



## **NOTICE TO MARINERS**

**No 05/18**

### **LEISURE CRAFT ON THE CLYDE**

Clydeport encourages safe use of the Clyde for all forms of marine leisure activity. However, it does require all that engage in any activity to do so in a responsible manner. In particular the observance of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, Directions and Bye laws issued by the Port Authority, as well as the guidance of the various national watersport bodies.

This NTM is issued to ensure that all leisure users understand the requirements placed upon them, in relation to other vessels or craft, to ensure their own safety and that of others. Where appropriate the reader will be referred to guidance offered by recognised national bodies who advise on a particular sport or activity.

#### **General guidance (applicable to all areas)**

Persons in charge of vessels less than 20m in length (LOA) are reminded that whilst navigating within the waters under the jurisdiction of Clydeport, they shall not impede the passage of any vessel navigating within the main channels, or any vessel approaching or leaving any piers, jetties, quays or anchorages.

Further, no vessel or boat of any description shall be anchored, or moored to either permanent or temporary moorings in such a position as to impede the passage of any vessel navigating within the main channels approaching or leaving any pier, jetty or quay.

All users must observe the International Regulations for Preventing Collision at Sea (ColRegs). Particular attention is drawn to the requirement to keep a proper lookout and to ensure the vessel is appropriately lit during the hours of darkness. **Be safe – seen and be seen.**

Persons in charge of a power driven vessel are to have due regard to their position, speed, the proximity of the nearest danger and effect of their wash on other users, particularly in areas of high recreational activity, when passing piers, quays or pontoons where passengers embark/disembark and when in the vicinity of public beaches.

A person in charge should not navigate any vessel or craft whilst under the influence of drink or drugs to such an extent as to be incapable of taking proper control of the vessel. National body advice can be found at:

<http://www.rya.org.uk/infoadvice/currentaffairs/Pages/alcoholandboating.aspx>



## Outer River

Entire area encompassed by the seaward limits to No1 Buoy, including Bute Sound, Inchmarnock Water, Upper/Lower Loch Fyne and the Kyles of Bute. Navigation within Gareloch and Loch Long is under the jurisdiction of the Queens Harbourmaster. Users should refer to QHM Clyde website, [www.qhm.mod.uk/clyde](http://www.qhm.mod.uk/clyde) for further direction, guidance and information.

All forms of leisure activity are encouraged in the outer river with few restrictions, see general guidance above. The following guidance is offered for the specific vessel types using the outer area:

Small sailing vessels, day boats and dinghies do not generally have fixed navigation lights. However, they are required under the ColRegs to make provision if underway between sunset and sunrise

Rule 25 of the ColRegs states:

*Small sailing vessels, as a minimum, should ‘... have ready at hand an electric torch, lighted lantern or other means to show an all-round (360 degrees) white light, which shall be exhibited in sufficient time to prevent collision.’*

This rule, acknowledging the difficulty of seeing a small vessel at night or in reduced visibility, clearly puts the onus on the small vessel to show the specified light in time.

PWC/Jet Ski use is considered to be appropriate in the outer area. Definition of PWC/Jet ski, advice on training courses and operator safety is available from the RYA: [www.rya.org.uk/startboating/Pages/PersonalWatercraft.aspx](http://www.rya.org.uk/startboating/Pages/PersonalWatercraft.aspx)

Clydeport strongly recommends all PWC owners/users undertake formally recognised training, to ensure they fully understand the safe use of this type of craft, prior to using their craft in the port area.

## Inner river

The River Clyde Channel from No 1 Buoy, adjacent to the Greenock Ocean Terminal, up to the Erskine Bridge. This area is deemed to be a ‘narrow channel’ as referred to in Rule 9 of the ColRegs.

### Small Craft and Sailing vessels

Due to the width of the channel and the consequent reduction of available water in which to navigate safely, all small craft and sailing vessels proceeding along the course of the channel are required to keep to the starboard side as far as practicable. Small craft and sailing vessels are expected to take early action to keep well clear of vessels which can only navigate within the channel, without waiting to determine if risk of collision exists.

Due to the requirement not to impede vessels greater than 20m **vessels manoeuvring under sail alone are not considered appropriate** in this area of the river.



## Upper River

River Clyde between the Erskine Bridge and Albert Bridge

In addition to the considerations for sailing vessels, noted above, the following additional conditions are applicable.

Any organising body wishing to conduct a sailing or other Leisure event in the inner or upper areas of the river are to obtain the express written permission of the Senior Marine Manager Operations giving reasonable advance notice.

### PWC/Jetski

Due to the nature of the river and the presence of commercial vessels high speed activity (speeds in excess of 12 knots), including the use of PWC/Jetski, is not considered appropriate east (up river) of the Erskine Bridge.

### Kayaks/Canoes.

Kayaks and canoes are permitted and should take note of the following safety advice:

Single kayaks are not advised.

A minimum of 2 kayaks operating "Buddy" system for launching, paddling and recovery from the river is recommended.

That only recognised launching facilities are used and with the appropriate consent of the owners/operators.

Kayaks/Canoes should carry the safety equipment recommended by the British Canoe Union but as a minimum should:

wear a buoyance aid  
carry a waterproof VHF radio  
wear high visibility clothing

Further safety information can be found at:

[www.bcu.org.uk/resources-and-policies/health-and-safety/](http://www.bcu.org.uk/resources-and-policies/health-and-safety/)

In addition for night paddling the following guidance, used in other similar waterways within the UK, is recommended:

### **What does not work?**

Head Torches– the movement of your head ensures it can not be seen from all directions

Using only one light– unless it is on a pole that is higher than your head

Lights with Low Batteries– a failing or weak light is worse than nothing as it can give you a false sense of security

Going Solo– the more people there are in a tight group the more likely you are to be spotted

Dark Clothing – a black wetsuit or compression top may well be warm but it can also make you invisible to other traffic



### What works?

Canoes/Kayaks– Even with short kayaks lights need to be placed fore and aft to ensure all-around visibility. Lights should be placed high enough above the waterline to ensure they can not be hidden by waves – the front and back of a lifejacket is a good option. Groups should arrange lights for maximum impact i.e. lights on different kayaks shining fore and aft and on opposite shoulders.

A tight cluster of boats is more visible than a group line astern (a beef burger shape rather than a sausage).

### Flashing lights

Flashing lights are more noticeable than fixed lights, especially in areas with pools of ambient light such as central Glasgow. As such their use is recommended, but with the following provisos:

Flashing lights can seriously impair night vision so if travelling in a group they must be above or below eye level.

All leisure users intending to use the **Inner** and **Upper** river areas are advised to contact Estuary Radio (VHF Channel 12 or ☎01475 726221) to advise of their activity and ascertain the likelihood of commercial vessel movements during the period they intend to use the river.

Pleasure Craft users are advised to obtain a copy of 'The Firth of Clyde Marine Leisure Guide' and familiarise themselves with the content. This useful guide can be obtained from Marinas, Clubs, Associations and from Peelports Clydeport office.