

Port of Bideford

Harbour Masters quarterly report to the Taw and Torridge Estuary Forum (TTEF) and Port of Bideford Harbour Users Group (HUG)

Vessel Movements

1. Bideford:

SV Waverley called at Bideford on Saturday 7th June. Despite the doomsday weather predictions, nearly 1000 people appeared to watch the ship berth, turn in the river and then sail 60 minutes later. HM has bid for 2 or 3 port calls by the ship next year.

2. Navantia:

a. "SWE BULK," 89m cargo ship, cargo of rape meal, 27th -30th April.

b. "Jutland," 88m cargo ship, cargo of rape meal 29th -31st May.

c. "Waalstroom Ghent," 90m cargo ship, cargo of rape meal 23rd -24th June.

3. Yelland:

a. Deo Gloria – conducted a 14 day dredge campaign bringing Bristol Channel sand into Yelland 4th – 16th July.

Future Movements

1. 2 cargo ships over one Spring tide are scheduled for the Newquay 24th – 28th July.
2. Ex HMS QUORN will make her long awaited departure under tow from the Navantia shipyard in August on her way to a new operational life in Lithuania.

2025 Port Marine Safety Code – Port of Bideford Audit – 10th June 2025

1. The Designated Person for the Port of Bideford, Captain Rob Parsons, conducted an audit of the port's compliance with the new 2025 Port Marine Safety Code.
2. The conclusion of the audit was that **"At audit on 10th June 2025, Port of Bideford Safety Management System was found to be 'in compliance' with the 2025 Port Marine Safety Code and based on this information, when the MCA 'Compliance Exercise' happens in January 2026, Torridge District Council as the Duty Holder can report this as such.**
3. The main difference with the new Code is that it now includes a requirement for **all** ports, harbours, marine installations, quays, docks, jetties and marinas to

demonstrate a degree of compliance with the Code. The Royal Marines at Instow are already nearing compliance and the HM is working to get the Appledore Fish Dock (TDC owned) aligned. The Port of Bideford stands ready to assist other marine installations, quays, docks etc in the 2 rivers area who ask for help.....

Severn Seas Ltd – Trinity House Buoy Tender Provision

1. Severn Seas Limited won a prestigious 3 year contract from Trinity House to provide a Buoy Tender Vessel for the West and South coast of the UK.
2. Part of the contract is to provide rapid response capability (RRC) for marking Wrecks and obstructions to navigation, primarily in the Lands' End TSS but as far east as Chichester and as far north as Anglesey. It also requires the provision of a survey capability with supporting vessels.
3. The basing of this capability in Bideford will have beneficial economic and operational benefits as the marine sector in the 2 rivers slowly comes back to life (ACMIC / Navantia etc etc).

Port of Bideford Tidal Fountains

1. After sustained pressure and lobbying, TDC has been allocated grant funding to repair the defunct Bideford Tidal Fountains.
2. Invitations to tender are in progress and the intention is to have the Fountains working again no later than March 2026.
3. For those that do not know – there are 3 sets of 3 spray nozzles which, as the tide rises, progressively come on stream, eventually producing 9 jets of water in arcs into the river.
4. As a part of the effort to reconnect the Town and the River and to make the quayside an area for enjoyment and recreation (rather than just a car park), this move is strongly welcomed.

Paul Brown



**Bideford Harbour Master
Taw and Torridge Pilot**

