



QUAYNOTES

NEWS FROM SCOTLAND'S NORTH SEA GATEWAY

Board support for AWPR

Aberdeen Harbour Board have urged that the proposed Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route (AWPR) be delivered on the shortest possible timescale.

A submission made in April in response to the Scottish Executive's public consultation, stated: *"The Board recognise the importance of the Western Peripheral Route as a strategic distributor road and as an integral part of the Modern Transport System being developed for North East Scotland."*

"We further recognise the importance of the route to the future of the North East economy and fully support, therefore, the early delivery of the project."

An effective transport system is also seen as essential to improving the movement of imports and exports to-and-from the port and to continuing the development of its vital role in the area's infrastructure and economy.

Commenting on the submission, Harbour Board Chief Executive, Barclay Braithwaite, said: *"The Board also recognise that there are difficult decisions to be made by the Scottish Executive which must agree the optimum solution while making every effort to minimise impact on the community and environment."*

Accommodating increased oil traffic

The number of oil-related vessels using Aberdeen Harbour last year was the highest for more than a decade, with the tonnage of shipping reaching record levels in another demonstration of the port's capacity to handle more traffic.

A total of 5,002 offshore industry vessels berthed in 2004, more than 650 up on 2003 and the highest figure since 1993. The tonnage of shipping was up more than 2 million gross tonnes on 2003 at a record 12.9 million gross tonnes.

Harbour Board Chief Executive, Barclay Braithwaite, said: *"The statistics for 2004 are significant, not least in that they prove that the redevelopment programme has successfully given the port the capacity to handle record tonnages of cargo and shipping and increasing arrivals, reinforcing its position as the centre of activity for the offshore industry."*

"Recent years have also seen the port handle expansion of general and specialist cargo, container, agricultural and passenger traffic. Total cargo last year was a record at 4.7 million tonnes, as was shipping at 21.1 million tonnes."

He added: *"The availability of deep-water berths and additional capacity is particularly important in the continuing development of the port's role in the offshore industry and one of the keys to the future."*

*Last month was the 40th anniversary of the opening of the first oil supply base at the port.

Hub port for West Africa

The loading of two Universal Africa Lines (UAL) vessels at the harbour in the first week of June highlighted the key role as the UK centre for the export of oilfield equipment and supplies in support of expanding offshore industry activity in West Africa.

UAL has been servicing the offshore industry in West Africa for 25 years and calling at Aberdeen for more than four years. Shipments to-and-from Norway are also handled.

Haakon Roestad, UAL's Director International Business Development, said: *"Previously, cargo was feedered or trucked to European ports for shipment to West Africa. UAL saw the opportunity for a direct service from Aberdeen without transshipment at a Continental port."*

"The intensity of industry activity in West Africa and USA companies' involvement in the region have significantly increased the tempo and the market will remain strong, with the potential for growth in traffic at Aberdeen. We service all the major operators, as well as a number of contractors, in West Africa and, given an increase in demand, we would expand our sailings accordingly."

The *Rebecca* loaded 2,700 cubic metres of equipment and supplies for Lobito, Luanda and Soyo in Angola, and Point Noir, in the Congo and the *UAL Rodach*, 2,800 cubic metres for Port Harcourt/Onne in Nigeria, Malabo, in Equatorial Guinea, and Port Gentil, in Gabon.

Harbour Board Operations Director & Harbour Master, Captain Colin Parker, said: *"The port's capacity and strategic role in marshalling and shipping these cargoes for West Africa facilitate and complement the successes of UK companies – many of them from the North-east – in winning export orders."*

Festival recitals sponsorship

A series of free "Listen at Lunchtime" recitals during the Aberdeen International Youth Festival is to be sponsored by Aberdeen Harbour. Starting at 12.30 pm on 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 13 August, the venues for nine performances by Festival groups are The Lemon Tree, St Andrew's Cathedral, Maritime Museum, Aberdeen Art Gallery and Rubislaw Parish Church.

For further information on the Festival, which runs from 3-13 August, see: www.aiyf.org

BPA environmentalist specialists visit

The British Ports Association's Environment Contacts Group have met for the first time in Aberdeen, with the workshop hosted by the Harbour Board. The port environmental specialists from across the country meet twice annually to learn about approaching issues, share knowledge and experience and develop effective environmental solutions.

