

NOTICE TO MARINERS

No 26 (T) of 2018

Port of Southampton – Towed Pipe String Operations

– Eastern and Central Solent and Southampton Water

– Commencing Sunday 15th July 2018

Notice is hereby given jointly with the Queen’s Harbour Master Portsmouth to advise mariners that on or about Sunday 15th July 2018, during daylight hours and weather permitting, 6 pipe strings, side by side, will be towed through the Eastern and Central Solent and into Southampton Water. The pipe strings will then be moored inshore of the main navigational channel at Deans Lake, to await ongoing deployment to Chilling.

The pipe strings have a total length of 650 meters and will be towed into the Eastern Solent and Southampton Water by 2 tugs and accompanying craft and will be afforded ‘Clear Channel’ status whilst en-route to area in vicinity of Deans Lake buoy. An ABP Pilot will be embarked in the lead tug, ‘Schwartenbek’. The stern tug will be ‘Willsupply’ and at least 2 additional safety craft will join before the tow passes The Forts. Thereafter, the route will be north of Ryde Middle, via the North Channel and into Southampton Water, remaining east of ‘the greens’ until past Greenland, when the tow will cross the channel to Deans Lake.

In preparation for the pipe string’s arrival at Deans Lake, a mooring will be installed on Monday 9th July, consisting of a yellow can buoy with a number of anchors – this will form the northerly mooring for the pipe strings. A second mooring will be installed at the southern end of the pipe strings once they arrive in Deans Lake. The pipe strings will be lit at all times whilst moored, with quick flashing white lights at each end and along the pipe strings on both sides and safety craft will be patrolling the area during daylight hours. However, the pipe strings will be low in the water and may be difficult to see and mariners should exercise care in the area of the moorings and give them a wide berth as far as possible.

Throughout the tow and during subsequent operations, all involved tugs and accompanying craft will be displaying the lights and shapes as prescribed in the International Rules for Prevention of Collisions at Sea (COLREGS). All vessels are requested to give the towing operation a wide berth and mariners unable to meet this requirement should contact Southampton VTS on VHF Ch 12 to arrange safe passing.

Additionally, during the operations, mariners may seek further information on progress from Southampton VTS on VHF Ch 12.

A further Notice to Mariners will be issued for the departure of each pipe string.

**Vessel Traffic Services Centre
Ocean Gate, Atlantic Way
Southampton**

**Captain P J A Buckley
Harbour Master**

2nd July 2018

**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