

## **Vessel Movements:**

### **Bideford**

There have been no commercial ship movements to Bideford since January. Of note, historic ship and passenger vessel 'Oldenburg' returned to Bideford ready for summer service after her winter refit in Sharpness. Not forgetting that Bideford is still the home to SS Freshspring and the 4 vessels of Severn Seas Ltd.

### **Navantia**

1. "Bremen," 89m cargo ship, unloaded 3000 metric tons of rape meal 15 -17th February.

2. "Sea Melody," 89m cargo ship, unloaded 3300 metric tons of rape meal 28th -31st March.

3. "Fri Ocean," 89m cargo ship, unloaded 1900 metric tons of wheat gluten meal 1-2nd April.

4. "SWE Bulk," 88m cargo ship, is in the process of unloading 3300 metric tons of rape meal and is due to depart Tuesday / Wednesday.

- In addition to importing animal feed for Mole Valley Feed Solutions Limited, we are due a second shipment of wood pellets and HM is chasing Devon County Council / Devon Highways to ensure that the winter supplies of road salt are imported to North Devon by sea and not by road from the south of the County.

- "Why not Bideford?" Sticky and dusty cargo, not suitable for a Town Centre location.

### **Yelland**

No commercial ship movements to Yelland since January - although we are expecting the dredger 'Deo Gloria' to return next quarter.

## **Harbour Users Group**

1. The 4th Harbour Users Group (HUG) met on 9th April 2025. The HUG is now well established and is functioning well under the firm chairmanship of Mike Teare from 'Way of the Wharves.'
2. The HUG receives an update from the HM, and it is the correct forum for port stakeholders to express opinions, ask questions and if necessary, make representations.
3. Items discussed at the 4th meeting included consultation on the Estuary Strategy, discussions on water quality and the ongoing development of the Code of Conduct.

## **New Port Marine Safety Code**

1. New Code issued April 2025.
2. All Ports, Harbours, Quays, Marine Facilities, Jetties and other Marine Installations must demonstrate and report Compliance.
3. First request for Compliance will come in October 2025.
4. RMs at Instow and Navantia are working to produce a Safety Management System with Bideford's assistance. We stand ready to assist any other 'marine facilities' in the Estuary which may ask us for help in gaining compliance with the Code.

## **Abandoned Vessels**

(Will need to speak to Fremington Parish Councillor before the meeting - if unable to make contact, I will have to pause this till the next meeting.)

1. Crown Estate have been working with Fremington Parish Council to 'do something' about the abandoned vessels in Fremington Pill.

2. First stage is understanding ownership of vessels and their position - this has a significant bearing on ability of the Crown to act.

3. This is not a unique problem to the Estuary or anywhere else.

4. Port of Bideford has been working with Crown Estate to find a way ahead and has proposed the following pilot scheme:

- Create voluntary register of vessels to identify owner of each vessel.

- those on the register receive a sticker.

- those not on register become eligible for disposal / recycling

- Initially confine this initiative to Fremington Pill.

- If successful expand to include other areas in the Estuary ultimately to create an Estuary wide registry.

- Scheme will need active support of as many stakeholders as possible - to date have TDC, Crown Estate. Ideally would like Parish and Town Councils, North Devon District as well as EA and Natural England.