

# A Bright Future Ahead

Annual Review 2021/2022



**ABERDEEN  
HARBOUR**  
EST. 1136



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## With Deepest Sympathies

It is with great sadness that we pay respects to two Harbour employees who passed away in 2020. William Manson and Peter Davidson had worked at Aberdeen Harbour for many years in our Marine and Engineering departments, and will be greatly missed by their colleagues. Our thoughts are with their families and friends at this difficult time.

Our thoughts are with our employees, partners and stakeholders who have been affected by the devastating pandemic, and who have lost friends or family in the past year.

Photo: Alona Roitershtein





## Chairman's Statement

**There have been many 'buzzword' phrases in the last year, said to describe the enormous challenges that everyone has faced: "unprecedented", "new-normal" – and of course, the ever-dreaded "you're on mute!" It would be hard to comment on 2020 without mentioning these phrases, as there really are no words to describe the challenges faced by the Harbour, its customers, stakeholders, and society in general nor the new world we find ourselves working in.**

The trials we have faced have certainly been unprecedented, but they have not stifled our spirit of resilience, perseverance, and adaptability. I have heard many, many stories of people embracing the challenges, adjusting to change, and keeping their mind's eye fixed firmly on the future.

This spirit has ensured our business has survived the challenges of 2020 and is now poised to take hold of the opportunities that are on the horizon: large-scale energy transition projects bringing jobs to the area, new trade environments following Brexit, and the potential for Scottish Greenports.

My thanks go to the entire Harbour team who have ensured our business remains commercially successful, while never compromising on safety or customer service.

My thanks go to our Board members who have supported the business through turbulent waters with steadfast commitment.

Lastly, my thanks go to our Chief Executive, Michelle Handforth: not only has she faced the challenges of 2020 with tenacity and resilience, she has also been a true force for positive change at the Harbour Board and her achievements will be evident in the business for years to come. On behalf of the Board and Aberdeen Harbour employees, we wish her all the best in her new role with Network Rail. I am looking forward to welcoming Bob Sanguinetti as our new CEO, taking over from Michelle later in the year.

While 2021 will have its own set of hurdles as our region and the nation recovers, this coming year will be one of the most important in our near-900-year history, as we move closer to becoming the largest berthage port in Scotland. Our business will be transformed, and will, in turn, transform the opportunities for the North East of Scotland and the rest of the country.

*Alistair Mackenzie, Chairman*

[Read the full statement online](#) >>



## CEO's Statement

**As our country recovers from the significant challenges of the last year, it is vital we position ourselves for a strong and bright future, holding fast to our purpose and ambitions.**

The COVID-19 pandemic and changes at our expansion project affected activity at the port in 2020, as shown in our 16% decrease in vessel tonnage and 35% decrease in vessel arrivals. However, we are already seeing signs of recovery and a promising year ahead in 2021.

Protecting our core business became our ultimate priority last year. We, along with other ports around the UK, and the broader maritime industry, faced significant challenges due to a global reduction in shipping activity in the energy, ferry, cargo and cruise industries. We took critical measures to support and sustain our employees, customers, and port users, in the delivery of vital lifeline services, playing a significant role in the national effort to keep fuel, medical supplies and essential cargos on the move.

Continuing to develop and grow our stakeholder and customer relationships will be even more important as we recover throughout 2021 and into 2022.

Our investment in the port's expansion will create new possibilities for the UK's industries, underpin the energy transition and bolster international trade in a post-Brexit landscape. We have made excellent construction progress despite the challenges of the pandemic, and now that we are in the final stages of completion, our ambitions are quickly becoming a reality.

During my three years at Aberdeen Harbour, I have been inspired by the constant hard work, professionalism and enthusiasm shown by our employees. I look forward to seeing how our employees continue to create prosperity for generations to come, as the business grows and thrives in the future.

My heartfelt thanks also go to our customers, port users and stakeholders, who are crucial to the success of our business. Their ongoing interest in developing our future plans has strengthened our platform for growth and placed Aberdeen at the heart of the UK's energy transition and net zero ambitions.

I have no doubt our incoming Chief Executive, Bob Sanguinetti, will successfully lead Aberdeen Harbour forward into the next exciting chapter in our history, as South Harbour commences the first phase of operational activity in 2022.

Our vision to become Scotland's premier port, offering world-class facilities to national and international customers, has been our guiding light in troubled times, and I have every confidence the expanded port of Aberdeen has a very bright future ahead.

