Cattewater Harbour Marine Safety Plan 2026 – 2029

Introduction

As required by the Ports and Marine Facilities Safety Code (PMSC), the Cattewater Harbour Commissioners (CHC) publishes its Marine Safety Plan for the conduct of marine operations in the Port of Plymouth every three years. This plan covers the period January 2026 – January 2029.

In addition to this plan Cattewater Harbour publishes an annual report to provide an overview of operations for the previous year.

This Marine Safety Plan commits the Cattewater Harbour Commissioners (CHC) to undertaking the proper management and regulation of marine operations within the scope of its powers and authority, according to the Harbours, Docks and Piers Clauses Act 1847, associated Harbour Orders and subsequent amendments, and the PMSC.

Marine Policies, Procedures and Guidelines

The CHC has a Navigational Safety Policy in support of the management and regulation of marine operations on the tidal Cattewater and maintenance of the port's Marine Safety Management System (SMS), which has been approved by the CHC Board as Duty Holder under the PMSC.

This policy can be found in the HCC Marine SMS Manual and is reviewed annual.

The Navigational Safety Policy covers the following areas:

- Safety Management Systems
- Vessel Traffic Service
- Pilotage
- Hydrography
- Emergency Preparedness and Response
- Enforcement and Prosecution
- Marine Training
- Consultation
- Environment

Cattewater Harbour also has non-marine policies such as the Drug and Alcohol, Health and Safety, Environment and Enforcement Policies which are applicable to marine staff within the CHC.

Safety Management System

A comprehensive overview of the structure, management, and maintenance of the port's Marine SMS and the CHC's compliance with the PMSC in support of the Plan, is contained in the Marine SMS Manual.

External audits of the CHC's compliance with the PMSC are undertaken at least every 3 years, supplemented by regular internal health checks.

CHC's Marine SMS weas amended in January of 2026 to reflect compliance with the new Ports and Marine Facilities Safety Code.

Management and Oversight of Marine Operations

All marine operations are overseen by the marine management team, supported by all marine staff to ensure proper management of all marine operations within Cattewater Harbour. The scope of this management is to ensure safe navigation for all water users within harbour limits, and to protect the environment. Safety will always be put first when managing marine operations, firstly the safety of life and vessels.

To ensure the waters of Cattewater Harbour are managed safely, the management team undertake a number of activities to ensure the harbour continually complies with the Ports and Marine Facilities Safety Code, all statutory obligations are met and that all risks are as low as reasonably practicable (ALARP).

- Weekly staff meeting with all marine staff and management to discuss marine incidents, planned works and risks.
- Annual risk assessment review with all marine staff.
- Regular review of the SMS
- Comprehensive marine incident reporting and investigation procedures.
- Detailed marine risk assessment.
- Regular stakeholder meetings through the *Cattewater Harbour User Group (CHUG)*, *Port of Plymouth Maritime Liaison Committee (PPMLC)* and *Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum (TECF)*.
- Regular pilot meetings.
- Internal, tiered internal auditing procedure.
- Annual external PMSC audit.
- Emergency response plans and procedures regularly exercised and drilled.
- Staff are trained, experienced and competent in undertaking marine duties in line with the company competency framework.

Marine Targets for the Period of the Plan

Activity	Objectives	2026	2027	2028
Safety Management Systems	1. Undertake annual review of whole SMS in conjunction with staff and stakeholders. 2. Ensure response plans are updated and exercised in accordance with internal procedures and statutory requirements.			
Pilotage	1. Provide an effective 24/7 pilotage service, made up of trained, experienced, and competent pilots, supported by a team of coxswains, deck crew and support staff. 2. Ensure there are no serious or very serious incidents to which CHC pilots are at fault.			
Vessel Traffic Service	1. Ensure continued liaison with the King's Harbour Master, as the VTS service provider, to maintain an effective VTS in accordance with required standards. 2. Ensure feedback is communicated to coxswains and pilots as required.			
Hydrography	1. To continue hydrographic surveys that are carried out regularly to ensure to riverbed within harbour limits is surveyed and charted to modern international standards where reasonably practicable.			
Vessel Licensing	1. To monitor licensing of commercial vessels operating within the Cattewater, in accordance with regulations stipulated by appropriate licensing authorities 2. Ensure CHC's vessels are licensed and coded to the required standard as part of the SMS			
Management of River Activities and Works	1. River events are to avoid river closures and any unnecessary restrictions on commercial and leisure vessel movements wherever possible, however delays may occur to ensure the safety of all water users. 2. All risks associated with river events			