

Port of Southampton

CONSULTATION NOTICE

No.2 of 2019

MINIMUM UNDER KEEL CLEARANCE - GUIDANCE TO BERTH OPERATORS

It has become apparent that some berth operators and agents are allowing vessels to reduce under keel clearance to a minimum, in some cases allowing vessels to lie on the bottom. NAABSA is an abbreviation for the term: 'Not always afloat but safely aground' and refers to the practice whereby ships visiting a particular port lie safely aground at low water, rather than remaining afloat with under-keel clearance throughout their visit.

For many shipowners/operators NAABSA can seem an unnatural operation, however, like all maritime activities, the hazards can be mitigated with a proper assessment of the risks and thorough preparation. The master must consider the state of the vessel, local tidal conditions and the hazards presented by the seabed in the vicinity of the berth, including the age and accuracy of the local survey data, to ensure success.

To formalise this activity ABP Southampton will update its guidance either through Direction or another means.

Consultation

A consultation period will commence for 6 weeks from the issue of this Notice and comments are sought from all private berth operators and agents.

Views are requested to reach the Southampton Harbour Master either in writing or by email to arrive no later than **Wednesday 8th January 2020**.

27th November 2019

ABP Southampton
Ocean Gate
Atlantic Way
Southampton
SO14 3QN

**Captain P J A
Buckley
Harbour Master**

Email: HMSouthampton@abports.co.uk
