



PORTLAND HARBOUR AUTHORITY LIMITED



Local Notice to Mariners

No 22/2023

TOWABLE WATERSPORTS

This notice is intended to give specific advice to persons engaged in Towable Water Sports. This refers to water-skiing, aquaplaning or similar activities.

The Harbour Authority acknowledges that there is a risk to a person's safety when engaged in Towable Water Sports and specifically when being recovered by the towing vessel.

The Harbour Authority is issuing the following advice to persons in charge of the towing vessel:-

- The helmsman and observer are powerboat trained and hold an approved certificate of competency.
- It is highly recommended that a proven working kill cord is worn at all times. (As per RYA guidance)
- Approach the skier in the water from downwind, using the wind to slow the vessel down.
- Avoid using reverse gear
- Be in full control and ensure the vessel is stopped when you are near to the skier.
- When recovering the skier or the tow rope to the vessel, have the engine in neutral and **engine switched off** until either the skier/rope is aboard the vessel, or they have swum clear of the vessel holding the tow rope.
- The person in charge of the vessel must have obtained a Watersports Permit, paid Port & Harbour Dues, and must comply with the conditions of the Watersports Permit.
- The towing of inflatable toys is not recommended.
- All vessels are required to carry lifejackets or buoyancy aid for all persons on board, 2 handheld flares, fire extinguisher, rescue throw line and a comprehensive first aid kit.
- LNTM 23/2021 is hereby cancelled.

This Notice is issued under the powers vested by the Portland Harbour Revision Order 1997.

Owners, Agents, Yacht Clubs and Recreational Sailing Organisations should ensure that the contents of this notice are made known to the Masters or persons in charge of their vessels or craft

Captain M Shipley
General Manager (Marine)
30th August 2023