

# **Forth Ports Limited-Port Marine Safety Code**

## **Marine Safety Plan 2023 -2026**

### **Introduction**

As required by the Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC) section 3.20 Forth Ports publish a Marine Safety Plan every three years. The plan details how Forth Ports conducts marine operations on both the Forth and the Tay.

In addition Forth Ports publish an annual PMSC review which provides statistical information and an overview of performance.

In order to conduct marine operations in a safe and effective manner Forth Ports publish policies, plans, procedures and guidance documentation in support of statutory powers. All such documents are based on a formal risk assessment process to ensure that all risks are either eliminated or reduced to as low as reasonably practicable (ALARP).

Full details of all the policies and procedures together with the full safety management system (SMS) can be found in the marine section at [www.forthports.co.uk](http://www.forthports.co.uk)

### **1. Marine Procedures and Guidelines**

Procedures and guidance documentation for all marine navigation and operations on both the Forth and the Tay are produced following consultation by the Forth Ports Marine Management Team. All such documentation is reviewed regularly and following any changes to operations or following post incident investigation.

### **2. Marine Policies**

Forth Ports have produced marine policies in support of the management of marine operations. The overarching Policy Statement on Navigational Safety is approved and signed by the Chief Executive Officer of Forth Ports on behalf of the Board as Duty Holder.

In addition Forth Ports publish:

Policy Statement on Enforcement  
Policy on Marine Environment and Sustainability

All policies are reviewed on a regular basis.

### **3. The Management of Marine Operations**

All marine operations are managed by the Marine Management Team and this Marine Safety Plan commits Forth Ports, within the boundaries of its powers and authority, to properly manage and regulate marine operations on the Forth and Tay. The scope of this management is to ensure safe navigation for all river users and to protect the river environment.

<b>FORTH PORTS LIMITED</b>	<b>Document ID</b> FP PMSC Plan 01_02	<b>Authorised By</b> CHM	<b>Original Date</b> February 2016
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Safety is paramount and in managing marine navigation and marine operations Forth Ports will always put the safety of life and vessels first. In order to maintain these high safety standards it may be necessary to delay vessel movements or activities on the rivers which may at times inconvenience river user. Such delays will always be kept to a minimum, however safety will always take precedence.

#### 4. Marine Management

To ensure effective functions are in place to maintain the marine SMS the Forth Ports Marine Management Team undertake a number of activities to ensure that continual compliance with the PMSC, our statutory obligations are met and all risks are ALARP:

- Monthly management review of the SMS including document/procedure review schedule, incident reporting, training and progress on tasks/projects.
- Weekly informal marine management team meeting.
- Comprehensive marine reporting and investigating system.
- Detailed marine/navigation risk assessments
- Regular PMSC liaison meetings with stakeholders including terminal operators, agents, tugs, boatmen and pilots.
- Regular pilot meetings.
- Internal audit programme.
- Annual external independent PMSC audit.
- Emergency response plans and procedures with regular response exercises and training.
- Recruitment of trained, experienced and competent personnel with continual professional development.

#### 5. Management Targets

Permanent Targets

	Activity	Target
1.	Vessel Traffic Service	Maintain an effective VTS in accordance with UK National, IALA and IMO standards. Ensure infrastructure is properly maintained and upgrade to ensure continued operation.
2.	Navigational and Marine Incidents	Through reporting, investigation and analysis ensure all risk assessments, procedures and guidelines are appropriate to prevent any major navigation or pollution incident.
3.	Provide trained and qualified pilots to ensure an effective 24/7 pilotage service.	24/7 pilotage services maintained (subject to weather) without any serious or very serious incidents.
4.	Conservancy and Hydrographic Service	Ensure survey programme is maintained and survey charts are published and relevant data sent to UKHO within 8 weeks of survey. Through appropriate maintenance and response ensure ATON availability meets NLB targets.
5.	Liaison and Consultation with river users	Routine PMSC meetings held with stakeholders at least 3 times a year.

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All permanent targets have been met for the period and have been verified by annual PMSC inspections.

#### Temporary Targets from last plan

	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Target</b>
1.	Integrate PMSC Risk Assessments and procedures at a Group Level	PMSC systems in the same style and any common activities are consistent in all Forth Ports locations north and south of the border- <b>Q4 2020</b>
2.	Introduce PPU's into Pilotage	Portable Pilot Units (PPU's) are purchased, and in conjunction with the Pilots their purpose and scope determined along with operating procedures on the Forth and Tay- <b>Q4 2020</b>
3.	Review Port Byelaws and General directions	Carry out a full review of Byelaws and General directions- <b>Q4 2021</b>
4.	Following review, introduce new byelaws to reflect the changing marine environment	Introduction of new byelaws reflecting changes in environmental practice, autonomous shipping and reflect marine traffic expected in the coming years and decades- <b>Q1 2023</b>
5.	Decarbonisation process	Review and modify operations to take account of the need to reduce carbon output by changing methods of working and embracing new technology- <b>Q1 2023</b>

Targets 1, 2 have been met and are now closed out, targets 3 4 and 5 are carried over to the 2023 – 2026 temporary targets

#### Temporary targets 2023-2026

	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Target</b>
1.	New system to replace IPOS	New system in place with all stakeholders fully trained in it use. <b>Q3 2024</b>
2.	Manage traffic around the construction of the Leith outer berth	Implementation of temporary pilotage and towage requirements and wind limits to minimise delays to shipping using Leith <b>Q1 2024</b>
3.	Procurement of new Pilot vessel	Vessel ordered, built and delivered with crew and engineer familiarisation completed <b>Q4 2024</b>
4.	Plough dredger in operation	Reduction in dredging days and improved response to depth reduction <b>Q1 2025</b>
5.	Partnership working	Developing PMSC in non-Forth Ports locations <b>Q4 2025</b>
6.	Review Port Byelaws and General directions	Carry out a full review of Byelaws and General directions- <b>Q2 2024</b>

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7.	Following review, introduce new byelaws to reflect the changing marine environment	Introduction of new byelaws reflecting changes in environmental practice, autonomous shipping and reflect marine traffic expected in the coming years and decades- <b>Q2 2024</b>
8.	Decarbonisation process	Review and modify operations to take account of the need to reduce carbon output by changing methods of working and embracing new technology- <b>Q1 2025</b>

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