

# MARINE SAFETY PLAN 2026-2029

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# MARINE SAFETY PLAN 2026-2029



## Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to describe the Port of Milford Haven's (the Port) 3-year Marine Safety Plan, covering 31st March 2026 to 30th March 2029. The key performance indicators are reported annually.

## Scope

The scope of this plan covers all Marine activities covered under the requirements of the Ports & Marine Facilities Safety Code (PMSC).

## References

Department for Transport: Ports & Marine Facilities Safety Code (April 2025).

Maritime and Coastguard Agency: A Guide to Good Practice on Port and Marine Facilities (April 2025)



## Definitions

**Duty Holder** – The individual or body with ultimate responsibility for compliance with the PMSC, for the Port, this is the Board of Directors.

**Designated Person (DP)** – Person providing independent assurance to the Duty Holder.

**PMSC** – Ports & Marine Facilities Safety Code.

**GTGP** – Guide to Good Practice on Port and Marine Operations Facilities

### Legislation

- Milford Haven Conservancy Act 1983
- Milford Haven Port Authority Act 1986
- The Milford Haven Port Authority Harbour Revision Order 2000
- Milford Haven Port Authority Act 2002
- The Milford Haven Port Authority HRO 2005
- The Milford Haven Port Authority (Constitution) HRO, 2012
- The Port Security (Port of Milford Haven) Designation Order 2013

## Responsibilities

**Board of Directors (Duty Holder)** – Ensure overall compliance with the PMSC.

**Harbour Master** – Implement safety management systems and operational marine policies.

**Designated Person (DP)** – Provide independent assurance on marine safety compliance.

**Marine Manager** – Oversee daily marine operations, training, incident management, and safety.

**HSS Manager** – Provide feedback to senior management on performance and compliance.

**Marine Department Staff** – Participate in safety meetings, exercises, and maintain required competencies, actively reporting and investigating incidents, identifying areas for improvement, ensuring continuous enhancement of the Marine Safety Management System.

# INTRODUCTION

Milford Haven Port Authority (MHPA), (trading as the Port of Milford Haven hereafter referred to as “The Port” in this document), is Wales’s busiest port and a strategically important UK energy hub, handling around 20% of Britain’s seaborne trade in oil and gas.

MHPA is a Trust Port and acts as the **Statutory Harbour Authority (SHA)** for the Milford Haven Waterway, (including the Port of Milford Haven, **Milford Docks Company Limited, and the Port of Pembroke**).

MHPA also serves as the **Competent Harbour Authority (CHA)** and **Local Lighthouse Authority (LLA)** for the Milford Haven estuary and its approaches. The Authority was established as a statutory body under the **Milford Haven Conservancy Act 1958**.

Milford Haven is Wales’s largest estuary, covering over **70 miles (112 km) of coastline**. The entrance to the waterway is approximately **1.5 miles (2.5 km)** wide, and the riverbed forms a natural deep-water channel, providing deep-water berthing for vessels within a semi-enclosed natural harbour.

The Ports & Marine Facilities Safety Code (PMSC) is published by the Department for Transport and sets out a national standard for port marine safety. The Code applies to all Harbour Authorities and other marine facilities, berth owners and terminals operators in the UK.

As part of its compliance with the requirements of the PMSC, the Port is publishing the following ‘Marine Safety Plan’ for a period of three years, covering **31st March 2026 to 30th March 2029**.

This Marine Safety Plan is one component of a comprehensive (strategic level) Marine Safety Management System (MSMS) under the Port Integrated Management System (PIMS) and serves to support the continuing improvement of marine safety performance. This Marine Safety Plan commits the Duty Holder to undertaking the proper management and regulation of marine operations within the scope of its powers and authority, and in line with its stated marine policies. As a Harbour Authority, the Port acknowledges these duties include a duty of care to those using the harbour which the Port recognises its obligation to conserve and facilitate the safe use of the harbour as well as a duty of care against loss caused by the harbour authority’s negligence.



