



## Falmouth Harbour Commissioners

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

#### **Motor vessel fined for polluting**

On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2008 Aqua Marine Shipping were prosecuted for an oil pollution offence committed in Falmouth Harbour and were ordered to pay £10,000, plus £8,863 in costs.

Aqua Marine, owner of JET, was taken to court by Falmouth Harbour Commissioners as a result of an oil spill which occurred on 23 February 2008. The incident took place whilst JET was refuelling from the bunker barge, Whitstar, and spilt oil overboard in to the harbour area, causing an oil slick.

The incident was contained after the bunkering vessel, Whitstar and Pilot Boat, Arrow, deployed a boom and contained the oil between the vessels. The spill was cleared by the oil spill responders DV Howells.

The fine was issued after the court heard a guilty plea to pollution charges and offences under section 131/2 of the Merchant Shipping Act. The case against the Captain of the vessel was withdrawn.

Falmouth Harbour Commissioners' Regulation Officer, Dave Townson, investigated the incident, he said: "We are obviously very pleased with the outcome of the case. We take our responsibility to prevent pollution in the harbour very seriously, and we hope that this will encourage others to ensure safe bunkering procedures take place onboard their vessels."

Aqua Marine Services assured the court that their bunkering procedures will be revised, and modifications will be made to the vessel to ensure a spill will not occur again.

Falmouth Harbour Master, Captain Mark Sansom added: "Taking cases like this to court is part of our role as a regulatory enforcement body. The safety of our harbour, facilities and services is our priority and infringements of regulations will be investigated fully.

**Ends.**

14 July 2008

**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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