



PORTLAND HARBOUR AUTHORITY LIMITED



## Local Notice to Mariners

No 05/2024

### 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 Dinghy Sailing Canoeing, Kayaking, Windsurfing, Wing Surfing, Kite Surfing, Stand up Paddle boarding and Swimming. The use of foiling vessels in this area are on the increase. We encourage all mariners to follow the Code of Conduct relevant to their sport.

#### 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 permitted activities available. Not one type of vessel or activity has priority or primacy.

**For the purpose of this LNTM, the word “vessel” includes every description of water craft, including non-displacement craft, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water.**

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, have 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 must 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.

#### SAFETY INFORMATION

This notice is intended to give specific advice to Mariners using Kayaks, Canoes, Windsurfers, Wind Foilers, Stand up Paddle Boards, Kite Surfers, Kite Foilers, persons Swimming and to anybody

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 tides and weather forecast for the period you will be afloat 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. Admiralty chart 2268 gives details.
- 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
- Ensure that lifejackets or buoyancy aids are maintained, fit for purpose, and always worn if appropriate.
- Be aware of persons launching and landing kites, it is advisable to stand upwind of participants.
- Caution should be exercised when crossing 'New Channel' at Ferrybridge
- Be aware of equipment that could cause harm if touched, including boards, fins, foils, lines, and sails.
- Keep a safe distance between you and other water/beach users.
- Make yourself aware of [Cold Water Shock](#)
- 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 [COLREGS](#), [General Directions](#), [Local Notices to Mariners and Harbour Master's Directions](#). 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 and what time you will return. Consider using [RYA SafeTrx app](#)
- Fishing equipment such as nets and pots are regularly laid within Portland Harbour. All mariners are responsible for maintaining a good lookout and to give pot and net markers a wide berth.
- Mariners should be aware of the draft of their vessel and maintain a safe clearance beneath their keel
- Portland Harbour Authority leisure website page can be found [here](#)  
<https://www.portland-port.co.uk/leisure>

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## CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL / DRUGS

- Do not drink or take drugs when swimming or in charge of any type of vessel.
- Boaters may be prosecuted under the Merchant Shipping Act 1995 if their actions on the water are seen to be endangering other vessels, structures or individuals and they are under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

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## SHIPPING & TRAFFIC LIGHTS

- Portland is a Commercial working harbour with large ships using the East and North entrances
- There are traffic lights on these entrances which need to be [observed and obeyed](#).

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## KAYAKERS, CANOEISTS AND STAND-UP PADDLE BOARDERS

- Users should wear high viz apparel and should consider a highly coloured vessel, paddle, clothing, and swim cap/helmet to aid visibility.
- Carry a waterproof grab bag with radio/mobile/flares/torch as considered necessary.

- Caution should be exercised if crossing the harbour, always keep in mind that other vessels might have difficulty in seeing you, consideration should be given to remaining closer to the shoreline.
  - Caution should also be exercised when in the vicinity of the main breakwater and Marina breakwater entrances.
  - We recommend children are not put afloat in these vessels if the wind is blowing offshore.
  - [Links to Safety Information](#)
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### **KITESURFING / KITE FOILING**

- A Portland Harbour Kite Surfing Permit is required. See [General Direction No 1 of 2023 Kite surfing in Portland Harbour](#)
  - 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.
  - Avoid the Exclusion Zone on the Hamm Beach when the windssocks are flying, see [General Direction No 1 of 2018 - Seasonal Exclusion Zone](#)
  - It is prohibited to teach yourself or receive instruction on how to kitesurf in Portland Harbour unless the instruction is given by an approved kitesurfing school listed on General Direction No 3 of 2022 - Kite Surfing in Portland Harbour
  - [Links to Safety Information](#)
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### **FOILING VESSELS – ALL TYPES**

- Users of Foiling Craft need to be aware that by their nature these craft are extremely fast and are virtually silent when they are on the foil and that other water users might not be aware of your approach.
  - Users are advised to maintain sufficient sea room and to avoid getting into close quarters situations.
  - See [Local Notice to Mariners 10/2021, The Use of Foiling Craft.](#)
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### **WINDSURFING / WIND FOILING**

- Beginners are highly advised to have training at one of the local Windsurfing Schools such as the OTC, or at least be competent/confident enough to sail across the wind and return to the same spot, due to the prevailing offshore south westerly winds.
- Be aware of applicable General Directions and Local Notices to Mariners. Link to website [HERE](#)
- Windsurfers are recommended to be able to perform a self-rescue technique/full de-rig.
- Check the prevailing weather conditions and tide state/times particularly when planning to Foil.
- Beware of charted/uncharted underwater hazards (see admiralty charts 2255/2268) and of getting too close to Pot marker buoys.
- Wind Foilers are advised to wear helmets and impact vests.
- Carry a knife, whistle, mobile phone, spare downhaul/outhaul rope in case of failure in a waterproof bag so you can carry out repairs on the water.
- Windsurf with a friend where possible.
- If in doubt, do not go out.
- Always Windsurf within your limitations.
- Know the international distress signal.
- Do not Windsurf at night or in fog/restricted visibility.
- Check your equipment before you go on the water.
- Consider using the RYA Safetrx app or tell someone when and where you are going out and when you expect to be ashore.
- Mark your kit with waterproof labels including name and contact number should your kit get lost. If you do lose any kit on the water, report it to Solent Coastguard and Portland Harbour Authority immediately.