*Michelle Handforth, Chief Executive*

[Read the full statement online](#) >>





# Our Board of Directors

Selected for their wide-ranging skills and experience, Aberdeen Harbour's team of Non-Executive Directors provide independent oversight for the organisation.

[Read full biographies online](#) >>



**Alistair Mackenzie**  
*Chairman*  
BOARD MEMBER SINCE 2010



**Morag McNeill**  
*Vice-Chairwoman*  
BOARD MEMBER SINCE 2013



**Michelle Handforth**  
*Chief Executive*  
BOARD MEMBER SINCE 2018



**Forsyth Black**  
*Non-executive member*  
BOARD MEMBER SINCE 2021



**Jayne MacLennan**  
*Non-executive member*  
BOARD MEMBER SINCE 2017



**Roy Buchan**  
*Non-executive member*  
BOARD MEMBER SINCE 2019



**John Brebner**  
*Non-executive member*  
BOARD MEMBER SINCE 2018



**Bertie Armstrong**  
*Non-executive member*  
BOARD MEMBER SINCE 2020



**Mike Keith**  
*Non-executive member*  
BOARD MEMBER SINCE 2019



**Eleanor Craig**  
*Non-executive member*  
BOARD MEMBER SINCE 2019



**Jon Oakey**  
*Finance and Business Services Director*  
BOARD MEMBER SINCE 2019



**Matt North**  
*Chief Operating Officer*  
BOARD MEMBER SINCE 2019



# 2020 at a Glance



**96** TOTAL EMPLOYEES

Total Vessels

**6,141**



ACTS OF PILOTAGE

**17,919**



TOTAL CARGO  
**3,212,978 TONNES**



Supply Vessels

**3,036**



Total Tonnage

**22,410,289**  
gross tonnes



Total Salt  
**35,373**  
Tonnes

HEAVIEST VESSEL

**20,973**

gross tonnes



Longest vessel

**175m**



## A Global Port

- |                             |                    |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Angola                      | Israel             |
| Belgium                     | Italy              |
| Cameroon                    | Japan              |
| Congo (Democratic Republic) | Mexico             |
| Continental Norway          | Morocco            |
| Cyprus                      | Nigeria            |
| Denmark                     | Northern Isles     |
| Equatorial Guinea           | Norway             |
| Finland                     | Offshore Oilfields |
| France                      | Portugal           |
| Gabon                       | Russia             |
| Germany                     | Singapore          |
| Ghana                       | Spain              |
| Iceland                     | The Netherlands    |
| India                       | Trinidad           |
| Irish Republic              | USA                |
|                             | United Kingdom     |

# Our Digital Harbour



VISIT OUR  
**Website**



WATCH OUR  
**Videos**



FOLLOW US ON  
**LinkedIn**



FOLLOW US ON  
**Twitter**



TAG US ON  
**Instagram**



SIGN UP FOR  
**Monthly Updates**

Continual investment in digital solutions is critical for our customers and port users. Our Smart Port strategy will ensure our port meets the ever-evolving demands of the digital age, while achieving our ambitions to be one of the greenest ports in the UK.

Our Knowledge Transfer Partnership with the Robert Gordon University and widespread use of data integration software will increase efficiencies for vessel and quayside operations and will be vital as we scale up to the opening of South Harbour. The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly advanced the need for digital technology in our industry – whether it is drones for critical inspections, up-to-date IT systems, smart metering and maintenance programmes, or smart quay infrastructure.

We look forward to exploring and introducing more initiatives to ensure our customers and port users are connected to what they need, where and when they need it.



## South Harbour: The Final Sprint

Despite the challenges brought on by COVID-19, the £350 million Aberdeen Harbour Expansion Project is in the final sprint towards a phased opening in 2021 and into 2022.

Significant progress has been made in the last year, and the specialist and multi-skilled team of Harbour employees and contractors have overcome several engineering challenges.

In 2020, approximately 2.4 million metres<sup>3</sup> of rock was removed from the seabed using one of the world's largest dredgers. This material will be reused elsewhere within the project. Thousands of tonnes of infill material has been placed behind the caissons on the North and East Quays, and rock removal and revetment work has continued around the concrete piles on the North and West Quays.

The remaining eight caissons will arrive in the summer of 2021, completing the East Quay and creating the South Pier. The Crown Wall will be built along the length of the North Breakwater to protect vessels and quayside operations from large waves. The 550-metre South Breakwater will be built this year using specialist equipment to minimise the impact on the marine environment.

