

CONTAINER DEFENCES

A series of containers have been placed in front of the Peterhead Fish Market as a temporary sea defence until permanent work can begin next year.

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PETERHEAD



PORT AUTHORITY

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Millionth box of whitefish for 2020

Peterhead Port Authority's Fish Market reached the seven-figure milestone in late November on a day when 6,458 boxes were sold.

The vessel *Aalskere* (K 377) consigned the millionth box in a 900-box landing of whitefish from Ullapool on the west coast of Scotland on the 17th of the month.

The milestone was achieved in week 47 of 2020, although for obvious reasons it took considerably longer this year in comparison with 2019 at week 40 and 2018 at week 38.

It is a testament to the dedication and commitment of the entire seafood sector ensuring that this vital link in the seafood chain remained operational during the Covid-19 pandemic.

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Challenges were faced and met each week to ensure that Peterhead Fish Market remained the focal point of whitefish landings in the UK and Europe. The initial Covid restriction measures included the reduction of the daily market capacity from 10,000 to 5,000 boxes.

This was to facilitate the space required for social distance and proved successful, allowing for a slightly increased capacity of 6,500 boxes to be introduced some weeks later.

Fish landing volumes levelled out following the initial uncertainty of Covid, however both landing volumes and prices have remained at surprisingly buoyant levels.

Peterhead Fish Market installed a thermal imaging temperature scanner linked to an electronic gate. It allows access within two seconds to anyone whose core body temperature is in the normal range and who is wearing a face mask.

PPA chief executive Simon Brebner said: "This was an additional precaution in the fight to protect the fish market and its users from the effects of Covid and ensure continuity of the services provided."

Coastal Partnership update

The East Grampian Coastal Partnership, of which Peterhead Port Authority is a significant sponsor, has provided an update in the form of an E-newsletter which can be accessed via its website www.egcp.scot

The organisation, which is behind beach cleans in the area and wide range of other coast-related activity, has continued to function despite Covid-19.

New border control post

A new border control post has been approved next to the Princess Royal Jetty, with access from the Bay Marina.

With the UK leaving the EU, the former EU border inspection post which was only used for US or Russian imports, will no longer function.

Temporary defences to protect market

A temporary sea defence consisting of a series of containers has been erected in front of Peterhead Fish Market until action on a permanent solution can begin next year.

Peterhead Port Authority had awarded a contract for work along the seaward side of Alexandra Parade, and this had been due to take place during the spring and summer.

However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the enforced lockdown from late March, the window of opportunity for this work passed and the project was deferred until the spring of 2021 at the earliest.

In the meantime, to ensure that the fish market buildings, loading bays and market forecourt are protected from hostile winter weather, from early September the 12m x 6m containers were placed adjacent to the roadway. They were strengthened and infilled with aggregates.

Simon Brebner, PPA chief executive, said: "The objective of this temporary sea defence measure is to ensure business continuity throughout the winter months.

"The containers will be removed once we obtain the green light for the project to be reinstated.

"We ask for your co-operation, patience and understanding during this period."

The muster point continues to be the main car park and signage is in place to inform pedestrians of the safest route to this area.

PERS environmental accreditation 2020

Both Lloyd's Register and EcoPorts (a part of the European Sea Ports Organisation) have congratulated the Peterhead Port Authority on achieving and maintaining its 2020 port specific environmental review accreditation (PERS).

Peterhead remains the only port in Scotland to hold this accreditation, putting it alongside other holders such as the European ports of Valencia, Bremen, Barcelona and Rotterdam.

Peterhead continues to be a committed EcoPorts member and has remained a PERS certified port since 2008. The port has continued delivering on its environmental ambitions with a focus on the responsible growth of the port while preserving and improving the quality of working conditions for the port community.

Developed by ports themselves, PERS accreditation not only incorporates the main requirements of other recognised environmental management standards such as ISO 14001, but takes into account the specificities of ports, port businesses and the environmental challenges facing ports.

As such, PERS has firmly established its reputation as a credible, prestigious environmental management standard of which the Port of Peterhead can proudly state that it still continues to meet.

Harbour Master, Capt. John Forman, and Health, Safety & Environment Officer Richard Baird are pictured accepting the PERS European Environmental Standard for 2020.