## MARINE POLICIES

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The Port has several policies in support of the management and regulation of marine operations. These strategic policies are embedded in the MSMS (PIMS).

## THE MANAGEMENT OF MARINE OPERATIONS

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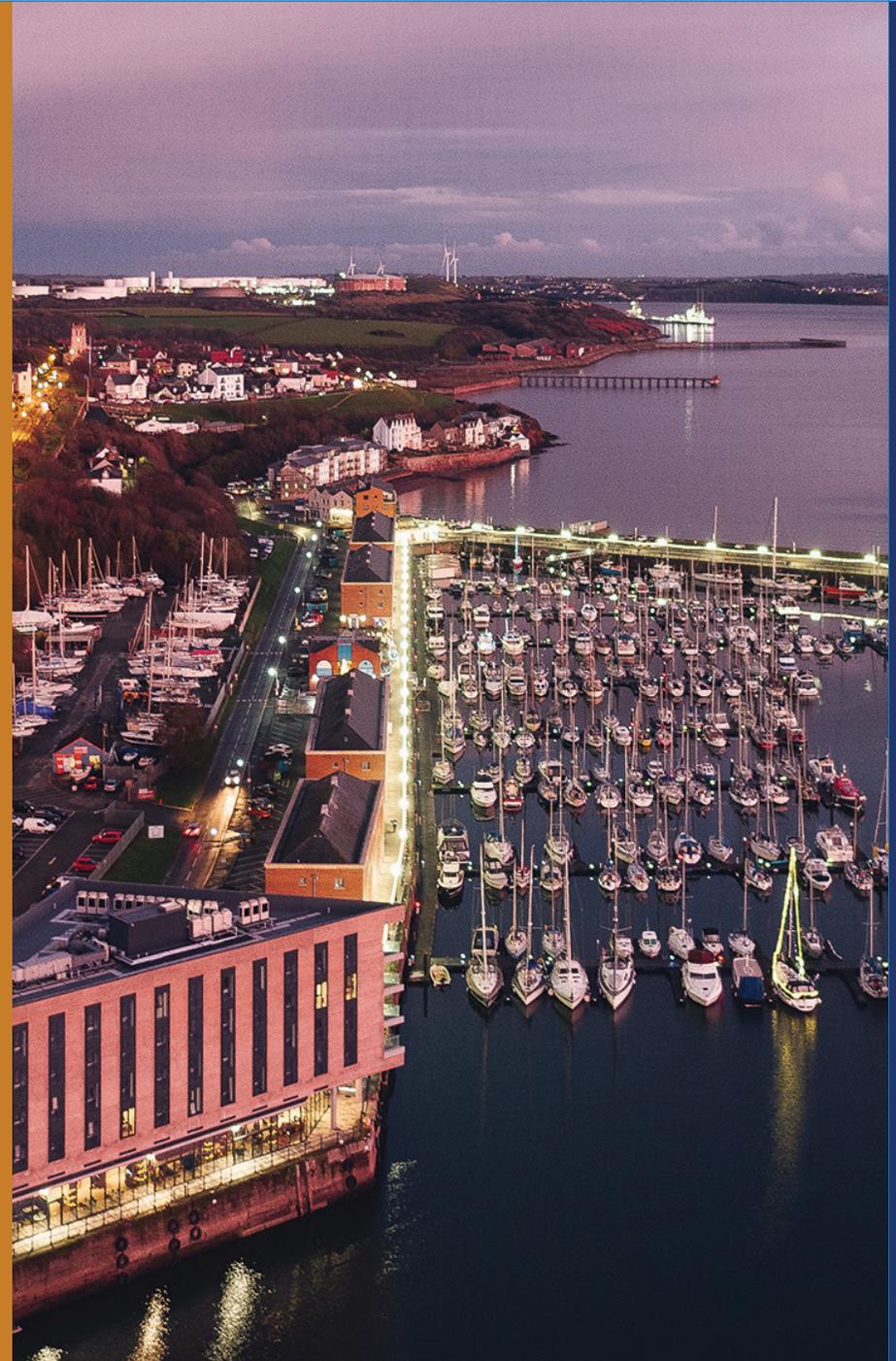
A comprehensive overview of the Port's structure, management, and documentation is maintained in the MSMS which supports the delivery of this Plan. The Port is committed to upholding its **duty of care, statutory duties and powers, and conservancy obligations**, in accordance with the Port & Marine Facilities Safety Code and external audits of the MSMS are undertaken on an annual basis, in the form of a rolling programme across the Port's waterway and Docks to confirm the Port's compliance with its duty. These responsibilities include ensuring safe navigation, regulating marine operations within its jurisdiction, and providing effective vessel traffic management.

