



# Navigational Safety Policy

April 2025

Poole Harbour Commissioners (PHC) has a primary responsibility to facilitate the safety of navigation within Poole Harbour. To this end, it is Board policy that PHC shall:

1. Maintain an effective Navigational Safety Management System based on a continuing, formalised, assessment and mitigation of risk in consultation with harbour users.
2. Review regularly the effectiveness of, and if necessary, seek amendments to, its legal powers, Byelaws and Directions in respect of navigational safety.
3. Monitor and manage vessel traffic within the VTS Area to contribute to safety of life at sea, improve the safety and efficiency of navigation and support the protection of the environment by mitigating the development of unsafe situations.
4. Provide adequate patrol resources to enforce local, national and international regulations.
5. Provide adequate resources to escort vessels during busy periods as required.
6. Provide an appropriate level of pilotage service in accordance with the Pilotage Act 1987.
7. Provide a towage service based on formal risk assessment.
8. Prepare and publish hydrographic surveys.
9. Undertake maintenance dredging as appropriate.
10. Remove sunken vessels and other obstructions that are, or may become, a danger to safe navigation.
11. Ensure the provision of necessary aids to navigation within Harbour limits and maintain a close liaison with Trinity House the General Lighthouse Authority (GLA).
12. Promulgate effectively navigational, tidal and other relevant information to all harbour users as required.

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13. Provide effective management and co-ordination in respect of the PHC’s response to emergency incidents within its area of jurisdiction including publishing and maintaining emergency plans.
14. Ensure, through risk assessment that the licensing of harbour works takes due regard of the safety of navigation.
15. Take all reasonable measures to avoid damage to property and the environment.
16. Encourage all users and organisations in the harbour to take responsibility for assessing the risks involved in their events and activities, and for filing their own risk assessment.
17. Maintain harbour craft and marine department infrastructure and equipment to legal requirements and agreed industry standards.
18. Manage the assets of the Harbour Authority prudently having regard to the principle that all users of facilities should contribute through dues to the safe operation of the harbour.
19. Protect the health and safety of its employees working in the marine environment, transiting passengers and individuals utilising the harbour for commercial or recreational pursuits.
20. Comply with the letter and also the spirit of relevant United Kingdom and international legislation and promote further measures as appropriate for the protection of health and safety for all who may be affected by its activities.

**Nothing in this Policy shall subvert existing Harbour Byelaws, General Directions, regulations or terms and conditions.**

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