Shetland Islands Council
Port Marine Safety Code
Marine Safety Plan
2023-2025

1. Introduction

As part of its compliance with the requirements of the Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC), The Shetland Islands Council (SIC) Ports & Harbours Operations, publishes the following Marine Safety Plan for marine operations in the Ports and Harbours it operates in Shetland for the period 2023 – 2025.

A more comprehensive overview of the structure, management and maintenance of the SIC's Ports & Harbours Operations compliance with the PMSC in support of this Plan is contained in the Shetland Islands Council (SIC) 'Marine Safety Management System' (MSMS).

2. Marine Policies

The Shetland Islands Council (SIC), as Harbour Authority, and the Harbour Board as Duty Holder is accountable for the discharge of its duties and powers to the standard laid down in the Port Marine Safety Code.

The SIC Ports and Harbours Safety Management Systems and the Marine Safety Policy have been published by SIC to demonstrate its commitment to undertake and regulate marine operations in a way that safeguards all of its ports and harbours, their users and the environment in a qualitative and auditable manner. These documents detail the policies adopted to achieve the PMSC's requirements. These policies and plans are based upon a full assessment of the required standard of the PMSC, and the hazards that have to be managed to provide for the safety of SIC's Ports, Harbours and their users.

Specifically, SIC recognises that as Harbour Authority, it has:

- Statutory and non-statutory duties as conferred by local Acts, Empowerment Orders and general legislation;
- Duties and obligations to conserve and facilitate the safe use of their harbours, and a duty of care against loss caused by the authority's negligence; and
- Duties to ensure the safety of marine operations are matched with general and specific powers to enable the authority to discharge these duties.

The Marine Safety Policy is included in the SIC Safety Management System and is published on the Shetland Islands Council website. The General MSMS, Sullom Voe MSMS, Scalloway MSMS and the Small Ports MSMS are also published separately on the website.

In line with current policy, all the Marine policies are reviewed annually and reported to the Management Review meeting.
Every three years all the manuals are re-issued in line with recertification requirements
The next scheduled review is due in late 2025 for publishing in 2026.

3. Marine Procedures

SIC recognises that the key to effective discharge of the functions described in the PMSC is the development and operation of a **Marine Safety Management System** (MSMS) for marine operations. SIC has provided a tiered approach to developing a MSMS which includes:

- SIC Marine Safety Policy
- SIC Marine Safety Plan (this document)
- SIC MSMS
  and
- Three local port MSMS Documents:
  - Sullom Voe MSMS;
  - Scalloway MSMS; and
  - SIC Small Ports MSMS.

4. The Management of Marine Operations

This Marine Safety Plan commits SIC Ports and Harbours Operations to undertaking the management and regulation of Ports and Harbour operations, within the scope of its powers and authority, in a way that safeguards the port, users of the Ports and Harbours, including members of the public, and the environment.

SIC Ports and Harbours Operations will undertake its role and responsibilities to ensure that, whenever possible, it provides efficient and effective services and the regulation of shipping and other vessels in support of all activities in the harbour and to facilitate the safe transit of vessels through its ports and harbours.

In ensuring the continued provision of services, especially during times of disruption, SIC Ports and Harbours Operations will always keep the safety of its personnel, port users and Vessels as a priority. At times this may mean that services and therefore vessel movements or activities are subject to delay. However, the safety of life,navigation and protection of the environment remains a priority for SIC Ports and Harbours Operations.

5. Established Management Activities

A number of key functions underpin the operation and maintenance of the SIC Ports and Harbours Operations, Marine-SMS in addition to the core services provided by SIC Ports and Harbours Operations, the following processes ensure the maintenance of an effective regime and support compliance with the requirements of the PMSC:

- Bi Annual Management Review meetings;
- Regular Technical Working Group meetings to review marine operations
- Dedicated risk assessments of new and existing marine operations and services as required;
- The proactive and reactive review of identified hazards to navigation and the associated risk control measures that mitigate those risks to an acceptable (As Low As Reasonably Practicable) level;
- The investigation of all reported marine incidents;
- Regular, wide-ranging liaison with port users and other interested parties through formal and informal public consultations;
- Regular internal and external audits and reviews of the MSMS, its functions and procedures;
- Comprehensive training and development for marine departments' staff; and
- The maintenance and exercising of SIC Ports and Harbours Operations marine emergency plans and procedures, including the oil spill contingency plans.

6. Ongoing Management Targets for the Period of the Plan

6.1 Standing Targets:

	Service Provision / Activity Target	Target Details
1.	Navigational Incidents	No major incidents, serious injuries or serious pollution as a result of a failure of the port's Marine Safety Management System and/or of associated service provision.
2.	Vessel Traffic Services (Sullom Voe) – Operational capability and delivery	1. Provide a 100% effective Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) throughout the specified port area and approaches. 2. Seek to ensure that the VTS system operates at 99.9% availability through maintenance, procurement and installation strategy for VTS equipment, which adds to the reliability of the VTS system.
3.	Provision of a Pilotage service	Provide authorised pilots as required within the Sullom Voe and Scalloway Directions. No major incidents as a result of any Pilotage errors.
4.	Conservancy and Hydrographic Survey	Ensure that the Port and approaches have an adequate hydrographic survey and that these are undertaken in line with the defined timescales. **Wreck & Obstruction Investigation** - Investigate all reported wreck and obstruction on immediate mobilisation. Issue navigation warnings, arrange marking and removal at earliest opportunity, time dependent on severity / risk to navigation.
5.	Liaison and consultation with Users	Routine meetings with Ports & Harbours users. Appropriate and open consultation undertaken with Ports & Harbour Users and interested parties regarding proposed amendments to Byelaws, Directions and Codes of Practice.