The Port is committed to ensuring a positive, learning and just safety culture and to enhancing its risk based MSMS. All locations consistently and proactively review their risk assessments for all identified marine hazards and when required, identify control measures to mitigate those risks to a 'Tolerable' limit in line with the Port's Risk Appetite and to ensure that all risks are controlled to a level that is 'As Low as Reasonably Practicable' (ALARP). The Port has responsibilities to provide vessel traffic management and, as far as its powers allow, to facilitate the safe transit of vessels using its waterway and docks.

## PLAN PERIOD

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This plan covers the period 31st March 2026 to 30th March 2029.



# OBJECTIVES FOR THE MARINE SAFETY PLAN

These are linked into the PMSC Chapters

## 1. DUTY HOLDER

### Objective

To ensure the Duty Holder actively exercises accountability for the safe operation of marine activities in compliance with the PMSC.

### Measures:

1. Publish an annual **Marine Safety Plan Review** report each year, summarising performance against objectives, key risks, incidents, and improvement actions.
2. Ensure **100% of Board members** complete Duty Holder training within **6 months of appointment**, providing understanding of PMSC responsibilities and governance expectations.
3. Duty Holder or nominated representatives to attend a **minimum of two marine safety-related industry events annually** (e.g. BPA, SIGTTO, MCA PMSC) to remain informed of emerging risks, regulatory change, and good practice.
4. Maintain **annual membership of UKHMA** to support access to professional guidance and industry best practice.



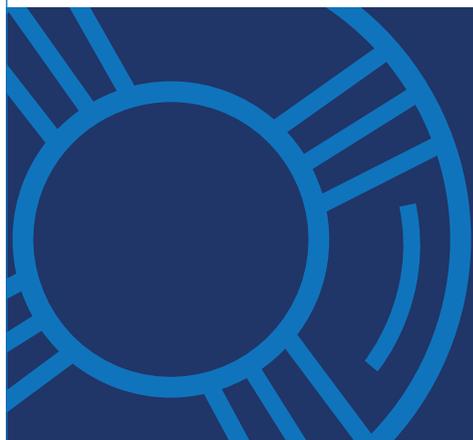
## 2. DESIGNATED PERSON (DP)

### Objective

To provide independent assurance to the Duty Holder that the Marine Safety Management System is effective and compliant with the PMSC.

### Measures:

- Maintain **regular direct communication with the Duty Holder (at least quarterly)** to provide independent advice, challenge, and assurance on marine safety matters.
- Carry out an **annual audit of scheduled elements of the PMSC & MSMS** to assess compliance, effectiveness, and implementation.
- Provide a **written annual assurance statement** to the Duty Holder summarising findings, areas of concern, and improvement priorities.
- Ensure the **Marine Safety Plan** review is completed and reported on time by **March** each year.



### 3. LEGISLATION

#### Objective

To ensure compliance with all relevant legislation and recognised good practice.

#### Measures:

1. Maintain a **legislation and guidance register**, reviewed **quarterly**, to identify applicable statutory requirements and industry standards affecting marine operations.
2. Assess, record, and where required implement changes to **policies, procedures, risk assessments, and the MSMS within one month** of legislative or regulatory change being published.



