



Paddle sports in Fowey Harbour – FAQs

- **Is registration compulsory?**

We are encouraging everyone engaging in paddle sports within the Harbour to register. By registering with the scheme you are joining a safety campaign to provide you with general and local safety information as well as allowing us to identify your kit if it is found unattended. If you are afloat within the harbour we need to know who you are and how we can contact you in an emergency. If take up of the scheme is low we will consider issuing a General Direction to make the scheme compulsory.

- **Does the requirement to register apply to the whole harbour?**

It does apply to the whole estuary from the tidal limits at Lostwithiel and Lerryn right down to the Harbour entrance.

- **How will registration be enforced?**

Our aim is to educate paddle sports users and we will engage with any craft not displaying a registration scheme sticker. Enforcement action will be taken as a last resort if necessary by our afloat staff.

- **Under what Statutory Power is the obligation to pay Harbour Dues enforced?**

The Harbour Act 1847 (as amended) and the Fowey Harbour Orders 1937 to 2021 give Fowey Harbour Commission the statutory power to levy charges on all vessels using the harbour.

- **Who must pay this charge?**

All vessels using Fowey Harbour are liable to pay harbour dues for the use of the harbour. In a similar way to paying road tax for your vehicle. Harbour dues are applicable to all types of vessels and are paid annually for each vessel. Harbour staff will be more actively enforcing payment of charges due to the increasing numbers of paddle sport vessels using the harbour. The registration scheme gives the opportunity to pay this annual fee on registration.

- **Are Harbour Dues payable for each craft?**

Yes, Harbour dues are levied for each craft using the Harbour.

- **Why is the fee a fixed annual rate?**

Harbour dues are traditionally levied annually and entitle the payee to use of the harbour for the entire calendar year.

- **What do my Harbour Dues pay for?**

Revenue generated from the collection of Harbour dues from all craft go towards the costs of managing and maintaining the entire harbour, from providing a Harbour Patrol and emergency response down to keeping slipways and steps cleaned and maintained. Many people paddle on the Fowey because of its unspoiled beauty and natural environment, something which the Harbour Commission actively work hard to protect.

- **Do the Harbour Commission get money from central government?**

No, the Harbour Commissioners must raise the funds they need to manage the harbour by levying fees on harbour users.

- **Is there a difference for locals and visitors?**

The scheme applies to both local residents and visitors. Local residents may consider joining a local club as an additional source of local knowledge, training and safety and a discounted rate for dues will be applied.

- **Has a multi-harbour pass been considered?**

Yes, it has been considered, but this is inherently difficult to administer as most harbours are run by different Harbour Authorities, not a centralised organisation. We will continue to explore possibilities with our neighbouring ports and harbours but to avoid confusion we would need to get all local ports to participate and harbour dues would remain payable at each harbour.

- **I have lots of canoes, can I have one pass for all of them?**

We appreciate that costs can mount up if a family all have a canoe within a household. We would recommend considering joining a local canoe club who, in return for providing safety advice and mentoring, enjoy a discounted rate for members.