

LOCHBOISDALE AND GASAY PORT - HYDROGRAPHIC POLICY

It is important to note articles 3.6 and 3.7 of the Port Marine Safety Code:

A harbour authority has a duty to conserve the harbour so that it is fit for use as a port and a duty of reasonable care to see that the harbour is in a fit condition for a vessel to utilise it safely. They should provide users with adequate information about conditions in the harbour. This duty covers several specific requirements:

- *to survey as regularly as necessary and find and mark the best navigable channels;*
- *to place and maintain navigation marks in the optimum positions which are suitable for all conditions;*
- *to keep a 'vigilant watch' for any changes in the sea or river bed affecting the channel or channels and move or renew navigation marks as appropriate;*
- *to keep proper hydrographic and hydrological records;*
- *to ensure that hydrographic information is published in a timely manner; and*
- *to provide regular returns and other information about the authority's local aids to navigation as the relevant General Lighthouse Authority may require.*

Where a harbour authority establishes that there is a certain depth of water at a part of the harbour over which vessels may be obliged to pass, it must use reasonable care to provide that the approaches to that part are sufficient, under normal conditions, or give warning that the advertised depth has not been maintained. Harbour authorities should supply the UK Hydrographic Office with information that may be needed for their Admiralty charts and other publications.

Accordingly, the safety of navigation is dependent upon the provision of relevant, up to date hydrographic information.

To this end it is Board policy that Lochboisdale and Gasay Port (LGP) shall:

- Undertake hydrographic surveys as necessary for safe and efficient navigation within Harbour limits and find and mark the optimum channels for navigation;
- Establish a programme of hydrographic surveys to a scale of at least 1:12 500 or better within the statutory harbour limits of Lochboisdale and Gasay Port from the landward limit to the seaward limit and bounded by the Mean High Water line;
- Provide Port users with up-to-date, timely and accurate hydrographic information;
- Provide continuous, timely and accurate tidal data;
- Maintain a close liaison with, and when necessary provide relevant data to, the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office;

Nothing in this Policy shall subvert existing Harbour Byelaws, General Directions or terms and conditions.