Logo update

The Authority has refreshed its logo, with a move to orange instead of green and bold lettering to help it stand out much more.

Chief executive Simon Brebner explained: "It is important that Peterhead Port Authority's branding is visible, so we have updated the logo with a new colour scheme and bolder text.

"I believe it is more powerfully evocative of who we are and reflects our values as custodians of a port that is focused on safety and adds real value to the supply chain."

During 2021, the new logo will gradually be updated in locations throughout the port and in online and print materials.



Craig departs for Borders

Finance officer Craig Allan's first connection with Peterhead Port Authority was during a placement from college and he returned after successfully completing his accountancy course.

He has worked for the Port Authority for more than seven years, covering most areas of finance and IT.

Chief financial officer Stephen Paterson said: "We wish Craig all the very best as he leaves his home town to start a new life in the Borders."

Deckhand sponsorship

The Scottish Maritime Academy has thanked Peterhead Port Authority for continued sponsorship of the Trainee Deckhand course for a further two years.

Linda Hope, Centre Manager, said: "The ongoing sponsorship of our bespoke Trainee Deckhand course, by Peterhead Port Authority, is invaluable – it allows the College to provide full PPE for each trainee and provides access to Seafish and STCW mandatory safety courses.

"We typically welcome over 30 new entrants to this course each year who then enter the maritime sector – either in commercial fishing or ERRV and supply vessels in the merchant navy.

"The course's primary aim is to provide the skills and knowledge for new recruits to operate safely at sea. Over 12 weeks each cohort works towards the mandatory safety certification required to work at sea plus a range of SQA units in basic seamanship skills.

"The College would like thank the Board of Peterhead Port Authority for its ongoing commitment to new entrants."

Marina busy despite Covid restrictions

Peterhead Bay Marina had 108 visiting vessels this year, a high number despite the necessary restrictions imposed following the Covid-19 outbreak.

The first visitor of the year was a 13m German yacht, *Catania*, which arrived on 13th July and headed on to Orkney.

The last was a 10m British yacht, *Samsara*, which berthed for nearly three weeks en route south from Orkney.

Marina manager Keith Bristol said that following the introduction of Covid-19 guidelines laid down in line with Scottish Government guidance by PPA Harbour Master John Forman, the marina had remained Covid-free.

“It has been a tough year but surprisingly busy, with the boat market buoyant and vessels selling quickly.

“At present we have only nine berths left available for next year, so we will hopefully be full to capacity with permanent berth holders.”

Busy port

Pictured is a series of tanks being offloaded at Albert Quay for transportation to BrewDog’s Ellon HQ to facilitate its expansion project.

Despite Covid-19, activity has continued at the port, with a diverse range of traffic being handled. Reefer exports from our pelagic customers and grain from the North East have become fairly regular this year.

“We continuously evaluate our business strategy, and with the likely uplift in fish volumes as a result of Brexit, export of fish via this route is something we will build in to our planning,” said chief executive Simon Brebner.



FREEPORTS

The UK Government has launched its Freeports Prospectus which gives further details on the UK Freeport model and sets out how bidders can apply for that status in England.

This certainly has the potential to be a game changer for ports and the associated local economies and PPA awaits more information from the Scottish Government regarding the potential benefits of Freeports models might provide along with the criteria for selection and the application process.

Simon Brebner, chief executive, said: “We welcome this as a first step forward and whilst we wait for details from the Scottish Government, it is important to ensure that the North East of Scotland remains very much part of the national Freeport discussion and that we challenge ourselves to ensure our collective value proposition provides a platform where increased economic activity and inward investment could be realised.

“Peterhead Port has access to large areas of land with development opportunities, excellent transport links and a diverse and innovative mix of business activities within seafood, energy and the renewables sector which will undoubtedly benefit customers, stakeholders and the economy alike.”

Christmas message from chief executive Simon Brebner

2020 has been, in some shape or form, an extremely challenging one for everyone around the world, and at Peterhead Port Authority it has been no different.



During this crisis, we have tried to provide essential port services to ensure business continuity, while keeping our staff and wider stakeholders safe and healthy.

As we look forward to next year with more optimism, may I take this opportunity on behalf of the Board and the management of Peterhead Port Authority, to thank all our staff, customers and stakeholders for their ongoing commitment and support and may you and your families have a peaceful and joyous occasion over the Festive Season!