

# NOTICE TO MARINERS



## No. 17 – 2023

### Peel Ports Medway Chatham Waterfront RIB Experience – Trial Period

**Notice is hereby given that** after two rounds of public consultation and discussions with specific port user groups the decision has been made to allow the proposed RIB experience rides at Chatham/Sun Pier to operate for an initial trial period. The operator will be permitted to run the boat trips for a four week trial over the specified dates below:

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2023

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August

The Harbour Master has given the operator specific dispensation to exceed the 6 knot speed limit in the prescribed area of operation as per the original request. During the trial period Peel Ports marine management team will evaluate the operation from a safety of navigation perspective and assess the impact, if any, on other river users. Anyone wanting to highlight an unsafe act relating to the RIB rides should do so by e-mailing [AllMedwayMarineManagers@peelports.com](mailto:AllMedwayMarineManagers@peelports.com) If the trial period is successful the experience rides will be allowed to continue for additional dates over the remainder of the season, these proposed periods will be published via a subsequent Notice to Mariners.

Anybody not aware of the proposed activity should read the summary below which formed part of the consultation process, further below is a chart denoting the specific area of operation.



## **Chatham Waterfront RIB Experience**

### **1) Overview**

Following the successful operation of the activity during Chatham Festival together with wide public support Red2Red, with the support of Medway Council and other bodies is applying to run the same over school holidays in 2023. The area, vessel and team would be the same as the previous aforementioned event (Chatham Reach Festival 2022).

### **2) Experience Vessel**

An 8 metre Coded RIB registered with Peel Ports with appropriate SCV licence.

### **3) Method Statement**

#### **3.a) General RIB Experience Protocol**

3.a.1) Participants would be greeted on Sun Pier. They will be issued with appropriate life jackets, safety briefed and escorted down the brow to the awaiting vessel. A demonstration of how to embark safely will be conducted and participants boarded and seated properly according to the skippers instructions. Visual checks of the approaches to the operating area will be conducted by both the skipper and shore team on the pier and departure made only when safe to do so.

3.a.2) Once clear of Sun Pier the vessel will conduct a short 10 minute experience at speeds not exceeding 25 knots, around a pre-determined course and constrained specifically within a strict and specific area detailed in the appendix. Speed will be reduced for approaching vessels in accordance with COLREGS and the activity paused (giving them priority) to allow them to safely transit the area.

3.a.3) The service will be carried out at all times by a suitably qualified skipper with no less than RYA Powerboat Advanced (commercially endorsed) RYA First Aid, Sea Survival and Professional Practices and Responsibilities certification.

3.a.4) Only these authorised skippers will operate the RIB.

3.a.5) Regular examinations will be carried out on the vessel and its equipment.

#### **3.b) Safe embarkation and disembarkation of passengers**

3.b.1) The vessel should be securely moored alongside appropriately.

3.b.2) A document to confirm passengers have understood the above should be provided and signed accordingly.

3.b.3) A safety briefing should be conducted before boarding.

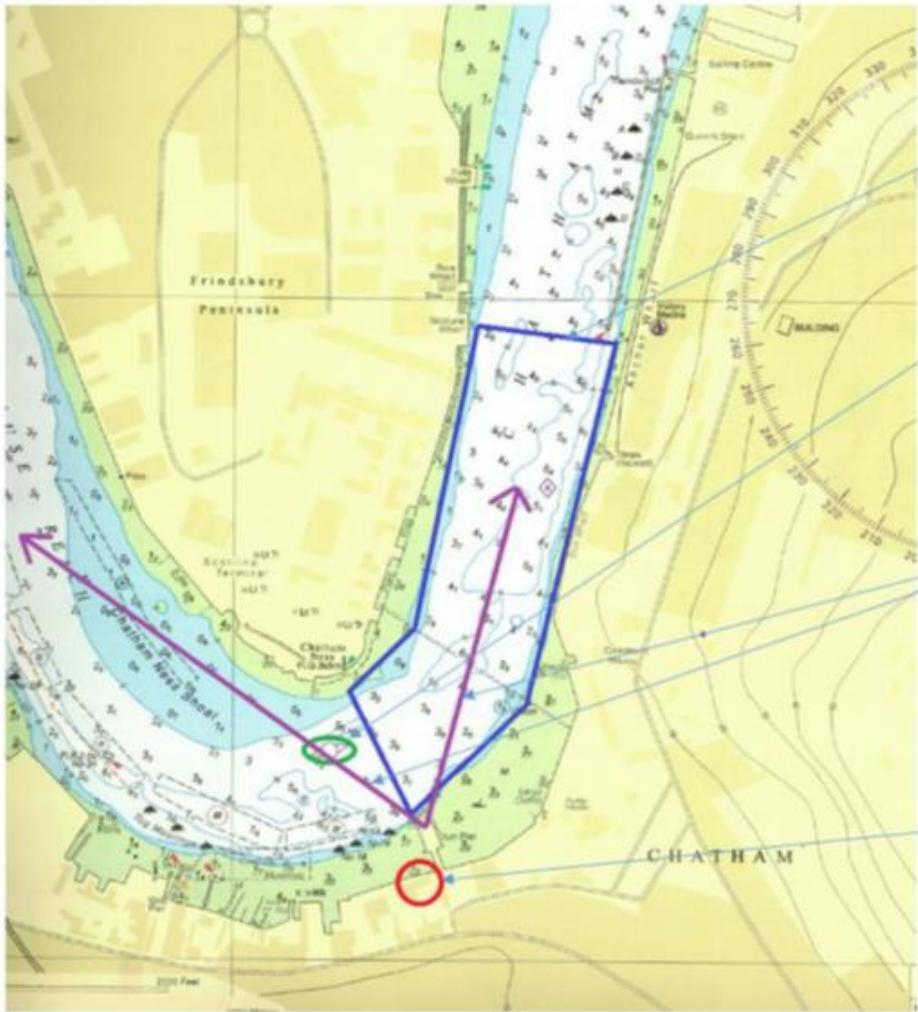
3.b.4) ISO Lifejackets should be provided and worn before embarkation.

3.b.5) Assistance to passengers should be provided as necessary.

3.b.6) Passengers should step onto the tube and thereafter into the RIB.

3.b.7) The same procedure in reverse should be adopted to disembark.

3.b.8) Skippers should be aware of approaching vessels and wash and notify the passengers when safe to embark/disembark.



Proposed operational area – No interference with moored vessels.

Compulsory reporting point for all commercial vessel traffic.

Shoreside booking staff in VHF contact with the RIB with visibility up and downstream to advise of possible traffic conflicts.

Peel Ports CCTV position manned by 24 Hr VTS staff.

Further information may be obtained from the Medway Marine Operations Team at [AllMedwayMarineManagers@peelports.com](mailto:AllMedwayMarineManagers@peelports.com) or by phoning 01795 596596

**Marine Operations Department  
Peel Ports London Medway**

**24<sup>TH</sup> May 2023**

Issued on behalf of Port of Sheerness Ltd. the Statutory Harbour Authority for the River Medway and The Swale  
Telephone calls, VHF radio traffic, CCTV and radar traffic images may be recorded at  
the Peel Ports Group Port Control Centre, Liverpool.