



ELGIN AND LOSSIEMOUTH HARBOUR COMPANY

ANNUAL REPORT

2024



Elgin and Lossiemouth Harbour Company
Lossiemouth Marina
Shore Street
Lossiemouth
Moray
IV31 6PB



THE HISTORY OF LOSSIEMOUTH HARBOUR

In 1834, the original Harbour at the mouth of the River Lossie was unable to sustain access by larger sailing vessels due to shallowness and often dangerous entry. An alternative was required and The Stotfield and Lossiemouth Harbour Company was formed.

A new Harbour was built at Stotfield point by the Company in 1839.

It proved a great success and was able to accommodate larger sailing ships and more fishing boats. As trade increased it was enlarged and in 1857 a new West basin was opened and the small private Company was renamed Elgin and Lossiemouth Harbour Company, to reflect the business investors of Elgin.

The Harbour became the major sea port for the area with cargos of salt, coal, timber, oats, slates, and barley being imported with whisky, herring, timber, potatoes and stones being the main exports.

More fishing vessels were attracted to the port at this time and as sail gave way to steam and the railways, cargo trade reduced and fishing became the main industry.

Small sail fishing vessels became larger, mainly line fishing for white fish and drift nets for herring to be superseded by the steam drifter and then the motor seiner netter.

Lossiemouth fishermen have always been innovative. The first Zulu sailing vessel to be built was the 'Nonsuch', designed and built in Lossiemouth. Being very fast and manoeuvrable it was so successful that it was built in vast numbers.

The Danish seine net method of fishing was adapted and improved by Lossiemouth fishermen with the first custom built seiner, the 'Marigold', being built in Lossiemouth in 1921.

Lossiemouth became a major white fishing port and had great success, at one time being the third largest white fish landing port in Scotland. However, as fishing grounds became less productive, vessels moving and fishing from other ports and the event of the UK joining the EEC in 1973 with the resulting decommissioning of vessels, the fishing industry declined rapidly thereafter.

In 1990 the Directors of the Elgin & Lossiemouth Harbour Company realised that change was necessary for survival and it was decided to cater for the growing leisure sailing and boating industry and the first pontoons were soon introduced. This proved to be successful and Lossiemouth Marina came into being and now has 125 serviced berths and also caters for visitors from all parts.

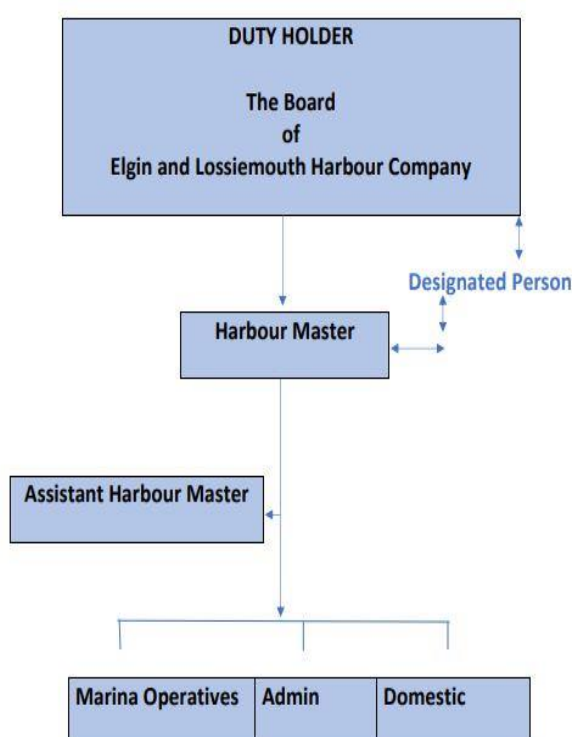
Lossiemouth Harbour has had three distinct lives – a busy seaport, an important fishing port and now a modern marina.

Each life has been different but the Company aims to ensure the Harbour's ability to remain viable, to reinvest all profits into the Marina and to move forward with the times well into the future for Lossiemouth.



THE BOARD OF ELGIN AND LOSSIEMOUTH HARBOUR COMPANY

The Duty Holder for Elgin and Lossiemouth Harbour Company is the Board of Directors.



