

THE MMO HIGHLIGHT – LICENSING CHANGES FOR NAVIGATIONAL DREDGING



Following an informative presentation at TYHA's AGM in February, the Marine The Marine Management Organisation is encouraging people and organisations carrying out navigational dredging to prepare for legislative changes affecting the activity from April 2014.

Under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MCAA) anyone wanting to carry out navigational dredging activities in English seas and the tidal areas of rivers from 6 April 2014 may be required to apply in advance for consent from the Marine Management Organisation (MMO).

Navigational dredging was made a licensable activity by the Government as part of the MCAA, however when the Act came into effect in 2011 it allowed a period of transition during which low-risk dredging operations did not require a marine licence.

This ends on 6 April 2014 when the activity will become regulated by the MMO.

In preparation of the changes the MMO has been working with its advisors and industry representatives to streamline the application process and reduce the financial and administrative burden as far as possible. An accelerated application process is being put in place, on which a decision may be made within 20 working days. Applications are however encouraged in advance of the deadline and can be made now.

While many larger businesses and organisations may already be aware of the licence requirement through the MMO's early work with the industry consultation group, there may be many smaller berth and marina owners who are not. It is anticipated up to 400 navigational dredging projects across England may be affected by the changes.

Further information has been added to the dredging page in the marine licensing section of the MMO's website

NEIGHBOURS UNITE FOR ACTIVE MARINAS SCHEME

Sailors and powerboaters in West Wales can take advantage of the successful RYA Active Marinas programme for the first time, thanks to two neighbours working together in a unique partnership.

Milford Marina and Neyland Yacht Haven are the first in West Wales to become part of the Active Marinas programme which has helped sailors improve their skills and develop their social sailing throughout the UK.

Although the two marinas are normally competitors, they will be sharing the whole of their programme in a unique way, to help people enjoy the waters of the River Cleddau and the coastline round Pembrokeshire. "Milford and Neyland become our third and fourth Active Marina partners after the initiative was launched in Wales in August 2013 at the All Wales Boat Show," said Steven Morgan, WYA chief executive officer. "We are looking forward to working with all the partners to make the scheme a great success and enable more boaters to enjoy our beautiful natural environment in Wales."

Being part of the Active Marinas scheme involved offering training and social events for sailors to brush up on their skills and find like minded water enthusiasts.

Boat ownership is all about freedom and having fun. The RYA's Active Marina Programme is designed to help people get more out of life with their boats. The programme encourages and supports increased berth holder activity by partnering with marinas, RYA recognised training centres and yacht clubs to establish or enhance a programme of training, cruising and social opportunities.

"Situated in a non-tidal basin, Milford Marina is perfectly positioned within the UK's only coastal National Park, providing safe, secure and sheltered berths in the heart of Pembrokeshire," explained Lucy James, marketing manager at Milford Haven.

"Continued investment and bespoke customer service means that berth holders at Milford Marina benefit from a range of first class facilities; complemented by a variety of quality shops, cafes and restaurants on the quayside.

"This is all reflected in the 4 gold anchors awarded to the facility by The Yacht Harbour Association.

"Milford Marina is also ideally located for visiting adventurers exploring the fabulous coastline that Pembrokeshire and Wales has to offer, and is a perfect stop off en route to Ireland, or up the Irish Sea to North Wales and Scotland."

Neyland Yacht Haven marina is known as Pembrokeshire's most picturesque marina due to its unrivalled location set within in the beautiful surrounds of the Westfield Pill area of the Milford Haven Waterway.

The 420 berth marina offers the ideal base to explore the 23 miles of Milford Haven's sheltered waterways, whether stopping for one night or staying on as an annual resident.

"Neyland Yacht Haven are delighted to have become an RYA Active Marina, we are very much looking forward to working with the RYA and alongside Milford Marina to ensure that our berthholders enjoy the various social and educational events on offer," said James Cotton, Neyland Yacht Haven Director.

"Our most helpful and experienced staff aim to provide the best possible welcome and experience along with a wide variety of benefits such as Free Wi-Fi and TransEurope membership to add extra value and maximise their enjoyment on the water."



From left to right: Anna Mullarkey, Port of Milford Haven marketing communications executive, Lucy James, Port of Milford Haven marketing manager, Eira Griffiths, Milford Marina, Roland Bowen, Pembrokeshire cruising, Hester Walker, WYA regional development officer and James Cotton, Neyland Yacht Haven director.

For more information visit www.welshsailing.org and www.rya.org.uk