- Avoid the Exclusion Zone on the Hamm Beach when the windssocks are flying, [details here](#)
  - [Links to Safety Information](#)
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### **SPEARFISHING**

- Spearfishing is allowed in certain places within the harbour, see [Harbour Masters Direction on Spearfishing](#)
  - Spearfishing is also prohibited in many areas for safety reasons, the [handout](#) gives details.
  - Spearfishing on any wreck is prohibited.
  - Follow guidance from British Spearfishing Association
  - When Spearfishing, a Surface Marker Buoy (SMB) is required.
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### **E-FOILS, POWERED SURFBOARDS**

- See PWC Personal Water Craft below
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### **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](#)
  - There are areas within the harbour where anchoring is prohibited. [Local Notice to Mariners for Sea Grass Areas](#)
  - Portland Harbour Authority have issued advice to visiting Yachtsmen regarding anchoring [HERE](#)
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### **PWC PERSONAL WATERCRAFT**

- PWC include but are not restricted to Wetbikes, Jet skis E-foils,
  - Ride responsibly
  - Always be considerate to other water users.
  - Be aware of local byelaws that restrict PWC use.
  - Read and observe the rules posted at launch sites.
  - Do not enter areas where PWCs are prohibited. [See handout](#)
  - Always carry correct safety equipment including a waterproof radio, flares, mobile phone and wear suitable safety clothing.
  - Have, at a minimum, public liability insurance.
  - It is recommended you attend a Royal Yachting Association (RYA) PWC training course.
  - Register with Datatag, display your "Datatag Visible ID" clearly and keep your details up to date.
  - The only allowed launching site within Portland harbour is at Ferrybridge Marine.
  - See [General Direction No 2 of 2023](#)
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### **SWIMMING / WILD SWIMMING / OPEN WATER 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, it is always safest to swim in the shallow waters, parallel and close to the shore.
- Offshore winds can make it hard to swim back to the shore.

- 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.
  - Swimming is prohibited in the [Marina Recommended Route, Access Channels, or Controlled Area](#).
  - Swimming is prohibited in [North Ship or East Ship Channel](#).
  - Never swim in strong currents and/or tides
  - Never swim after consuming alcohol or after a meal
  - Beware of the cold; hypothermia can kill, check the temperature before you swim.
  - 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.
  - Wearing a highly coloured swim cap and use an inflatable swim tow float to aid your visibility, the tow float can give you buoyancy in an emergency.
  - [Links to Safety Information](#)
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## **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 number of 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.
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## **TRIALS**

- At times, various Military Trials take place within Portland Harbour using a variety of surface and sub-surface craft. Times and operational areas can be found in LNTM's listed [HERE](#)
  - See also [LNTM 31/2023 for Designated Trials Area](#)
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## **LEISURE & SPORT DIVING**

- Recreational Diving and Underwater Swimming are prohibited in certain areas of the harbour such as the entrances, the Hood and around the main commercial port area. Download your map of prohibited areas [HERE](#)
  - [Links to Safety Information](#)
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## **DIVING INSTRUCTION & GUIDED DIVES**

- This activity is prohibited within Portland Harbour unless specifically approved by the Harbour Master in writing, see [LNTM 05-2022 DIVING INSTRUCTION & GUIDED DIVES](#)
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## **LIST OF PROHIBITED CRAFT**

- Private submarines
  - Watercraft capable of flying.
  - Hovercraft
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## KILL CORDS

- Portland Harbour strongly recommends that kill cords where fitted and worn at all times, see [LNTM 24-2017 Use of Kill Cords on Powered Craft](#)
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## REDUCE YOUR IMPACT ON OUR HARBOUR

In order to minimise your impact on the wildlife in the harbour, please follow these simple rules:

- If you encounter birds or marine mammals (e.g. seals and dolphins) slow down and give them a wide berth.
  - When passing wildlife, maintain a steady direction and slow "no Wake" speed.
  - Never harass or chase wildlife.
  - Do not dispose of any rubbish or contaminants in the harbour, TAKE IT HOME
  - Do not pump bilgewater into the harbour, PUMP IT INTO A CAN AND DISPOSE OF IT ASHORE
  - Keep at least 100 metres away from all marine mammals, including seals / seal pups resting on the rocks or on the shore.
  - If you stop to watch, enjoy their company for a maximum time of 10 minutes.
  - Never approach directly, and do not deviate from agreed routes to see animals.
  - Do not stop with the same animal/group of animals more than once on the same trip.
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## RNLI

- The [Royal National Lifeboat Institution](#) has a website that offers some great safety information. Look up your sport and note their advice.
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## HARBOUR RULES AND REGULATIONS

- See all our [General Directions & Local Notices to Mariners HERE](#)
- This page is constantly updated, and this is where you can find the latest harbour information.

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.

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LNTM No 11/2021 is hereby revoked.

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

Captain M Shipley  
General Manager (Marine)  
27<sup>th</sup> February 2024

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.