## 4. DUTIES AND POWERS

### Vessel Traffic Services (VTS)

#### Measures:

- Operate VTS in accordance with **IALA guidance and the UK National VTS Standard**, ensuring the service remains appropriate to the Port's risk profile.
- Maintain **≥99% VTS operational availability annually**, excluding planned maintenance, to support safe and efficient vessel movements through effective management of VTS staffing and competence, digital systems and data services, and the maintenance and reliability of VTS equipment and sensors.
- Record, review, and report VTS positive interventions annually, including navigational briefings and safety advice delivered through ship visits and operational communications that support continuous improvement.

### Pilotage

#### Measures:

- Maintain **Pilotage Service Levels** appropriate to the Port's risk profile, reviewed **annually** to reflect traffic patterns, vessel types, and navigational risk.
- Achieve **≥97% of planned pilotage movements** completed without delay attributable to pilotage service availability, demonstrating service reliability.
- Maintain a register of **Pilotage Exemption Certificates (PECs)** with **annual competence review** to ensure continued suitability and compliance.
- Complete **Master-Pilot Exchange (MPX)** reviews in accordance with policy and at least **every three years**, ensuring effective information exchange and shared situational awareness.



## Leisure and Recreational Management

### Measures:

- Engage with leisure users during routine **Harbour Patrol**, providing advice, guidance, and safety information.
- Maintain a **planned Harbour Patrol waterway presence of 97%** between **1 May and 30 September**, supporting peak seasonal leisure activity.
- Chair **biannual Recreation Working Group meetings** to identify emerging risks and agree proportionate control measures.
- Attend relevant stakeholder meetings, including RYA Cymru Wales, Pembrokeshire Beach Liaison, Pembrokeshire Water Safety, Local Search and Rescue Committee, annual Voluntary Control Officer meeting, and Milford Haven Harbour Users Association.
- Work with the Communications & Marketing team to **produce and disseminate an annual marine safety campaign**, targeting seasonal and emerging risks.
- Produce an **annual Leisure Safety Digest**, informed by analysis of Leisure PIRs and Near Miss Reports, and share learning with stakeholders.

## Policy, Enforcement and Governance

### Measures:

- Review the **Navigational Safety Policy and Enforcement Policies annually** to ensure they remain current, proportionate, and aligned with operational risk.
- Hold a **minimum of three stakeholder and marine safety meetings annually** (e.g. SLCs, PAC, Marine Forum) to consult on risk, performance, and proposed changes.
- Establish and maintain a **formal marine safety impact review process** for all new commercial proposals or significant operational changes, ensuring marine safety risks are identified and mitigated prior to approval.
- The Marine Safety and Commercial Balance Review should be reported each year, showing how marine safety has been maintained while managing operational and commercial pressures.

## Marine Assets and Support Craft

### Measures:

- Assess **future tug and workboat registration and certification requirements**, considering changes in legislation, operational demand, and fleet capability.
- Maintain a **tug and workboat registration and compliance roadmap**, reviewed **annually**, to ensure continued regulatory compliance and operational readiness.



## 5. RISK ASSESSMENT (RA)

### Objective

To ensure all marine risks are identified, assessed, and controlled through proportionate, current, and clearly defined risk assessment processes.

### Navigational Risk Assessment

#### Measures:

- Maintain a **structured navigational risk assessment framework** appropriate to the Port's activities, vessel traffic, and environmental conditions.
- Ensure **100% of navigational risk assessments** are formally reviewed **at least annually** with relevant stakeholders.
- Review navigational risk assessments following:
  - Marine incidents or significant near misses
  - Significant operational, traffic, or environmental change
- Record all navigational risk assessments, reviews, and outcomes within the **MSMS** to support traceability and assurance.

