



WATCH YOUR WASH

We all like going fast – it can be exhilarating and exciting. Going slow can be tedious especially when you are keen to get out of the harbour on a nice summers day. But there is a time and place for everything and proceeding at speed within the harbour increases risk of collision and makes life uncomfortable and dangerous for other users. Every reported incident and complaint has to be investigated and the appropriate action taken, which has included successful prosecutions. Be aware of the 10 knot and 6 knot speed limits around the harbour and remember you may still be committing an offence by keeping to these limits whilst creating excessive wash.

REMEMBER – It is not just your speed that you need to watch. Keep a good lookout (including astern) and realise what effect your wash is having on other harbour users. Slow down when you see vessels that are more vulnerable – e.g. Vessels on moorings particularly with dinghies alongside, youngsters in canoes, passengers embarking from a ferry, dive boats, workboats tending moorings or navigation marks etc...

In past years there has been an issue with excessive wash in the Backwater Channel from vessels in a hurry to catch bridge lifts. Please plan your passage to allow sufficient time whilst keeping your wash to a minimum. We will be monitoring this area with additional resources this year to ensure a safer environment for those on moorings and for other harbour users in this area. Recently a successful prosecution resulted in a fine/costs of £5015.

Behaviour in Poole Harbour is generally good. We rely on the majority to set a good example. There is however always a minority who blatantly flout the limits and there are also those who will nudge the throttle up and think they can get away with a couple of extra knots. If the Harbour Patrol Officer estimates that you are above the speed limit, you will probably get a hand signal to slow down. If you do not you will be followed, warned and your boat name will be noted. Prosecution proceedings may commence in the first instance depending on the circumstances of the case.

As a statutory authority we have similar powers to the police regarding the enforcement of byelaws. If the police detect offenders, they will pass their reports to Poole Harbour Commissioners for further action. We employ solicitors who take our cases to the magistrate's court. For more serious cases (i.e. offences against the Collision Regulations) we would consult the MCA and decide who would take the case forward.

How do we measure speed? The speed limit is "through the water". Speed is measured by a conventional speed log, usually driven by a smaller impeller. It needs to be checked regularly for accuracy. Speed "over the ground" is measured very accurately by GPS, and many recreational crafts are fitted with this facility. If there are no tidal or weather conditions, your speed "over the ground" and "through the water" will be the same. Remember therefore, if you are measuring your speed by GPS, make allowance for the tidal stream to give your speed "through the water". Our launches are fitted with both conventional logs and GPS so that we can measure both.

We will normally measure your speed by following at a set distance over several hundred yards – our equipment is checked on a daily basis. We can also check speed accurately on radar within the harbour and CCTV is also very useful in the initial detection of speeding craft. I would like to advise that PHC have always been successful in securing a conviction on this basis.

In summary:

- **The speed limit helps reduce the risk of an accident – please abide by it. See latest Local Notice to Mariners on the PHC website. www.phc.co.uk**
- **Please watch your wash. Keep a good lookout, including astern and do not inconvenience other harbour users.**
- **Have a safe passage through the harbour! Savour the beauty and save your speed till you get into clear water outside.**
- **Remember not all harbour users are as experienced as you – Be courteous !**

Keep safe and enjoy!

Capt Brian Murphy AFNI
Harbour Master

"PLEASE WATCH YOUR WASH"



HARBOUR DUES

Harbour dues are payable by all vessels in Poole Harbour and I would like to advise all users that the public right of navigation in the harbour is dependent upon payment of the appropriate dues. The Harbour Authority is empowered to take action to recover harbour dues, which may result in the arrest and sale of vessels which unfortunately happens from time to time.

The requirements of the Port Marine Safety Code must be met and as a responsible Harbour Authority we are obliged to follow best practice. The resources required come at a cost.

You may find it useful to know why harbour dues are charged, and how the money is spent. Commercial vessels like the Norman Asturias pay a “boomage” charge, which is the equivalent of harbour dues, and together these charges fund the “conservancy” of the harbour, i.e. surveying, dredging to keep the channels clear, marking of navigational channels, the maintenance of navigational aids (all buoys, markers beacons, lights, stakes, notice boards etc), traffic management to keep the harbour safe (harbour control, radar, CCTV, Automatic Identification System (AIS), VHF) responding to and handling emergencies such as oil pollution incidents, patrolling and enforcing the byelaws. Regular training and refresher courses are required. There is a huge variety of tasks which must be undertaken and the recreational sector must pay its fair share of the cost.

Vessels not displaying an annual Harbour Dues decal will be stopped by one of our harbour patrol vessels in order to check whether Harbour Dues have been paid. Patrol Officers regularly sight vessels on pontoons in all clubs and marinas in the harbour. Other Harbour users kindly pass on information. Annual Harbour Dues are valid from 1st April to 31st March and can be paid at the Harbour Office or most clubs and marinas. Alternatively you can use our online service which is available via the website – www.phc.co.uk.

Please display your annual harbour dues disc in a prominent position on the port side of your craft. Action will be taken by the Harbour Authority to recover unpaid dues. Unfortunately vessels have been arrested and sold as previously mentioned. This is carried out under section 44 of the Harbour, Docks and Piers clauses Act 1847.

Poole Harbour has an excellent reputation for marine safety, navigation aid management and liaison with stakeholders and your harbour dues payments will help to maintain or improve that reputation going forward.

[Thank you for your contribution](#) and I wish you a safe and enjoyable time in Poole Harbour.

Captain Brian Murphy AFNI
Harbour Master