

Notice to Mariners N° 29 of 2025

Safety Alert – Contaminated Mooring Ropes

YOUR ATTENTION IS DRAWN to an incident which occurred recently at the Port of Great Yarmouth during a mooring operation which led to an injury.

Two personnel from a mooring team were working together to haul a large mooring line up and over the quay wall, when one of them unexpectedly lost grip of the rope tail. This caused the full weight of the mooring line to instantly transfer to the other person.

This sudden increase in load while they were pulling caused them to be wrenched toward the quay edge, but fortunately, they were able to keep balanced and did not fall into the water. The additional force applied to them while they were already pulling the load caused a musculoskeletal injury to their middle back.

It became apparent straight after the incident occurred that the rope tail was contaminated with grease – the team were not able to identify this prior to the incident as;

- The rope was wet from being ‘floated’ from ship to shore
- The rope was dirty from previous use and as such was the same colour as the grease
- The rope was not visible ‘close up’ until after it was pulled ashore

The investigation found that the vessel crew had recently been conducting maintenance on the fairlead rollers including inspection, cleaning and lubricating. The excess grease lubricant was not removed; and transferred to the rope tail as it ran through the fairlead, causing the rope to slip as it was gripped.

MARINERS ARE REQUESTED to ensure, so far as reasonably practicable, that ropes used during mooring operations are kept free from contamination. In this instance, the removal of excess grease lubricant from the roller could have prevented the incident. Vessels are expected to follow the guidance contained in *IMO MSC. 1/Circ. 1620*, and to follow the maintenance guidance provided by their mooring equipment manufacturers.

For further information please contact Great Yarmouth Harbour Office on telephone +44 (0)1493 335501 or email gyharbouroffice@peelports.com.

**Marine Operations Department
Peel Ports Great Yarmouth**

Notice Issued: 02nd September 2025