

Case Study: Hafan Pwllheli

Background

Hafan Pwllheli is part of the Yacht Haven group. It has around 400 berths. It is a 5 Golden Anchor marina and has also been awarded a Blue Flag.

The marina is on the river Rhyd-hir where it enters the estuary.



www.llyn.info/pwllheli/marina/

What is the problem?



The marina is in a beautiful part of Wales. It is within the Llyn Peninsula and the Sarnau SAC (Special Area of Conservation) and so it is crucial that pollution is kept to a minimum. It is important to preserve the quality of the environment whilst providing a good service for the berth holders. The sailing waters around Pwllheli are amongst the best in the U.K. In Cardigan Bay tidal streams are weak, winds are stable and the scenery is superb. Snowdonia and the Welsh mountains provide a magnificent backdrop for any water sport.

Martyn Croyden http://www.bbc.co.uk/wales/northwest/sites/llyn/pages/slideshow_mc.shtml

Encouraging water sports whilst maintaining the quality of the environment can be a difficult balancing act. With so many boats in the marina, there is a risk of oil spills and wastewater contaminating the water.

What is being done to solve the problem?



The marina's management takes a positive approach to good environmental practice. They have looked at all of the activities to see where pollution or the risk of pollution can be minimised. From berthing to maintenance, systems and regulations have been put in place to ensure a clean environment. As a result they have been awarded a Blue Flag.

The marina has developed an environmental policy which covers oil pollution, boat sewage, litter and antifouling paint.

www.bbc.co.uk/.../pages/llyntour5.shtml?8

Some of the actions taken at Pwllheli

- ✓ There is a fuel quay provided for filling fuel tanks. Filling on the pontoons from cans is forbidden.
- ✓ Recycling facilities are provided for glass, paper, tins and batteries.
- ✓ Berth holders are encouraged to recycle their waste and deal with hazardous waste sensibly.
- ✓ Sand blasting is not permitted on HP land. As a result, antifoul is not left on marina property and cannot blow into the sea.
- ✓ Water from the high pressure wash is collected and filtered before being fed into the main sewage system. The marina is looking at means of collecting antifoul if owners choose to remove it themselves rather than having it done in a boatyard.
- ✓ The marina has a pump out facility which is free to berth holders.
- ✓ The marina has Green Blue leaflets in its office so that all visitors and berth holders can have a copy. The Marina has also included a Code of Conduct in its Handbook .

Conclusion

Pwllheli is a prime sailing area for recreation and for competition, having held the World International Cadets' Championships in 2007 and the UK Youths' championships in 2008. The marina is looking at other areas of resource management such as the use of LED lights on the marina pontoons and the possibility of using rainwater. Standards are high in the Marina, and as a result there is a waiting list for berths. It is a successful marina with a good reputation.

For more information about;

1. the SAC
<http://www.jncc.gov.uk/protectedsites/SACselection/sac.asp?EUCODE=UK0013117>
2. The Blue Flag
<http://www.blueflag.org/Criteria/Marinas>

A Statement from Hafan Pwllheli's website:

Hafan Pwllheli's objective is to maintain the balance between recreational craft and environmental interests. We are committed to continuous improvement of our environmental performance by fulfilling our duties relating to conservation, regulation and enhancement of the marina and surroundings. Hafan Pwllheli operates a strict code of cleanliness and considers environmental issues to be paramount. We therefore insist that the following rules are observed at all times:

- Do not discharge contaminated bilge water or any other contaminated water eg. Toilets into the marina or harbour. There is a "pump out" facility for holding tanks located on the fuel quay together with a chemical disposal unit.
- Two skips are provided for the disposal of domestic waste. There are also special containers provided for the disposal of old batteries, waste engine oil and filters, paints/solvents and recycle bins for glass.
- When removing old antifouling from the hull please cover the ground with sheets, place old scrapings in bags and dispose in the hazardous waste storage container
- Take great care when taking on fuel that no spillages occur.
- The filling of fuel tanks is prohibited on the pontoons, please use the fuel quay.
- No grit or sand blasting, grinding, or hot work is permitted without the express written consent of the Marina Management.
- We do not permit barbecues or any other open fire on the pontoons or marina site.
- If possible wash boats using water pressure; use mild cleaners if absolutely necessary. Do not use highly caustic cleaners in the marina.
- Pets should be exercised off the marina. There is a suitable area beyond the boat park on the peninsula. Dogs must be kept on a lead at all times on the pontoons. Please do not allow pets to foul marina site or any land adjacent to the marina, or to annoy other berthholders.
- In the interest of public hygiene and site cleanliness, please do not feed the wildlife around the marina buildings or on the pontoons.
- Do not play music too loudly, please be considerate to others.