

NOTICE TO MARINERS

No 36 of 2021

Operation Wavebreaker & Safety in Small Vessels

Multiple stakeholders make use of the Solent, Southampton Water and the Docks for a variety of commercial and leisure purposes. As the Statutory Harbour Authority ABP Southampton is responsible for ensuring the safety of all who use these waterways and encourage all those undertaking waterborne leisure activities to do so safely and with respect for other mariners and the neighbouring community.

In support of these objectives, ABP Southampton has joined local harbour authorities and maritime organisations in supporting the Hampshire Police Marine Support Unit's "Operation Wavebreaker" initiative to proactively target anti-social and unsafe behaviour on the water.

This notice constitutes instruction and advice on the operation of small vessels and **personal watercraft** - including jet skis - within the Port of Southampton and makes reference to the Southampton Harbour Byelaws 2003, hereinafter referred to as "The Byelaws".

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 vessels including **personal watercraft** proceeding north of an 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, i.e. the high tide line, on either side of Southampton Water – as shown in figure 2 (extract of Byelaw no 52(3)).

ABP Southampton considers that, in the area of Southampton Water that lies to the north west of an imaginary line between Calshot Castle and Solent Breezes Holiday Park and to the south of an imaginary line between Hythe Pier through the Western Shelf buoy to the Weston shore, navigating a vessel or personal watercraft (as defined in the Southampton Harbour Byelaws 2003) at a speed in excess of 40 knots through the water is, ordinarily, incompatible with the requirements and intent of both IRPCS Rule 6 and Byelaw 7.(1).

Please refer to No 04 of 2021 Port of Southampton – Safe speed in Southampton Water for further information.

3 **NAVIGATION IN FAIRWAYS**

The Solent and Southampton Water are extremely busy waterways. Mariners in small vessels (those less than 20m in length) are 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 (extract of Byelaw No 52 (1)).

The designated water-skiing area in the Redbridge Channel, as shown in figure 1 and on chart BA2041, will be open annually from 1st March to 31st October inclusive until further notice. This Notice gives the Harbour Master's permission to use the designated area for water-skiing in accordance with The Byelaws.

The area north-west of Calshot Spit provides a safe area for dinghy and dayboat sailing, windsurfing, kite surfing and paddle sports. It is not designated for water-skiing.

5 **YACHTSMAN'S GUIDE & SOUTHAMPTON VTS WEBSITE**

ABP publishes a Yachtsman's Guide to Southampton Water and its approaches. This guide and a wealth of other, useful information for leisure mariners is available on the port's website www.southamptonvts.co.uk

6 **PETROLEUM JETTIES**

All vessels, including yachts, small vessels and **personal watercraft**, 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)).

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

**Steven Masters
Harbour Master**

09th April 2021

Owners, Agents, Charterers, Marinas, Yacht Clubs and Recreational Sailing

www.southamptonvts.co.uk

Organisations should ensure that the contents of this Notice are made known to the masters or persons in charge of their vessels or craft.

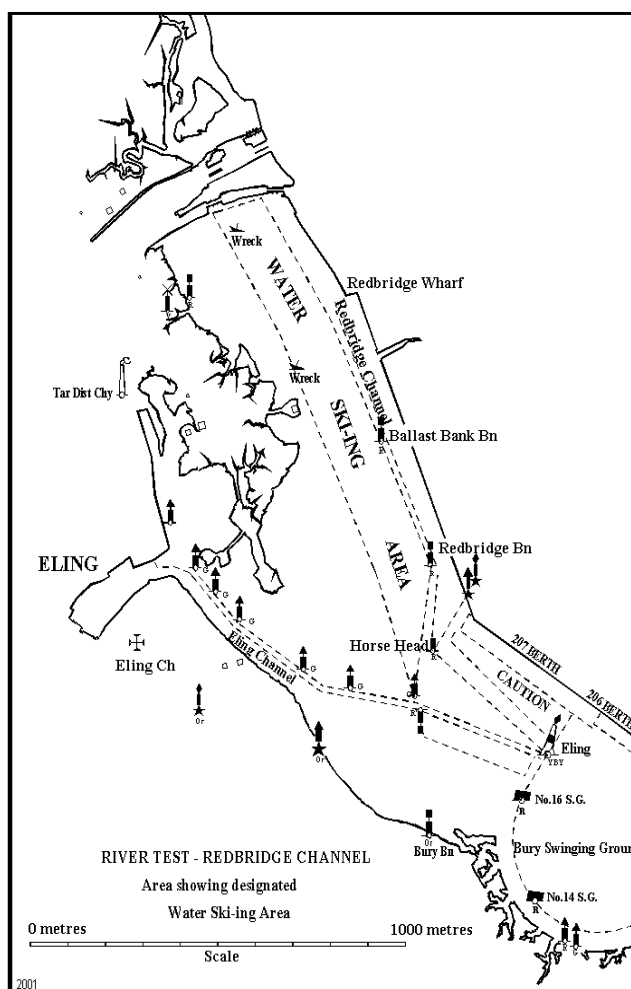


Figure 1 – Designated water-skiing area in Redbridge Channel

Limits of the Port of Southampton as defined
in Bye-Law No.3 of the attached Bye-Laws.



Figure 2 – Area of 6 knot speed limit within 200m of the shore