### Occupational (Work-Based) Risk Assessment

#### Measures:

- Maintain a **register of occupational risk assessments** covering marine activities, vessels, equipment, and support operations.
- Ensure **occupational risk assessments are clearly separated** from navigational risk assessments to maintain clarity of control measures.
- Review **100% of occupational risk assessments annually**, and additionally following accidents, incidents, or changes in work practices.
- Monitor the implementation and effectiveness of **identified risk control measures**, taking action where controls are found to be ineffective.



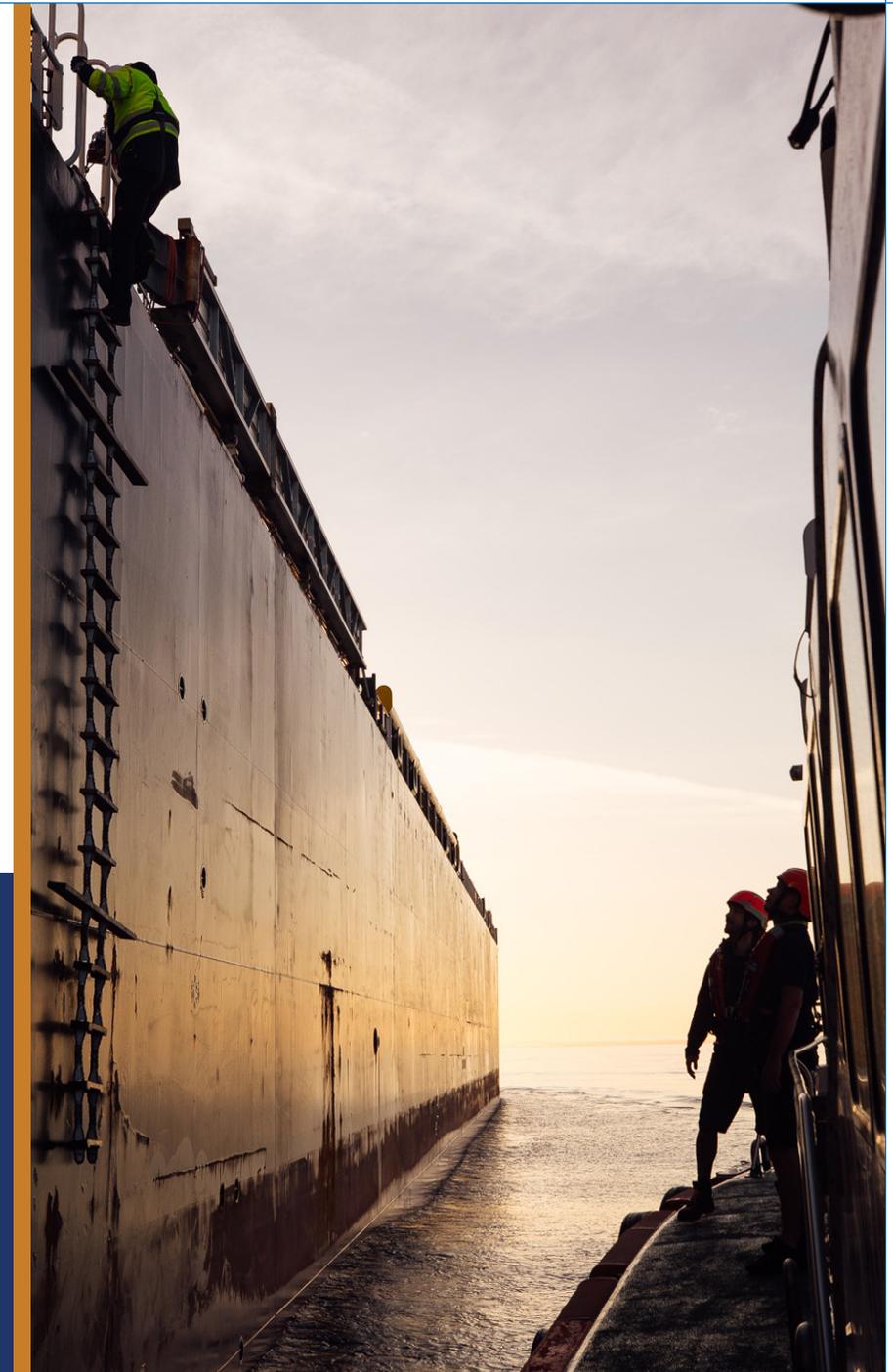
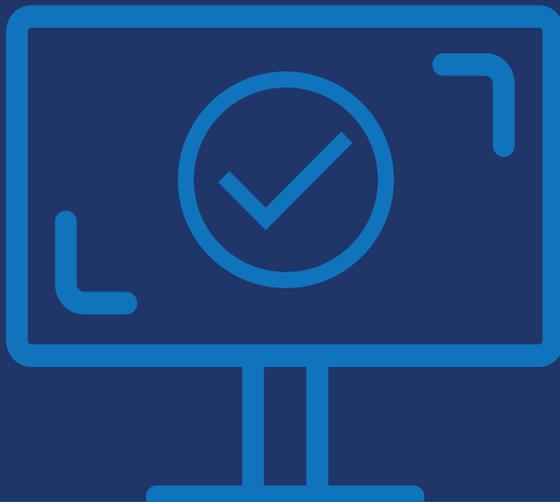
## 6. MARINE SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (MSMS)

