

In the late 1990s the boat compound to the north of the harbour was created and the Boat Club has adapted the Seaplane tower as a club house with facilities for visiting sailors. In 1995 the bridge linking the West Pier with the breakwater was replaced by the Highland Council. The provision of a new central pontoon in the basin, following a dredge in the 2004 allows the safe mooring of small yachts and other small leisure craft and fishing boats. The harbour remains the focal point of the town and many water based activities centre around it. Today an ecotourism business operates from the harbour as do several small fishing boats. Support vessels for the oils rigs and renewable energy sector which are serviced at Nigg and Invergordon, also call into the harbour.

Finally, after many years of work and planning by the Harbour Trust and stalwart volunteers, the harbour is gradually being restored to its former glory. In keeping with the harbour's Grade A status, stone work on the Smeaton Mole has been stabilised and repaired. Work has been undertaken to restore and improve the harbour facilities by repairing the concrete deck and columns of the Inner Admiralty Pier, the installation of new railings, fendering and replacement harbour sheds, new lighting, ladders, CCTV, additional pontoons, information panels and seating. Work has also recently been undertaken to repair the stone paving and some of the grouting on the walls of the breakwater and west pier. In the longer term the whole of the stone Smeaton Harbour is in need of stabilisation and repair and the future of the Outer Admiralty Pier has yet to be determined.

The Harbour Trust will continue in its endeavours to raise the necessary funds to implement the full restoration project for the harbour and thanks the many organisations and individuals who have supported these efforts to ensure the harbour remains at the heart of our community.