We are working extremely closely with customers, port users and industry organisations around the UK to maximise the potential for the expanded port in Aberdeen as we gear up to our phased opening later this year.

▷▷ [The footprint of South Harbour changes every day as the project progresses. Visit our South Harbour Notebook to stay up-to-date with the latest construction progress, see the latest photos and videos, and meet the people and businesses involved in the project.](#)

See our construction in action ▷▷





## Playing our Part in the Energy Transition

Aberdeen Harbour is a critical part of the region's aims to become a global, integrated energy cluster which embraces the many sectors associated with renewable energy.

An Energy Transition Zone close to South Harbour will play a prominent part in the development and success of renewables projects in Scotland, and we welcome the recent landmark investment deals and budget provisions from the Scottish and UK Governments to enable the transition to clean, green energy.

The North East of Scotland has incredible assets. More than 50 years of investment in technology and skills has created a basis of great potential and presents us with the opportunity to make a major contribution to delivering net zero, and retaining the highly skilled workforce in Aberdeen.

We are working closely with our customers, port users and organisations such as Opportunity North East and the British Ports Association to better understand the opportunities and challenges associated with the energy transition, and to leverage the economic potential of our £350 million South Harbour investment.

**Find out why we will be a home to the energy transition >>**



# Health, Safety, Environment and Quality



**38**

Mental Health & Wellbeing Sessions

**157**



INTERNAL COMPLIANCE REVIEWS



**02**

AHB ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS

**3,400 litres**

OF DIESEL SAVED WITH NEW PORT ELECTRIC VEHICLES



**01**

AHB Reportable Incident



**0**

COVID+ cases amongst Aberdeen Harbour employees



**50%**

Energy consumption reduction for lighting through LED replacements

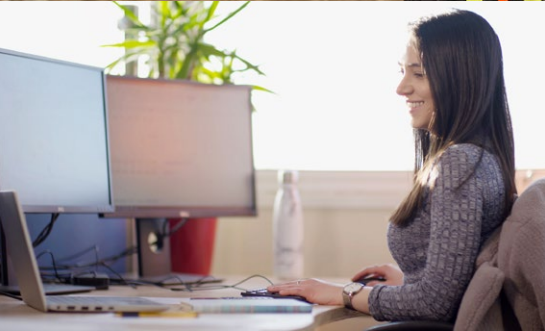
Aberdeen Harbour's HSEQ standards are second to none. As one of only two ports in Scotland to be part of the European environmental initiative EcoPorts, we boast three international benchmarks for quality, occupational health and safety and environmental management. Our latest accreditation – ISO 9001 – was achieved after a virtual audit process in 2020.

Our annual independent safety audit, which confirms our compliance with the Port Marine Safety Code, delivered a 'clean bill of health'.

**Find out how we keep our port safe** >>

Our eyes are fixed firmly on the future and we are constantly assessing ways to improve our practices for the benefit of our employees, customers, port users and stakeholders.





## People & Culture

It takes skilled and highly capable people to keep Aberdeen Harbour running safely and efficiently.

With as many as 9,400 vessel arrivals per year, 24/7 customer operations and the largest marine infrastructure project underway in the UK, we are always considering ways we can upskill and add value to our 100-strong team.

Our mission as a Trust Port is to create prosperity for future generations. Developing our employees – many of whom began their careers at Aberdeen Harbour – is one of the ways we can do that.

We are particularly proud to be the first sponsor of Maritime UK's 'Diversity in Maritime' programme. A skilled, diverse, and inclusive team is crucial for the UK's maritime sector to thrive and prosper, and we look forward to working with organisations around the country to ensure the sector is skilled and ready for the future.

**Find out why Aberdeen Harbour is a great place for young people to start their careers >>**

**Meet the Harbour Crew >>**



# supPORT-all

As a Trust Port, we have a strong ethos of communicating and interacting with anyone who has an interest in the Harbour – including our local communities.

Our 2021 community action programme, **supPORT-all**, builds on our history of supporting more than 200,000 children and adults in the North East of Scotland.

This year, we will support charities or community groups local to the port with financial provision, donations of time, resources and equipment, and a unique marketing package delivered with award-winning video production company Signal.

