

Cairnryan Port – Conservancy and Environmental Policy

Legal and Regulatory Compliance

1. Cairnryan Port will discharge its statutory conservancy duties in accordance with the Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC), the Harbours Act 1964, Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, and all relevant UK and Scottish environmental legislation
2. The Port will comply with MARPOL, the Ballast Water Management Convention, OPRC Regulations, Environmental Protection Act 1990, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and applicable conservation and marine regulations.
3. The policy aligns with UK Net Zero 2050 targets and Scotland’s Climate Change Plan and National Marine Plan.

Navigational Conservancy and Maintenance

1. Safe navigable depths will be maintained through regular hydrographic surveys and maintenance dredging where required. Survey data will be issued to mariners and relevant authorities.
2. Aids to Navigation will be maintained in cooperation with the Northern Lighthouse Board. Notices to Mariners will be issued where necessary.
3. Obstructions and wrecks posing hazards will be removed or marked in accordance with statutory powers and MCA guidance.

Pollution Prevention and Control

1. An approved Oil Spill Contingency Plan (OSCP) will be maintained, with regular exercises and staff training.
2. Adequate waste reception facilities will be provided in compliance with MARPOL. Waste records will be maintained and disposal undertaken by licensed contractors.
3. Operational controls will minimise risks during bunkering, cargo handling, and maintenance activities. Air emissions will be reduced in line with MARPOL Annex VI and national clean air objectives.

Biodiversity and Habitat Protection

1. Operations will recognise the environmental sensitivity of Loch Ryan and surrounding designated sites including SPAs, SSSIs, and MPAs where applicable.
2. Dredging and construction activities will be timed to reduce ecological impact. Water quality and turbidity will be monitored where required.
3. Biosecurity measures will be implemented to reduce the spread of invasive non-native species.

Climate Change Adaptation and Emissions Reduction

1. Climate risks including sea level rise, storm intensity, and coastal erosion will be assessed periodically.
2. The Port will reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency, electrification of equipment, renewable energy adoption, and low-carbon operational practices.
3. Engagement with ferry operators and maritime partners will support cleaner shipping initiatives.

Monitoring, Reporting and Review

1. Environmental performance indicators will be recorded and reviewed, including dredging volumes, spill incidents, waste data, and energy consumption.
2. All environmental incidents will be reported, investigated, and corrective actions implemented.
3. This policy will be reviewed at least every three years or earlier if required by legislative or operational changes.



Laura Gilmour
Port Director
Cairnryan Port



Thomas McKay
Harbour Master
Cairnryan Port