

## NOTICE TO MARINERS

No. 18(T) of 2020

### COVID 19 - Water Sports & Recreational Boating

**Notice is hereby given** that mariners are advised that the Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs has published further guidance on undertaking leisure activities during the period of Covid-19 restrictions. Specifically, the guidance states that:

*all forms of water sports practiced on open waterways, including sailing, windsurfing, canoeing, rowing, kayaking, surfing, paddle-boarding and the use of privately-owned motorised craft (in line with the guidance issued by the relevant navigation authority) are allowed. You can continue to use towpaths for walking, running and cycling, being mindful of other users and people living in boats along the water*

Before putting to sea, particularly after a period of prolonged inactivity, mariners should:

- Ensure that they can access their craft safely and in accordance with government guidance on travel and social distancing
- Ensure that their craft has been properly maintained and prepared
- Have due regard to the prevailing weather and environmental conditions
- Consider the risk that their activities may result in depending on emergency services
- Bear in mind that many marine leisure facilities in the area may not be available or may be operating at a reduced capacity

Furthermore, mariners navigating in the Solent and Southampton water should be familiar with local navigational safety measures including those detailed in The Yachtman's Guide to Southampton Water and its Approaches and Local Notice to Mariners 14 of 2019, both available from [www.southamptonvts.co.uk](http://www.southamptonvts.co.uk)

Local Notice to Mariners 15 of 2020 is cancelled.

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

**Captain Ian Lawrence  
Harbour Master**

13<sup>th</sup> May 2020

**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](http://www.southamptonvts.co.uk)