

Notice to Mariners

Newport Harbour, Town Quay, Newport, PO30 2ED

newport.harbour@iow.gov.uk

01983 823885

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General Instructions and Advice and the Port Marine Safety Code

General Instructions and Advice

This Local Notice to Mariners is to be read in conjunction with the Byelaws for Newport Harbour, which may be obtained from the Harbour Office or on line at www.iwight.com

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1. Safety in the Harbour

- The Isle of Wight council is the Harbour Authority at Newport harbour and the Folly. The Isle of Wight Council are keen to manage, maintain and improve the Harbour to nationally agreed standards and are committed to complying with the Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC).
- The Harbour Authority does not wish to over-regulate the use of the Harbour and wants everybody to be able to enjoy the full range of activities available. No 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, Byelaws and Harbour Master's Directions. It is the responsibility of all those who go afloat to familiarise themselves with these laws. Those who do not comply with the law 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.
- The location chosen to launch a trailered dinghy or vessel needs particular consideration, especially if the launch area is close to a main channel at a busy time and/or there are adverse weather or tidal conditions. Likewise the timing and location of race starts need careful planning by the clubs/organisations involved.
- There may be times when a 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.

2. Harbour speed limit

Harbour users are reminded that there is a maximum 4 knot speed limit from five trees point to Newport Quay within the limits of the Harbour (see Harbour Byelaws).

An advised maximum speed limit of 6 knots is in force within the Harbour limits. In addition, Harbour users should be aware of the amount of wash being created and keep it to a minimum. Excessive speed and/or wash can create a danger to other boats in the Channel or on their moorings.

3. International Regulations for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea (COLREGS)

COLREGS apply to all vessels that use the Harbour, regardless of size and type. Those in charge of vessels who fail to comply with the COLREGS may be prosecuted.

4. Reporting concerns relating to safety

- Harbour users are requested to report immediately to the Harbour Master (1) any reasonable concern they have regarding safety in the Harbour. Harbour users are also requested to report incidents and damage, which may affect safety in the Harbour. In an Emergency Dial 999 or call Solent Coastguard on VHF Channel 16 or 67.
- To report incidents or damage call "Newport Harbour" on 01983 823885. You may be asked to submit a written report.
- Incidents and damage that should be reported include:
 - damage to and collisions between vessels;
 - damage to navigation marks, harbour structures or facilities;
 - malfunctioning navigation marks;
 - dangerous near-miss situations between vessels;
 - vessels proceeding at an excessive speed or creating excessive wash, and;
 - Any other dangerous occurrence.

(1) The Harbour Master or other officer duly appointed by the council, and shall include any person having authority to act in such capacity.

5. Recovery of Casualties - Persons and Vessels - IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL 999

Ambulance Recovery

- i. The nominated locations for the disembarkation of most casualties to an ambulance are Newport harbour car park (Newport , PO30 2ED) and The Folly Inn car park (Folly Ln, East Cowes PO32 6NB)
- ii. Masters of vessels with casualties or vessels being assisted under tow with casualties aboard should call "Newport Harbour" on 01983 823885 or Folly Berthing Master on 07974 864 627 to request assistance or, out of office hours, call the Coastguard on VHF Channel 16.

6. Pollution Prevention and Waste Disposal

- It is an offence for any vessel, including recreational vessels, regardless of size, to discharge any refuse overboard within specified distances from land, and in the case of plastics and other persistent rubbish, in any sea area surrounding the UK (International Convention for Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL 73/78))
- The Harbour Authority provides the following facilities for the disposal of waste:
 - General waste disposal and recycling facilities for glass are provided at Newport harbour Quay and General waste at the Folly, all refuse compounds and are managed according to demand
 - Advice on the disposal of other special waste including contaminated fuel/oil, Oil filters, batteries and paint waste is available from the Harbour Master's Office.
 - Time expired flares/rockets cannot be disposed of at the Harbour Master's Office. Please contact the MCA for advice on disposal.
- All berth operators and yacht clubs are to provide waste disposal facilities for vessels using their amenities that comply with the Port Waste Reception Facilities Regulations 2003.
- Any vessel experiencing difficulty in accessing waste disposal facilities should contact the berth operators.

Persistent problems should be referred to the Harbour Master.

A Port Waste Management Plan for Newport Harbour was approved by the MCA in May 2017

7. Pollution

- All harbour users are requested to report all sightings of pollution immediately to the Harbour Master by telephone on 01983 823885
- At times when the Harbour Master's Office is unmanned, reports should be made to Solent Coastguard on VHF Channel 16 or 67, or by telephone on 02392 552100.
- In the event of an oil pollution incident within the Harbour, the Harbour Office is to be informed of the circumstances as soon as possible. Should it be considered that the use of oil treatment products will be required; the Harbour Master will seek approval from DEFRA. No oil treatment products are to be used until approval from DEFRA is given and the Harbour Master issues specific instructions for their use. The use of 'washing-up liquid' (either domestic or industrial) falls within the scope of this notice.

