



PORTLAND HARBOUR AUTHORITY LIMITED



Local Notice to Mariners

No 21/2017

GENERAL ADVICE TO LEISURE USERS OF THE HARBOUR

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Harbour, in particular Hamm beach, is a busy area for on water activities including; Canoeing, Kayaking, Windsurfing, Kite Surfing, Stand up Paddle boarding and swimming.

SAFETY INFORMATION

This notice is intended to give specific advice to Kayaks, Canoes, Windsurfers, Stand up Paddle Boards and Kite Surfers, and also to swimmers taking part in on-water activities. This advice is in line with the principles of the Port Marine Safety Code and the accompanying Guide to Good Practice on Port Marine Operations.

The Harbour Authority considers that all mariners should take reasonable precautions to ensure that all those who use the water do so safely.

- Ensure you have checked the current and future weather forecast and that sea conditions are suitable for the size/type of vessel or activity and your competence level
- Familiarise yourself with areas of shallow water and charted obstructions
- Equipment should be fit for purpose and clearly marked with your name and contact details. Please report any lost equipment to Portland Harbour Authority and Solent Coastguard
- That lifejackets or buoyancy aids are maintained, fit for purpose and worn at all times if appropriate
- Be aware of launching and landing kites, it is advisable to stand behind participants
- Caution should be exercised when crossing 'New Channel' at Ferrybridge
- Be aware of equipment that could cause harm if touched, including; boards, fins, lines and sails.
- Kayakers/Canoeists/Swimmers should wear high viz apparel and consider a highly coloured vessel/swim cap to aid visibility. Carry a waterproof grab bag with radio/mobile/flares/torch as considered necessary;
- Keep a safe distance between you and other water/beach users
- A 6 knot speed limit is in force for Power Driven Vessels within the 6 knot buoys
- All vessels using the Harbour must comply with the COLREGS¹, General Directions², Local Notices to Mariners² and Harbour Master's Directions². It is the responsibility of all those who go afloat to familiarise themselves with these directions. Harbour users who do not comply with these directions may be prosecuted.
- Tell somebody on shore of your movements.

KITESURFING

- A Kite surfing permit is required.
- Kite Surfers must exercise great care when the wind direction is such that a kite may be carried inland. It is not advisable to kite surf at high tide with an easterly wind

MOORING AREAS

- Harbour users are advised to avoid sailing through all mooring areas, in particular the RNSA mooring area on route to and from the Marina/W&PNSA. See Local Notice to Mariners for RNSA moorings

SWIMMING

Portland Harbour Authority is concerned that some swimmers may expose themselves to unnecessary risk. Parents of young swimmers, and swimmers themselves, are reminded of the following basic precautions:-

- Never dive or jump into water of an unknown depth
- Never dive or jump from any bridge or structure
- Never swim near moving boats, boats running their engines or boats which may depart their moorings
- Never swim in the recommended route or access channels
- Never swim in strong currents and/or tides
- Never swim after consuming alcohol or after a meal
- Beware of the cold; hypothermia can kill
- It is not advisable to swim alone
- Always swim within your limitations
- Always tell someone on the shore where you are swimming and when you expect to return to the shore
- Consideration to wearing a highly coloured swim cap to aid visibility

CCTV

This Notice to Harbour users constitutes a public notice in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998.

Portland Harbour Authority gives notice that Portland Harbour is subject to surveillance by Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) systems which are monitored in the Harbour Control Office.

CCTV images are processed and recorded in order to enable the Harbour Master to carry out his statutory functions and for the purpose of promoting safety within the Harbour.

SAFETY WITHIN THE HARBOUR

The Harbour Authority does not wish to over-regulate the use of the harbour. Harbour users should be able to safely enjoy the full range of activities available. Not one type of vessel or activity has priority or primacy.

The Harbour Authority has a responsibility to manage the risks associated with marine operations to ensure that they remain as low as reasonably practicable. It is appreciated that going afloat can never be free of risk and that everybody who uses the harbour, especially those in control of vessels, has an important role to play to ensure the harbour remains safe.

The Harbour Authority wishes to emphasise the following:-

- The Master, Skipper or person in charge of a vessel, regardless of type or size, remains responsible for its safety, except in the case of children, where adults, event organisers or Clubs have additional responsibilities
- All vessels using the Harbour must comply with the COLREGS, General Directions and Harbour Master's Directions. It is the responsibility of all those who go afloat to familiarise themselves with these regulations. Those who do not comply with these regulations may be prosecuted
- There may be times when it is not safe to participate in a particular activity. Before taking to the water those in charge of vessels, adults responsible for children and those organising events and races need to carefully consider the prevailing weather, tidal and traffic conditions
- There may be times when your planned use of the Harbour has to be modified or cancelled. This is common sense and basic seamanship. This is reflected in the requirement to assess risks and put appropriate precautions in place
- Clubs have a particular responsibility to ensure that events which they organise, or facilities which the Club provides, are run to acceptable safety standards and that their members are kept apprised of the standards required and any possible dangers involved

Any Harbour user that has concerns about any activity on the water should telephone the Harbour Master on 01305 825335 or call "Portland Harbour Radio" on VHF Channel 74.

LNTM No 07/2015 is hereby revoked

This Notice is issued under the powers vested by the Portland Harbour Revision Order 1997.

Captain M Shipley
General Manager (Marine)
9th January 2017

Owners, Agents, 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.