The Aberdeen agenda included a presentation by Aberdeen Harbour Board on the environmental management and monitoring of the port.

The BPA's aims include promoting the use of ports and shipping as the most environmentally sustainable mode of transport.

*The Harbour was a sponsor of Aberdeen's recent fourth annual Green City Fun Day, an event with something on the environment for all the family.

Caspian shipment

The m.v. *Ulus Prime*, a new generation of shallow draft vessel, is delivering two carousels around 3,000 miles from Aberdeen Harbour via Norway and the Volga/Don river and canal system to the Caspian Sea.

The carousels, weighing 130 tonnes and 87 tonnes, will be used in the installation of power cables, flexible pipe and umbilicals for an oil field development in Azerbaijan.

They were designed and supplied by Aberdeen cable and pipe handling engineers, Baricon Systems, with fabrication by Matrix International, Brechin. Assembly was carried out on Duthies Quay, at the port's Telford Dock, across the road from Baricon's York Street facility.

Rod Palmer, Operations Director of Searoute Port Services, Aberdeen, local agents for the shipment, said: *"This is an excellent example of the dock's extensive quayside area being used for the cost-effective assembly of oilfield equipment and ease of heavy-lift load-outs. Shipment by sea on the seasonal route being followed provides a number of advantages over delivering by road and rail."*

Cruise ships update

The 2005 season is expected to see a total of 11 cruise ships visit Aberdeen – an increase of four on last year and equalling the second highest annual figure since these vessels were first noted separately in the early 1980s.

Six have called so far, with the next on 9 July when the *Polar Pioneer* will embark passengers on a Scottish wildlife cruise. Also scheduled are *Clipper Adventurer* – 15 July; *Arion* – 18 July; *Bremen* – 29 August; and *Ocean Majesty* – 5 September.

OBE award

Harbour Board Chief Executive, Barclay Braithwaite, has been awarded an OBE for services to the ports industry in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

His involvement at national level for a number of years includes as a current Council member and past Chairman of the British Ports Association. He is currently Chairman of the Ports Industry National Committee for Health, Safety Skills and Standards, and a board member of the safety and training organisation, Port Skills and Safety Limited.

Harbour Board Chief Executive since 1990, and previously Harbour Engineer, his 31 years at the port have seen it go through one of the busiest growth periods in its long history, with almost £140 million invested in redevelopment and reaching record levels of traffic and profit.

International gateway

Aberdeen's role as an international gateway included direct services to more than 25 countries - from North America to Africa and Asia - last year.

International services in 2004 included links with Algeria, Angola, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Eire, Faroe Islands, Finland, France, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and USA.

Promoting Aberdeen

The increasing demand for a visitor leaflet produced by the City Council and City Centre Partnership has seen a further reprint, with a sponsor – Aberdeen Harbour – for the first time. In addition to general use, the leaflet is also being targeted at ferry and cruise ship passengers, and at delegates attending this September OE 05 oil and gas exhibition in Aberdeen.

The leaflet highlights the city centre's visitor attractions, shopping, wining & dining and culture & entertainment.

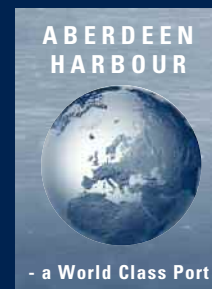
*Passenger traffic on NorthLink's Aberdeen-Kirkwall route increased 13.2% in the seven months to May, with a 13.5% rise on the Aberdeen-Shetland route.

Board appointment

Aberdeen Harbour Board have filled a vacancy for a board member with the appointment of marine consultant, James Middleton, for a term to 31st December 2006.

A Master Mariner, Mr Middleton spent around 40 years in tankers and the wider marine activities of the oil industry, including the UK, Middle East and Gulf of Mexico, moving to Aberdeen in the 1980s to manage marine, underwater and pipeline operations for an offshore company. His consultancy includes harbour safety management systems and involvement with offshore oil marine operations.

Previously a Harbour Board member in 2003, he is a Fellow of the Nautical Institute, a Court Member of the Honourable Company of Master Mariners and a member of the Grampian Committee of the Tall Ships Youth Trust and the Port Welfare Committee.



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