8. Swimming

• The Harbour Authority is concerned that some swimmers 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 enter the water without abstaining an exit plan
 - Never swim in access channels where currents can be deceptively strong.
 - 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.
- Anybody that has concerns about a swimmer should telephone the Harbour Master on 01983 872828 or Coastguard on VHF Channel 16 or 67, or by telephone on 02392 552100.
 - IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL 999.

9. Diving

- All diving for favour or reward (i.e. “at work”) is subject to the Diving at Work Regulations 1997 (DWR 97) and the associated Approved Codes of Practice (ACOP). Diving at work may only be carried out by a diving contractor who has notified the Health and Safety Executive in compliance with the provisions in DWR 97 and dives may only be carried out in accordance with the legal requirements. Additionally, the Harbour Authority request that divers at work apply for prior consent from them before undertaking a dive. Details can be obtained by contacting the Harbour Master.
- The Harbour Authority strongly recommends that all diving (whether the diver is at work or not) should meet all of the above requirements.
- Sport or recreational diving is not encouraged within the jurisdiction of the Harbour - there are strong tidal flows, underwater obstructions and moorings, and numerous vessel movements in the Harbour.

10. Suitability of tenders

- Owners of vessels in the Harbour should ensure that any tender used to transport personnel or equipment is of a suitable size, stability and construction to provide safe passage in all conditions likely to be encountered in the Harbour.
- In assessing the suitability of any tender for use in the Harbour, the following factors should be considered:
 - The actual and forecast weather
 - The strength of the tidal stream
 - The effect of wind on sea state
 - The likelihood of encountering wash from other vessels
 - The remoteness of the parent vessel
- Tenders should not be overloaded and all occupants should wear lifejackets or buoyancy aids at all times. A secondary means of propulsion is advised, along with a bailer or bucket. A light or torch should be carried to ensure that the tender is visible in poor visibility or at night.

11. Refuelling in Newport Harbour

There are no public refuelling facilities in Newport Harbour. There are strict laws regulating the purchase of petrol and diesel in cans. Refuelling using cans is dangerous and is against the advice of the Harbour Authority. If this advice is ignored and a person proceeds to refuel a vessel from cans, that person is to take all precautions to prevent explosion, fire and pollution and will be held liable in the event of an accident or a spill.

12. Club Events

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.

13. Consumption of Alcohol

Don't drink whilst in charge of a vessel. Alcohol use affects judgment, vision, balance, and coordination, and is involved in about a third of all recreational boating fatalities. Boating under the influence of alcohol is just as deadly as drinking and driving.

14. Designated Person

The Harbour Authority have appointed:

David Foster
Marico Marine
Marico House
Bramshaw
Southampton
SO43 7JB

As their independent Designated Person. His primary responsibility is to independently assure the Harbour Authority that it meets the national standards required by the Port Marine Safety Code.

The Designated Person will be assisting the Harbour Master and his staff to consolidate the Safety Management System. This involves formally assessing the risks associated with using the harbour. The Harbour Authority is keen not to inhibit the enjoyment of the Harbour although we all have to take sensible precautions to avoid accidents and mishaps. If any users of the Harbour have any safety, concerns or suggestions they should raise them with the Harbour Master at newport.harbour@iow.gov.uk . If a concern persists then please contact the Designated Person.

15. Lifejackets

USELESS UNLESS WORN! Remember to take your lifejacket with you and to wear it. Use your lifejacket crotch strap and, if possible, choose a lifejacket that has a spray-hood, light and whistle. Remember to check your lifejackets regularly and make sure that they are serviced and fully functional. Always use a kill cord if fitted to your vessel whilst underway.

16. Use of kill cords in powered craft

After a fatal incident in 2013 involving the ejection of a family of six from an 8m RHIP, the MAIB (Marine Accident Investigation Branch) issued a safety bulletin drawing attention to the proper use of kill cords on powered craft, reproduced as follows:

The kill cord serves only one purpose, to stop the engine when the driver moves away from the controls. To ensure that this tragic accident is not repeated it is essential that all owners and operators of vessels fitted with kill cords:

- Test them regularly to ensure that the engine stops when the kill cord mechanism is operated.
- Make sure that the cord is in good condition.
- Always attach the cord securely to the driver, ideally before the engine is started, but certainly before the boat is put in gear.
- Stop the engine before transferring the kill cord to another driver.

The full MAIB Safety Bulletin and further information regarding the use of kill cords can be found at the following sites:

http://www.maib.gov.uk/publications/safety_bulletins/safety_bulletin_2013/safety_bulletin_1_2013.cfm

Jonathan Brand
Senior Harbour Master