The Board of Elgin and Lossiemouth Harbour Company consists of eleven Directors, including the elected Chairman and Vice Chairman.

The Directors are non-paid volunteers whose objective is to ensure continued viability of Lossiemouth Harbour for the town of Lossiemouth.

The role of Designated Person was accepted by Robert Sinclair of Robert Sinclair Marine Consultants Ltd in 2022. The Terms of Appointment were approved by the Board and Minuted accordingly.

We believe that the Company's performance meets its statutory obligations under the Port Marine Safety Code and associated Acts.

This Annual Report should be read in conjunction with the Safety Management System and Marine Safety Plan.

Emerging trends identified during health checks:

During annual health checks, no changes to the ongoing working of the Marina were identified.

Safety measures:

Following surveys after severe storm damage during Winter 2023 through to Spring 2024, the South Pier was closed to the public.

Major structural repairs were required to the South Pier to prevent risk of collapse and these were completed in June 2024.

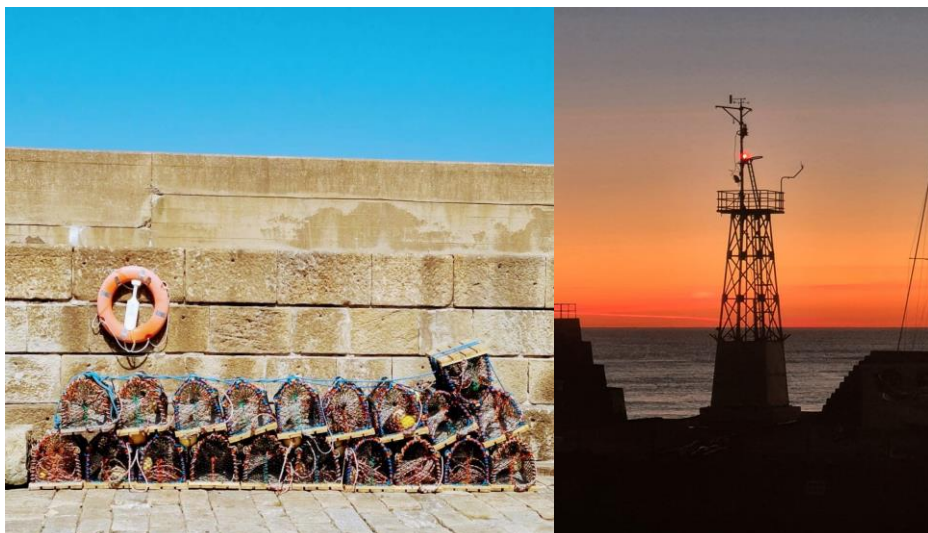
Further repairs were completed on the harbour undertaking throughout the year to address damage of varying degrees.

Work also commenced on the potholes on the harbour undertaking to good effect, improving safety for all harbour users and the general public.

Berthing and use of the Marina:

The Marina was fully booked during 2024 and continues to hold a healthy waiting list for berths.

The Marina has welcomed and accommodated new customers for the Summer and Winter seasons from the UK and abroad.





Although a slow start to the visitor season due to weather conditions, a total of 190 visiting vessels from the UK and abroad were welcomed by the Marina team.

With the majority of vessels arriving with at least two crew aboard, this generated high numbers for the local tourism sector for the shops, bars, restaurants and cafes of Lossiemouth. We continued to receive excellent feedback concerning the Marina, its facilities and Lossiemouth.

The undercover boat shed facility was fully booked during the Winter and Spring season, also welcoming fishing vessels from around the coast to complete essential maintenance before the catch season began.

The Marina was pleased to host the Gael Force Regatta 2024, which generated more revenue for Lossiemouth tourism. Congratulations to the winners and we look forward to hosting more events in the future.

The Marina continued to provide its facilities for the Sea Cadets, the Lossiemouth Community Rowing Club, the Fire and Rescue Service and for Coastguard water training.



The Company will continue to strive to meet the requirements of the Port Marine Safety Code and for future viability of the Harbour.