

NOTICE TO MARINERS

No 02 of 2016

(Update and Re-Issue of Notice to Mariners No 02 of 2014)

Safety in Small Vessels

MARINERS ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the following constitutes instruction and advice on the operation of small vessels within the Port of Southampton.

Where individual Byelaws are quoted within the body of this Notice, further reference should be made to Southampton Harbour Byelaws 2003, hereinafter referred to as “The Byelaws”.

As defined in “The Byelaws” “small vessel”

means any vessel of less than 20 metres in length or a sailing vessel and for the purposes of this definition “sailing vessel” means a vessel designed to carry sail, whether as the sole or as a primary or supplementary means of propulsion (extract of Byelaw No 3).

1 SAFETY

It is an offence to navigate a vessel or operate a personal watercraft without due care and caution or at a speed or in a manner which endangers the safety of, or causes injury to any person, any other vessel, buoy, moorings, banks of the port or any other property (extract of Byelaw No 7).

2 SPEED

A speed limit of 6 knots (over the ground) applies to all craft proceeding north of the imaginary line drawn from Hythe Pier through the Weston Shelf Buoy to the Weston Shore unless granted an exemption by the Harbour Master. Speed should be moderate at all times relevant to the local conditions (extract of Byelaw No 7 (1) (c) (i)).

Furthermore, no person shall operate a personal watercraft at a speed greater than 6 knots over the ground within 200 metres of Mean High Water Springs on either side of Southampton Water (extract of Byelaw No 52 (3)).

3 NAVIGATION IN FAIRWAYS

It is emphasised that Southampton Water is extremely busy and has, on average, 70,000 commercial vessel movements per year. Mariners in “small vessels” are therefore reminded of the following requirements (extract of Byelaw No 10):

- a. if not confined to the fairway, they should not use the fairway so as to obstruct other vessels which can only navigate within the fairway,
- b. when crossing the fairway, they should do so at right angles and not diagonally,
- c. when crossing a fairway or turning they should not stop or slow down so as to cause obstruction/damage to any other vessel,
- d. as a general principle, they should navigate on the correct side of the fairway.

4 **WATER SKI-ING, AQUAPLANING, POWER BOAT RACING, PARAGLIDING etc**

No person shall engage in water ski-ing, aqua-planing, paragliding, powerboat racing, para-kiting, parachute towing or any similar activity, except with the written permission of the Harbour Master given either specifically or generally and only in such areas as may be designated by the Harbour Master and in accordance with such reasonable conditions as the Harbour Master may impose (extract of Byelaw No 52 (1)).

The Designated Water Skiing Area in the Redbridge Channel will be open annually from 1st March to 31st October inclusive until further notice (See attached plan)

This Notice gives the Harbour Master’s permission to use the designated area for water skiing in accordance with the Port of Southampton Bye-Laws.

PLEASE NOTE the area North West of Calshot Spit is not designated for water skiing.

5 **SAIL BOARDING**

Although considered to be sheltered waters ideal for dinghies and sailboards, Southampton Water and the Solent can be extremely hazardous. No person shall engage in sail boarding or kite boarding in the fairway, except for the purpose of crossing the fairway by the shortest possible route and it is strongly recommended that sail boarding is restricted to areas clear of all navigation channels and the approaches to commercial berths (extract of Byelaw No 53). Sail Boarders should never attempt close passes on ships as they may create lees and eddies.

NOTE: Sail Boarding is subject to “The Byelaws” and to the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea 1972, as amended, as for all sailing vessels.

6 **YACHTSMAN’S GUIDE**

Associated British Ports publishes a Yachtsman’s Guide to Southampton Water and its approaches. This Guide is available on the port’s website, www.southamptonvts.co.uk

7 **PETROLEUM JETTIES**

All vessels – including yachts and other leisure craft – passing the Esso Marine Terminal Fawley and BP Oil Terminal Hamble shall not navigate closer than 130 metres from the face of the jetties (extract of Byelaw No 7 (1) (c) (iii)).

8 **USE OF VHF RADIO**

Whether for business, pleasure or distress, when using VHF radio, be precise and be brief. Always use the correct procedure and channel. Persons making a broadcast on marine VHF should possess a valid licence.

9 **USE OF SOUND SIGNALS**

All vessels are to comply with regulations for the use of sound signals as required by Part D of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea 1972, as amended.

10 **TRAFFIC INFORMATION BROADCASTS**

Southampton VTS makes succinct Traffic Information Broadcasts as follows;

- a. Broadcasts are made daily every 2 hours from 0610 to 2210 (local time) inclusive.
- b. The broadcasts are made on VHF Channel 14 and are preceded by warning broadcasts on VHF Channel 12.
- c. Content includes movements and expected movements of vessels of 150 metres LOA or greater, Navigational warnings in force and any pertinent safety information. Weather observations, along with trends at the VTS station, are also given. Additionally, tidal readings and predictions are provided - associated historical data to allow stakeholders to draw their own conclusions as to the validity of tidal predictions is also included.

11 **SOUTHAMPTON VTS WEBSITE**

As referred to above, the Southampton VTS website (www.southamptonvts.co.uk) contains much useful information for mariners in small vessels and regular use is recommended.

BE SENSIBLE	BE CONSIDERATE	BE SAFE
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**Vessel Traffic Services Centre
Berth 37, Eastern Docks
Southampton**

**Captain M Phipps
Harbour Master**

01 January 2016

Owners, Agents, Charterers, Marinas, Yacht Clubs and Recreational Sailing Organisations should ensure that the contents of this Notice are made known to the masters or persons in charge of their vessels or craft.

www.southamptonvts.co.uk

