

City intent to take over small harbours

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The City of Cape Town continues to forge ahead with plans to take over the administration of ports within its jurisdiction, including Hout Bay.

This comes as some Hout Bay residents have taken to social media in recent weeks to complain of rubbish accumulating in the harbour.

In June last year, the City signalled its intention to take over the administration of Cape Town's small boat harbours by means of a Harbour By-law. The City believes the Department of Public Works and the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) have mismanaged them.

The by-law would authorise the City to administer harbours, to regulate harbour and municipal matters in the harbours, and set standards for the repair and maintenance of the harbours.

"Two drafts of the by-law have been circulated for public comment and the by-law will soon start the process, through the council committee system, to get to council for adoption," deputy mayor, Ian Neilson told the Sentinel.

"We put out a first draft of the by-law (last year), which solicited a number of useful comments. We incorporated a lot from the comments received. We then decided to put out a second draft so that the public and interested parties can see what changes we had taken on board."

Mr Neilson was unable to give more detail on what these changes were.

In February, a media report said a directive from DAFF had put a stop to all overtime work, including refuse removal and



■ Only small pockets of rubbish were seen at the harbour.

management of the slipway at Hout Bay harbour.

Some residents walking in the harbour have complained that rubbish is piling up, potentially putting off tourists.

However, DAFF spokesperson, Carol Moses, denied there was any such rubbish accumulation.

"As per agreement, the City of Cape Town regularly removes the collected rubbish from the harbour.

No complaints regarding refuse have lately been received at Hout Bay harbour."

Ms Moses said overtime work in the harbour was "limited but not totally suspended". "Also note that we had a problem over the festive season, but that is largely overcome."

The Sentinel visited the harbour precinct, and while there

were small pockets of rubbish, most walkways were clear of trash. In certain parts, bins overflowed with refuse and cooldrink cans and takeaway containers had collected against walls and fences.

"My guys are doing all in their power to ensure the harbour is kept clean at all times," said harbour master, Pumla Feni-Gela.

Ward councillor Roberto Quintas believes the harbour is key to unlocking economic opportunities in Hout Bay. He said he was monitoring the harbour by-law closely. "The harbour as it stands today could be more appealing. The harbour master is doing the best she can, but she hasn't always been given the support and tools she needs. Hopefully we'll see in the short-to medium term a cleaner and safer harbour."