetings.
- Regular management team meetings.
- Quarterly departmental meetings.
- Reporting and investigation into marine incidents.
- Emergency response plans.
- Approved and continually reviewed HSEQ management system.
- Recruitment standards and training matrixes.
- Emergency drills and exercises.
- Internal and external audit process.

Marine Safety Duties

In discharging its duties, Lerwick Port Authority shall:

- Maintain an effective MSMS based on a formalised assessment process, in consultation with port users, and with the aim of bringing risk levels to as low as reasonably practicable.
- Review regularly, the effectiveness of, and if necessary, seek amendments to, its legal powers, Byelaws and Directions in respect of navigational safety.
- Review regularly, the effectiveness of equipment, manning and procedures relating to marine services.

- Provide a Pilotage service appropriate to the district and in accordance with the Pilotage Act 1987.
- Conduct appropriate hydrographic surveys by qualified companies, to ensure safe navigation in the area and make the soundings available to the UKHO where appropriate.
- Undertake maintenance dredging and harbour conservancy duties as required.
- Raise, remove, destroy and mark a sunken vessel or other obstructions that are, or may become a danger to safe navigation.
- Ensure the provision of necessary aids to navigation (buoys, beacons, lights) within its Statutory Harbour Area (SHA).
- Promulgate navigational, tidal and other relevant information as appropriate to port users.
- Provide effective management and co-ordinated response to emergency incidents within its area of jurisdiction.
- Consult with port users and other relevant stakeholders in respect of navigational safety issues and proposed changes to navigational arrangements.
- Ensure through risk assessment, that any harbour works in the area, take due regard of safety of navigation.
- Prepare, plan and exercise for emergencies through an Emergency Plan.
- Review the MSMS to ensure it is appropriate and effective, through an audit process.
- Ensure effective incident reporting and investigation.
- Ensure compliance with the PMSC.

Processes shall be planned effectively to regulate marine operations in a way that conserves the harbour, protects the environment, prevents unnecessary pollution, and safeguards users, the public and the land and marine environment. These shall include:

- The identification of the environmental aspects of our activities and implementation of control measures to reduce impact on the environment and enhance any benefits to the environment.
- The maintenance of contingency plans to reduce the environmental effects of incidents, with particular reference to oil pollution.
- The monitoring of Authority services to ensure standards remain high and stakeholders' expectations are met.

Measuring Performance

Lerwick Port Authority measures its performance and effectiveness against its safety duties through key performance indicators (KPI).

KPI Area	KPI	Target/Actions
Marine Incidents	Zero MAIB reportable incidents.	Any incident to be reported timeously and logged on Port Management System. Regular Reporting to the Duty Holder.

KPI Area	KPI	Target/Actions
Navigational Safety Aids to Navigation (AtoNs)	Category 1 AtoNs ≥ 99.8% uptime. Category 2 AtoNs ≥ 99.5% uptime. Category 3 AtoNs ≥ 98.8% uptime.	Maintain availability targets. HM to present availability figures to Duty Holder on quarterly basis. Quarterly Aton checks signed off by Pilots on quarterly basis. Continual checks conducted by duty Pilots. Annual reports sent to the Northern Lighthouse Board detailing 3-yearly availability.
Conservancy Duties	100% availability of charted depths.	Carry out planned and re-active maintenance to maintain charted depths, channels and accessways.
Linkspan Availability	100% availability of at least one linkspan. Delivery of new linkspan. New linkspan components interchangeable with existing. Stock of spares held.	Carry out planned and reactive maintenance. Install new linkspan to meet requirements of new freight/pax vessels. Ensure new design incorporates efficiencies with current infrastructure. Purchase critical spares to minimise potential downtime.
Navigable Channel Availability	100% availability of at least one entrance.	Maintain safe navigable channel allowing access to all berths.
PMSC	Award three-year contract for external Designated Person. Engage with all facilities within SHA. State compliance.	Seek comparative prices and award contract. Contact all facilities within SHA and inform of PMSC requirements. Create and implement Lerwick Port Users Group. Complete online form before end of compliance window.

KPI Area	KPI	Target/Actions
Harbour Tug Availability	100% availability of at least one tug.	Carry out planned and reactive maintenance. Monitor crew availability to ensure adequate crewing available.
	Deliver new vessel.	Procure new tug vessel to replace Kebister.
	Workboat Code Edition 3 Certification.	Carry out required changes to ensure LPA vessels are certified to Workboat Code Edition 3 standards, prior to deadline.
Safety Critical Training & Competence	100% of marine staff complete training matrix requirements.	Enrol vessel skippers in the MCA recognised Voluntary Towage Endorsement Scheme. Monitor progress of marine staff to ensure programme remains on track.
Port Management	Complete upgrade of Port Management System.	Upgrade current Port Management System to cloud based system. Allow data entry for services to be done on the go, in real time.