

# CHARTLET



This information has been produced by Associated British Ports specifically for people who enjoy recreational activities afloat.

Some facts you should keep in mind: The number of large commercial ships serving the Port of Southampton and the number of recreational craft afloat in local waters is increasing. It is essential that close quarters situations are minimised.

Most of the commercial vessels you meet will have a UK Pilot on board regardless of the ship's flag. They will be monitoring VHF Channel 12.

Most ships travel at manoeuvring speeds of between 10 and 15 knots whilst in the Solent and Southampton Water. This will vary from ship to ship and is "as safe as navigation and conditions permit".

Light, partially loaded or unevenly trimmed ships may require to maintain a higher "as safe as navigation permits" speed to remain under full control.

It may take less than 10 minutes for a ship to reach you from your visible horizon. In hazy conditions it will take a lot less. At 10 knots a ship travels one nautical mile in six minutes. At 15 knots it takes only four minutes.

Ships cannot easily avoid small craft in narrow channels; it is better for you to stay clear.

A large ship that is slowing down may not steer very well; it needs propeller action on the rudder to respond. When the ship's engine is put astern its manoeuvrability will be affected. Remember that it takes time and a considerable distance for a ship to stop.

There are numerous other small vessels operating within the Solent and Port of Southampton. Watch out for ferries, fast catamarans, fishing boats and tugs towing barges (especially at night when barges may not be clearly visible). Note that a towing cable may be partially submerged.

### What can you do?

Whenever possible, avoid commercial shipping channels, especially in poor visibility. If it is absolutely necessary to use these channels, observe Rule 9 of the COLREGS by keeping to the starboard side of the channel and crossing, at right angles, only when this does not impede the passage of a vessel that can safely navigate only within that channel.

- Do not underestimate the speed of ships. If your vessel is slow, allow sufficient time to take any necessary action.
- Be visible. At night, make sure your navigation lights can be seen.
- Be alert. Keep a good lookout at all times, especially astern!
- Precautionary Area. See 'Caution One' on the accompanying chartlet. Be aware that ships make large alterations of course at the West Bramble and Calshot turns. Ensure that you comply with the MOVING PROHIBITED ZONE.

- Recognise whistle signals. Five or more short blasts means your intentions are not understood and you are causing concern to the ship. One short blast means the ship is altering course to starboard. Two short blasts, altering course to port. Three short blasts, the ship is putting engines astern.
- Know ship signals. A ship displaying a black cylinder in daylight or three red lights in a vertical line at night indicates that she is constrained by her draught. Give her a wide berth.
- VHF Channels. Keep your radio on Channel 12, which is the port working frequency used by Southampton Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) and shipping.

### Personal Watercraft (PWCs)

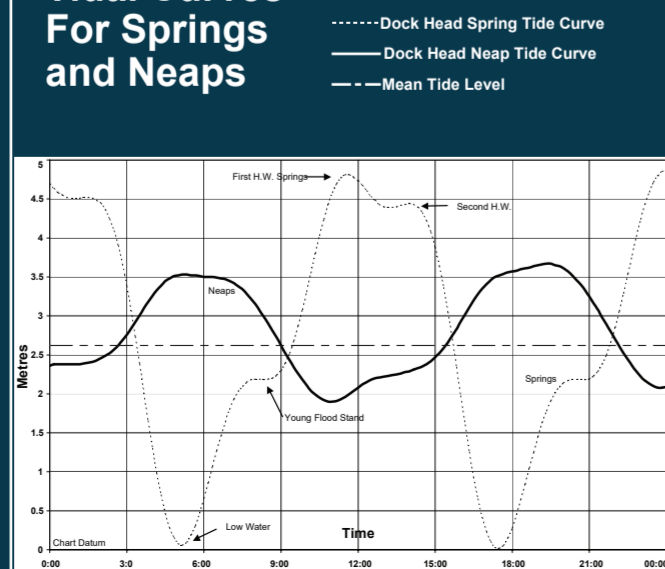
PWCs, otherwise known as jet-skis and waterbikes, are required to exercise caution with due regard to other water users when in the Port of Southampton and approaches. When close to the shoreline, in particular keep a good lookout for swimmers. Be aware of your speed and keep clear of ships and other craft. Always wear the Kill Cord. The 6 knot limit in the Docks applies to all powered craft. Monitor General Directions for watersports areas. General Directions - Southampton VTS - ABP Southampton.