### Objective

To maintain an effective, proportionate, and compliant MSMS that supports safe marine operations.

### Measures:

- Maintain a **documented MSMS aligned with the PMSC**, clearly defining roles, responsibilities, and safety-critical processes.
- Review the MSMS **annually** under the oversight of the Duty Holder and Designated Person to confirm continued suitability and effectiveness.
- Update the MSMS following **significant operational change, incidents, audit findings, or regulatory updates**.
- Maintain and review **PIMS documentation** to ensure information remains accurate, controlled, and accessible to relevant personnel.
- Address identified MSMS policy or procedural gaps within **two months of identification**, unless a risk-based timescale is agreed.



## 7. REVIEW AND AUDIT

### Objective

To provide assurance that the MSMS remains effective, compliant, and subject to continuous improvement.

### Review, Audit and Assurance

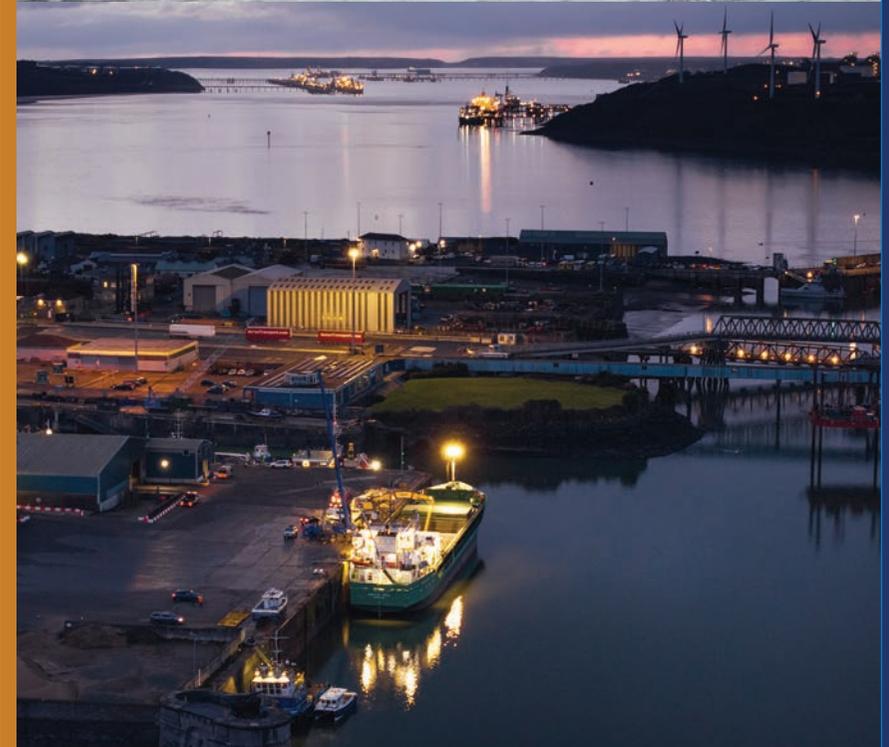
#### Measures:

