



## Falmouth Harbour Commissioners

**- MEDIA RELEASE -**

### **‘2008 Best year yet’ for Falmouth Harbour Commissioners**

Falmouth Harbour Commissioners’ Annual Report has just been published ahead of the Annual Meeting which is scheduled to take place at 19:30 on April, 1 at the National Maritime Museum Cornwall.

The Annual Report details the financial accounts, summary of the past year’s activity and of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) along with FHC’s commercial strategy and Chairman’s Report.

The report shows that the financial performance of the organisation has been the best ever with a pre tax profit of £747,315, that’s up 90% on 2007 when pre tax profit was £393,300.

Most of this increase was due to the increase in commercial activities, particularly bunkering, however FHC leisure operations also achieved improved results compared to the previous year which is encouraging given the challenging economic environment.

To meet the operational requirements FHC increased the number of staff during 2008. An additional 5 staff were recruited during the course of the year; two additional boat crews, Steve Bond and Matthew Seymour, were taken on to allow a revised shift pattern with improved provision for rest to be introduced for the pilot boat.

An Assistant Harbour Master, Will Davies, was recruited to manage the increased pilot boat operations and Harriet Knowles was recruited jointly with

the University of Plymouth under a Knowledge Transfer Partnership scheme to undertake the role of Maritime Sustainable Development Officer.

Harriet has a 30 month appointment to analyse the environmental impact of FHC activities and to ensure that they conform to international standards of best practice.

Part time financial assistant, Mary Stribley, was taken on to cope with the additional invoicing and accounting requirements.

2008 was also a busy year for FHC in regard to the Falmouth Harbour Environmental Impact Assessment. The EIA for the proposed improvement in the port approaches was completed by environmental consultants Royal Haskoning. The results of the assessment were exhibited at a public exhibition in November and a final report has just been published.

Summing up the year, Chief Executive and Falmouth Harbour Master Mark Sansom said: "Despite the current economic trends we are optimistic about port activities for the coming year. So far commercial activity has remained strong during the recession and the increase in laid up shipping has further benefited operations. We are anticipating some slowdown in our leisure activities but believe that the competitiveness of our pricing for our residents' facilities will ensure that take up remains high.

"The Board have set out an ambitious strategic programme for 2009 which includes achieving the necessary funding and consents for the Falmouth Port Development Initiative and the commencement of a new building on North Quay that will provide improved facilities for our visitors and properly accommodate our enlarged workforce.

"Delivery of this programme will no doubt prove to be challenging but, given the outstanding commitment demonstrated by our workforce during the last year, I am confident of success.

“I would like to encourage anyone with an interest in our work over the past year or our plans for the coming year to join us at the Annual Meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> April.”

Full copies of the Annual Report will be available at the meeting on April 1 and can be downloaded from [www.falmouthport.co.uk](http://www.falmouthport.co.uk) after the meeting. Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting which will take place in The Learning Centre at the National Maritime Museum from 19:30.

The meeting will be chaired by FHC’s incoming chairman, David Ellis and all board members will be at the meeting and available after the main presentations to discuss the annual report and plans for the year ahead.

**Ends.**

**24 March 2009**

**Notes to Editors:**

Falmouth Harbour, including the Carrick Roads, is reputed to be the third largest natural harbour in the world. Falmouth Harbour Commissioners are a statutory port authority with responsibility for the Inner Harbour at Falmouth (excluding Falmouth Docks), the Penryn River up as far as Boyers Cellars, the southern part of the Carrick Roads and a large part of Falmouth Bay. As well as providing regulation of its Harbour Area the Commissioners provide small craft facilities for residents and visitors.

Falmouth Harbour Commissioners is a statutory port undertaking created by an act of parliament in 1870. It operates as a trust port and has a board of eight commissioners who act as trustees. Falmouth Harbour Commissioners are committed to operating the harbour in an open and accountable manner and welcome feedback from harbour users.

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