6.2 Period Targets:

	Service Provision / Activity Target	Target Details
1.	Risk assessment	Maintenance of the electronic marine risk management system. Annual Review
2.	Training	Reviewed quarterly training needs assessed for all staff associated with the Ports and Harbours operations. On completion training to be logged and reported quarterly to Harbour Board
3.	Legislation	Training Added on completion. Reviewed 1/4ly Review the need for Harbour Revision Orders, Byelaws and Directions associated with the Ports and Harbours. Ensure that National and International legislation are complied with in a timely manner.
4.	Vessel Traffic Services (Sullom Voe) – Operational capability and delivery	Maintain a VTS service as per the standards identified in MGN 401 and IMO Resolution A.1158(32)

7. Performance:

7.1 Navigational Incidents.

From 2019 to 2022 there were no navigational incidents, serious Injury or any cases of serious pollution.
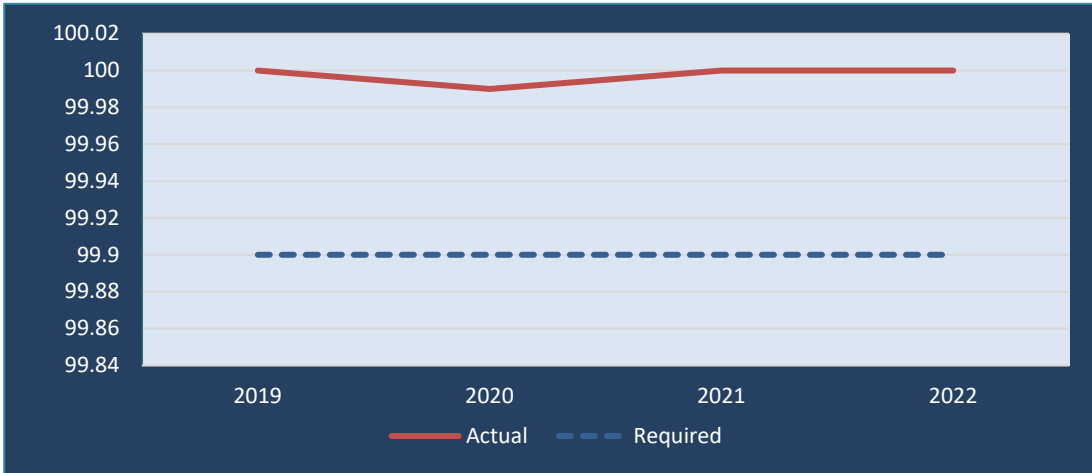
| Year	Major Navigational Incidents	Serious Injury	Serious Pollution
2019	0	0	0
2020	0	0	0
2021	0	0	0
2022	0	0	0

7.2 VTS Availability

7.2.1 Equipment

On installation of new VTS system in 2020 equipment availability was well provided through 2021-2022 with one hour lost in 2020 due to a power issue.

7.2.2 Staff

VTS Availability fell below the required 99.9% due to difficulties with staffing in 2019, 2021 and 2022. The majority of issues were caused by the Covid19 pandemic. Resilience has been built for the future by hiring and training additional staff.
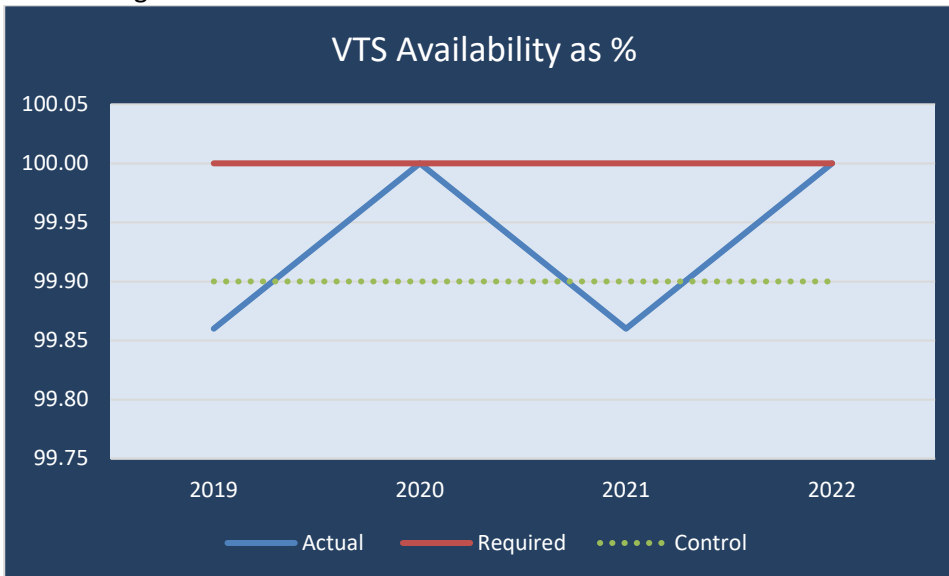
7.3 Pilotage

SIC Marine and Air completed the appointment of Pilot in 2021 with training completed in 2022.

From 2019 to 2022 there were no incidents due to Pilotage Errors

Year	Incidents due to Pilotage Error
2019	0
2020	0
2021	0
2022	0