



# PORTLAND HARBOUR AUTHORITY LIMITED



## Local Notice to Mariners

**No 11/2021**

### **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, Wind foilers, Stand up Paddle Boards, Kite Surfers, Kite foilers and 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 always worn if appropriate.
- Be aware of 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.
- 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.
- Portland Harbour Authority leisure website page can be found [here](#)  
<https://www.portland-port.co.uk/leisure>

## **CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL**

- Do not drink when swimming or in charge of a 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.

## **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.

## **KITESURFING**

- A Kite surfing permit is required. See General Direction for Kite surfing [details here](#)
- 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, [details here](#)

## **FOILING VESSELS**

- Harbour users are Users need to be aware that by their nature these craft are very fast and are virtually silent when they are on the foil, and 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., The Use of Foiling Craft.](#)

## **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. [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](#)

## **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.
- Never swim in the Marina Recommended Route or access channels.
- Never swim across 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 water 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.
- Consider 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.

## **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, 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.

## **KILL CORDS**

- Portland Harbour strongly recommends that kill cords where fitted are worn at all times, see our specific [Local Notice to Mariners for the Use of Kill Cords](#)

## **HARBOUR RULES AND REGULATIONS**

- See all our General Directions & Local Notices to Mariners [HERE](#)
- <https://www.portland-port.co.uk/local-notice-to-mariners-general-directions-and-harbour-masters-directions>
- 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.

LNTM No 21/2017 is hereby revoked.

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

Captain M Shipley  
General Manager (Marine)  
5<sup>th</sup> July 2021

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.