

ENVIRONMENT UPDATE

Issue 1 | December 2005



Aberdeen Harbour

Welcome

Welcome to the first issue of Aberdeen Harbour Board's Environment Update.

This newsletter will be issued twice a year as part of the Board's commitment to publishing information about the environment.

The main purpose of Environment Update is to keep stakeholders up-to-date with environmental developments at the port.

The newsletter also aims to improve the general awareness of environmental issues (in this edition there is a section highlighting marine litter) and to report on progress towards the annual objectives set by the Environment Unit.

Oil pollution progress

The police investigated three fewer oil pollution incidents in the first six months of 2005 than in the same period of 2004. A total of ten incidents were recorded between January and June.

Overflows from air vents during fuel loading are still the most common cause. Several companies now deploy precautionary containment measures during bunkering. This reduces the amount of oil escaping to harbour waters if an overflow occurs.

There has also been an increase in the number of fishing vessels involved in spills. Stricter reporting procedures have led to an increase in reports of very small spills and oil 'sheens' with no apparent source. These were still investigated by harbour staff and the police.

Five companies and Masters received Police Warnings as a result of these spills. Warnings appear as convictions at the Scottish Criminal Records office and can be used in evidence if similar offences are committed at a later date.

Reporting environmental concerns and occurrences

Aberdeen Harbour will shortly roll-out a system that allows staff to report their environmental concerns.

The form, which will be available on the network, will alert management to environmental concerns. It is also hoped that staff will use it to suggest ways of improving environmental performance.

The system, like the one for safety concerns and near misses, means that there is a proper procedure for these

issues to be investigated and discussed. It will also allow the response to be documented.

It is hoped that most users will keep good environmental practice in mind and complete the form electronically. Paper copies will also be available to those without access to computers.

A procedure for the system will be issued in the coming weeks.



Gordon Dalgarno at the wheel of the new street-sweeper. See story overleaf.

Fishing for litter

Aberdeen Harbour has agreed to take part in the Fishing For Litter scheme.

Fishing boat crews spend 1-2 hours, on average, cleaning marine litter from their nets each week. Fishing For Litter provides free reception facilities for this waste at a number of Scottish ports.

The scheme aims to include 100 boats and collect 500 tonnes of litter over the

next three years. It is managed by KIMO, an association of local authorities aiming to cut pollution in the North Sea.

In Aberdeen, skippers arrange to have the waste collected by contacting the Berthing Masters.

Further information about the project is available from John Mouat on 01595 744826.

FOCUS ON MARINE LITTER

- An estimated 20,000 tonnes of waste enter the North Sea every year. 15% gets washed up on the coast.
- Over one million birds and 100,000 marine mammals and sea turtles die each year from eating or getting tangled in plastic materials in the sea.
- The 2003 Beachwatch survey found, on average, 2000 pieces of marine litter per kilometre on the UK coast.
- 98% of dead fulmars in the south North sea were found to have plastic materials in their stomachs.
- Plastic bottles can remain intact for up to 450 years.

This information has been extracted from the results document of the *Save the North Sea Project*.



A clean sweep

Aberdeen Harbour has invested £38,000 in a new road-sweeper from Hako.

Operating its own machine allows the harbour to improve standards of litter and dust control at the port.

Unlike other mini-sweepers the state-of-the-art articulated machine has a proper cab to protect staff and should make light work of keeping the harbour's six kilometres of quays and roads clean.

← Biodiversity

Landscape architects working on the new Marine Operations Centre found that the plants around the building had to be able to withstand heavy weather and occasionally being driven over.

A range of coastal grasses appropriate for the area has been selected, using seeds from plants on Scotland's east coast.

Using species that are naturally found in the region supports biodiversity.

Beachwatch

East Grampian Coastal Partnership has taken on the role of promoting *Adopt-A-Beach*. The sections of foreshore to the south of the Navigation Channel have been adopted by staff from ASDA and Shell.

Volunteers carried out a litter survey and cleanup on these sections of Beach in September.

Progress against 2005 objectives

OBJECTIVE	TARGET	DATE	NOTES
OBJ1 Resource Efficiency Improve the resource efficiency of the Board by focusing on a number of key areas e.g. electricity consumption.	✓ 1. Investigate building use patterns and lighting systems to reduce wasted energy.	Jul 05	Complete.
	✓ 2. Investigate electricity consumption of harbour plant at Atlantic, Matthews and Waterloo Quays.	Jul 05	Complete.
	✓ 3. Improve insulation at 16 Regent Quay	Dec 05	Pipe insulation has been installed in several offices.
	✓ 4. Review number and cost of publications to eliminate wasted stock. Investigate electronic publishing.	Feb 05	Reduced print runs have been agreed for the <i>Annual Review</i> and <i>Annual Accounts</i> . Electronic publishing of other documents is being considered.
OBJ2 Improve Awareness Improve stakeholder and community awareness of the port, its environmental impact and the activities undertaken to improve performance.	1. Install infoboards to distribute port information e.g. at Pocra Quay area.	Dec 05	Investigations are in progress.
	2. Liaise with Maritime Museum regarding the AHB Gallery	Dec 05	Discussions are in progress.
	✓ 3. Develop leaflet to highlight the port environment, local conditions and AHB's environmental activities.	May 05	The leaflet is complete. It is printed 'in-house' when required and will be added to the public website.
	✓ 4. Publish a twice-yearly environmental newsletter.	Sep 05	This is the first issue. It will be issued via email internally and also added to the public website.
OBJ3 Environmental Management Improve the quality and effectiveness of the environmental management system.	✓ 1. Evaluate and subscribe to legislation update and awareness service.	Dec 05	Evaluation revealed disappointing coverage of Scottish and port-specific legislation so this will continue to be carried out 'in-house'.
	✓ 2. Integrate water quality study with existing project and develop long term strategy for monitoring.	Dec 05	Monthly sampling has taken place since March and will continue till mid 2006. The future water quality monitoring strategy will be based on the results.
	3. Complete review of aspect register and significance assessment methodology. Develop new management objectives and action plans in line with the review.	Sep 05	In progress.
OBJ4 Biodiversity Improve biodiversity within the port.	1. Implement a biodiversity enhancement project e.g. restoring native species.	Dec 05	Arrangements in place. See story above.
	✓ 2. Organise a beach clean-up during the summer period.	Sep 05	Complete. See story above.