- Maintain a **documented MSMS review and audit programme** covering all PMSC elements across the plan period.
- Complete **annual internal reviews and audits** to assess compliance, implementation, and effectiveness of the MSMS.
- Commission **at least one external audit** during the 2026–2029 Plan period to provide independent assurance.
- Ensure the **Designated Person provides a written annual assurance report** to the Duty Holder.
- Maintain **documented records** of all reviews, audits, findings, and assurance activities.

### Action Management and PMSC Compliance

#### Measures:

- Maintain a **register of audit, review, and assurance findings**, including corrective and improvement actions.
- Close out **100% of actions within agreed timescales**, in accordance with the Audit Policy.
- Escalate **overdue or high-risk actions** to the Duty Holder for oversight and direction.
- Complete and submit **PMSC self-certification every three years** or sooner following major operational change.
- Record and track actions arising from the self-certification process through to completion.
- Confirm **PMSC compliance status** within the Annual Report.



## 8. COMPETENCE

### Objective

To ensure all Port personnel are competent to perform their duties safely and effectively.

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### Measures:

- Achieve **100% completion of mandatory training** for all personnel, as defined in the Training Matrix.
  - Maintain **up-to-date competence, certification, and training records** for all marine-related roles.
  - Provide **refresher or additional training** where required by risk assessments, incident findings, or regulatory change.
  - Support ongoing professional development through **annual attendance at relevant industry events**.
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## 9. INCIDENT MANAGEMENT AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

### Objective

To ensure all marine incidents, near misses, and emergency situations are effectively reported, investigated, exercised, and learned from to support continuous improvement in marine safety.

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### Measures:

- Ensure **100% of marine incidents and near misses** are formally reported within **24 hours**, enabling timely investigation and escalation where required.
  - Investigate all reported incidents **proportionate to their nature and severity**, with investigation reports completed, approved, and closed out within **defined and agreed timescales**.
  - Review **incident and near-miss trends annually** to identify recurring issues and inform updates to risk assessments, procedures, training, and control measures.
  - Conduct at least one critical incident or emergency exercise annually, including participation from relevant external responders (e.g. Local Resilience Forum, emergency services, or key stakeholders), to test operational readiness, decision-making, communications, and coordination.
  - Record **exercise outcomes, lessons learned, and follow-up actions** within the MSMS, and track actions through to completion.
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## 10. CONSERVANCY DUTY

### Objective

To ensure all navigational aids, environmental monitoring, and conservancy activities support safe navigation and comply with national and international standards.

### Navigational and Environmental Assets

#### Measures:

- Maintain and **update asset management and maintenance plans** for all Aids to Navigation (AtoNs).
- Review **FMIS data monthly** to identify trends, defects, and maintenance priorities.
- Achieve or exceed **IALA AtoN availability targets**:
  - Category 1: **99.9%**
  - Category 2: **99.0%**
  - Category 3: **97.0%**
- Conduct **annual AtoN audits** to confirm operational effectiveness and compliance.
- Maintain a **conservancy register** of navigationally significant features, including wrecks, obstructions, and channel changes.
- Map and update **all wrecks and obstructions annually**, or sooner where new hazards are identified.
- Provide and maintain reliable **met-ocean data services** to support safe navigation and operational decision-making.
- Validate **met-ocean instrumentation annually** and record service availability and downtime.



# MARINE SAFETY PLAN 2026-2029

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