

Notice to Mariners N° 32 of 2025

Dangerously Weighted Heaving Lines (DWHL) – Reminder Notice

MARINERS ARE REMINDED that the use of Dangerously Weighted Heaving Lines remains a significant concern for both the Port of Great Yarmouth and the wider maritime community.

This practice is illegal and poses serious risk to both personnel involved in line handling operations, and other persons working nearby.

A safety bulletin released by the MCA in 2015 (appended to this Notice) highlighted the increased risk and use of weighted heaving lines that had resulted in serious injury to port personnel. Within that bulletin vessel Masters were reminded that the use of dangerously weighted heaving lines in the UK may result in prosecution.

An updated joint industry statement on dangerously weighted heaving lines (DWHL), first published in July 2019 (link below) has been released against the continued illegal use of DWHL in UK ports and harbours.

<https://www.portskillsandsafety.co.uk/files/2021-03/Joint%20Industry%20Second%20Notice%20Against%20DWHLs%20-%20March%202021.pdf>

Vessels using DWHL in the Port of Great Yarmouth will be reported to the MCA, the illegal weight will be confiscated, and the vessel will receive a fine as detailed in the port tariff.

Masters, ship owners, managers and agents are encouraged to support the elimination of DWHL by sharing the aforementioned Safety Bulletin and Industry Joint Notice with vessels operating in their sphere of influence.

**Marine Operations Department
Peel Ports Great Yarmouth**

Notice Issued: 29th September 2025
Notice Expiry: N/A