### Collision Avoidance Checklist

Avoid ship channels when possible. Cross them quickly and at right angles:

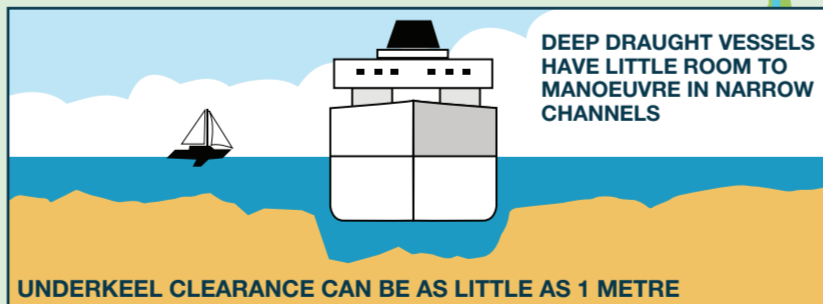
- Be alert, watch for ship traffic.
- Be seen, especially at night.
- Know whistle signals- five or more short blasts, your intentions are not understood!
- Listen to VHF channel 12 - if you have to transmit keep your message brief.
- Use up-to-date navigation charts - read Local Notice to Mariners & General Directions at [www.southamptonvts.co.uk](http://www.southamptonvts.co.uk).
- When in doubt, keep clear. Always be prepared for the unexpected.
- Be safe, always wear your lifejacket

### Typical Southampton Tidal Curves For Springs and Neaps



### What Does it mean to Impede a Vessel?

- To approach so as to involve a risk of collision or close quarter situation.
- To give cause for concern to the master and pilot of the ship.
- To not take early action to avoid either of the above.
- In the Thorn Channel, to pass within 1000m ahead or 100m either side of a vessel over 150m.
- To move out of sight of the bridge team, giving cause for concern. Remember, if you can't see the bridge then they can't see you!



**NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION**

- The area bounded by the Calshot Spit and the Fawley Power Station channel and as marked by yellow special marks (see Figure 1), is designated as a water sports area ("Calshot Watersports Area").
- The Calshot Watersports Area provides a safe area for dinghy and dayboat sailing, windsurfing, kitesurfing and paddle sports, only. Kitesurfing is not permitted in the Watersports area between 1st April to 31st October.
- Authorised support and rescue craft involved in support of these activities can also operate within the Calshot Water sports Area.
- Within the Calshot Watersports Area, all other powered craft not providing safety cover must adhere to a 6 knot speed limit.
- The Calshot Watersports Area must not be used for activities involving the towing of persons.

### Southampton Water and its Approaches

For centuries, the Port of Southampton has played a vital role in British sea trade and is situated on one of the finest natural harbours in the world. Southampton Water and its approaches offer leisure users excellent sailing waters and numerous locations from the Isle of Wight to the rivers Test and Itchen.

This Leisure Guide is designed to provide mariners with information which will contribute to the safe navigation and enjoyment of the area.

**Caution One: Precautionary Area**  
All vessels over 150m in length, whilst navigating this area, will have a MOVING PROHIBITED ZONE 1000m ahead and 100m to either side. These vessels will display a black cylinder by day and three all-round red lights in a vertical line at night.

Vessels under 20m are prohibited from entering the Moving Prohibited Zone.

Whenever possible, vessels over 150m will be escorted by a patrol launch showing a blue flashing light. The absence of the launch will not invalidate the Moving Prohibited Zone (see current LNTM & General Directions).

**Caution Two: Waterskiing**  
Waterskiing is not permitted in the port except in the designated area at Redbridge. It is an offence under Harbour Byelaws to waterski outside this area, and offenders may be prosecuted.

The Redbridge area is usable from approximately 1 hour before until 2 hours after the 1st High Water. There are some obstructions in the area and large-scale Admiralty Charts should be consulted before use.

**Caution Three: Osborne Bay**  
This area is not recommended as a small craft anchorage due to the possibility of wash from passing vessels.

No fishing or anchoring in or near navigational channels.



A speed limit of 6 knots (over the ground) applies to all craft proceeding north of an imaginary line drawn from Hythe pier through the Weston shelf buoy to the Weston shore.



130m Exclusion zone

BEWARE LARGE VESSELS TURNING

Precautionary Area See Caution One

OSBORNE BAY See Caution Three