[See our funding in action >>](#)

[Read more about our supPORT-all programme >>](#)



## WHO WE HAVE SUPPORTED SINCE 2020



£10,000



£13,000



£5,000

## A Bright Future Ahead

Aberdeen Harbour has risen to the challenges presented by COVID-19, and what has contributed to our resilience has been our ability to adapt. Embracing new industries and technologies, and transforming our infrastructure, means we will be a catalyst for energy transformation, the growth of the maritime sector and international shipping in Scotland and beyond.

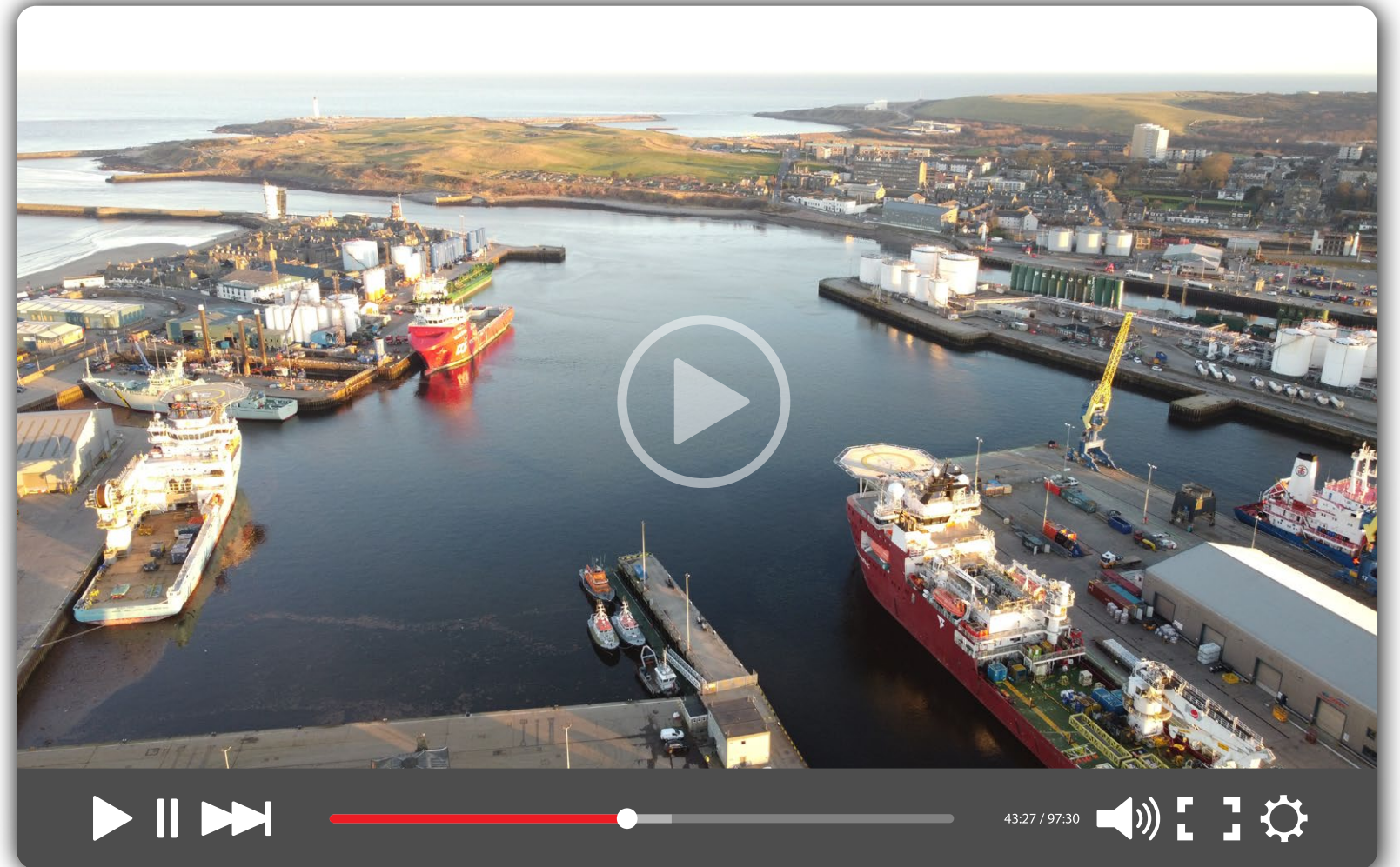
We are committed to improving every element of our activity and what we provide for our customers. We are open to new ways of working and building closer relationships with our stakeholders. We will work with partners to strengthen the economy, bringing prosperity to future generations.

**We are making history in Aberdeen, and you are a vital part of our success.**





# The View from Above





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