

HOLYHEAD – LOCAL NOTICE TO MARINERS 02/2024

Guidelines & Safety Advice for Leisure Users

Issued 1st January, 2024
Expires 31st December, 2024

Leisure users are encouraged to make use of Holyhead Harbour and form an important part of the ports community. The Harbour is generally a safe place to enjoy yourself provided you are sensible, stay within your capabilities, and take basic precautions that are appropriate to the weather, the season, and the activity you are undertaking. The sea is a powerful force and must be treated with respect.

General

All Mariners are advised to maintain a listening watch on VHF channel 14 (Holyhead Port Control), for shipping movements and navigational warnings.

All craft should monitor this channel when approaching or navigating within the harbour.

Lifejackets & Leashes

All those engaged in marine leisure activities and fishermen (particularly when singlehanded) are strongly advised to wear a lifejacket that is maintained, correctly worn, and fit for purpose whilst on the water.

Leashes should be worn when appropriate. They should be fastened and capable of release in a suitable manner.

Swimming & Beaches

Strong currents are found near the breakwater end. Support craft for swimmers should report their whereabouts to Port Control and other port users on VHF channel 14.

When swimming off beaches, either within the New Harbour or those on the east coast the Outer Harbour, you should be aware of the potential for large waves made by arriving and departing ferries.

'Tomb Stoning' is strongly discouraged due to the danger of serious injury on entering the water, hitting the bottom, or striking other underwater hazards.

Sailing Vessels

Sailing vessels should bear in mind that a group of small craft, while individually being clear and distinct, may, as a group, present a restriction to a large ferry. Sailing vessels must ensure they do not obstruct ferries and other large vessels, especially in the TSS lanes and Fairways. This also applies to sailing vessels when racing.

Personal Watercraft, Speedboats and Water Skiing

Due to the large number of moored boats in the New Harbour, jet- and water-skiing is not advised in the western part of the New Harbour.

Craft should ensure they do not create excessive wash, especially near Marina and Moorings. They must navigate in a manner that shows consideration to other harbour users.

All craft must adhere to the Harbour speed limits (See LNTM 01/2024 and MISC 01/2024) and proceed at a safe speed so that they can take proper and effective action to avoid collision and be stopped within a distance appropriate to the prevailing circumstances and conditions.

Canoes, Windsurfers and Paddle Boards

The above may use the New Harbour and the area of the Outer Harbour to the East of the Fairway. They are advised against crossing the Fairways but if they must, they should avoid obstructing large vessels.

Strong currents are found near the breakwater end. Paddle boarders and canoeists should also be aware of the danger of undertaking activities around the sluices at the Stanley Embankment (though this lies outside of Harbour Limits).

Paddle boarders are urged to make sure they are aware of the latest guidance issued regarding leashes and the potential dangers associated with the sport.

Diving

Mariners engaged in providing support craft for sports diving should ensure these activities are undertaken clear of the Fairways and that other users, Port Control and the Coast Guard are adequately warned of their whereabouts and when entering or leaving the water.

Commercial diving (for gain or favour) is strictly not allowed within the Harbour without a permit.

See also LNTM 03/2024 Commercial and Leisure Diving Operations.

Fishing

Fishing for leisure with rod and reels is permitted within the harbour from boats and public jetties/breakwaters. Lines are not to cause a nuisance to other harbour users. Fishing from boats is not permitted in the fairways.

Anglers are responsible for ensuring they are aware of any catch restrictions in place at the time.

Weather conditions and tidal information

Strong tides can flow across the entrance to the harbour. Local sets and rates can be obtained from the navigation page of the port website.

Weather information can be obtained from Holyhead Port Control.

Safety of Life at Sea

The MCA produce a two page leaflet "SOLAS V – For Pleasure Craft"

This leaflet gives safety advice and outlines what regulations leisure users are required to observe when at sea. It also contains advice for passage planning. Copies can be obtained from the MCA website.

Harbour Regulations and Information

Information about the port and regulations that apply in the harbour are contained in the byelaws, the 'Directions, Guidelines and Procedures Manual' and in Local Notices to Mariners - all of which are available on the website.

Those LNTM principally affecting leisure users are:

LNTM 01/2024 Summary of Byelaws, Harbour Regulations, and General Information.

LNTM 02/2024 Guidelines & Safety Advice for Leisure Users

LNTM 03/2024 Commercial and Leisure Diving Operations

MISC 01/2024 Personal Water Craft (Jet Skis) Voluntary Speed Restrictions

Please enjoy the harbour safely and with consideration for other users.

John Goddard
Harbour Master
Holyhead Harbour