

# NOTICE TO MARINERS

## №9 - 2019

### HARBOUR AND PORT OF MANCHESTER

#### VESSEL DRAUGHT DECLARATIONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that there have been several occurrences where either the inward- or outward-bound draughts for vessels have been mis-declared at the movement booking stage. These mis-declarations have only come to light when the Pilot has boarded the vessel and different draughts have been provided by the Master during the Master/Pilot Exchange.

The provision of a vessel's draught for a movement booking serves several functions; not least it is a key piece of information required (a) for formulating a locking program; and (b) for Pilot allocation and passage planning. In certain circumstances, a mis-declared draught could result in the vessel's transit being delayed or cancelled at short notice.

It is recognised that bookings for vessels may be submitted some time prior to a vessel completing cargo operations, and that the actual arrival or departure draught may not be known. However, in such circumstances, when the actual draught is confirmed, the booking must be amended accordingly.

Masters, owners and their agents are hereby advised that it constitutes an offence to provide false draughts, which may render the Master liable, on conviction, to a fine.