

## NOTICE TO MARINERS No 39 of 2023

### Port of Southampton – Introduction of Merchant Shipping (Watercraft) Order

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** by ABP Southampton, of the introduction of the Merchant Shipping (Watercraft) Order on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

Under the new legislation, “watercraft” means any type of craft which:-

- (a) Is capable of moving under its own mechanical power
- (b) Is used, navigated or situated wholly or partly in or on water, and
- (c) Is capable of being used to carry one or more persons

Please note that the legislation does not directly amend the MSA 1995. It applies those provisions of the MSA 1995 which are appropriate to the craft within the new definition of ‘watercraft’. The same approach is taken to the application of the powers within the Harbours Act 1964. These provisions are applicable to watercraft used in United Kingdom waters which means all waters inside the United Kingdom’s territorial waters including non-tidal and inland waters.

More information can be found on Marine Guidance Note 684 (M) at the following link: [Marine Guidance Notice 684 \(M\) - Safety of powered watercraft](#)

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

**Steven Masters  
Harbour Master**

17<sup>th</sup> January 2023

**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.**