

WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

WEYMOUTH HARBOUR

Notice to Mariners No 2/ 06

NOTICE TO SMALL CRAFT

A tragic fatal accident in Loch Lomond has again recently highlighted the dangers inherent in the use of high-speed rigid inflatable boats. (The full report of the Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) on this accident is available at www.maib.gov.uk/publications/investigation_reports/2005/loch_lomond.cfm). This notice is being promulgated to draw the attention of all mariners to basic safety measures, to increase awareness of the risks to themselves and others and to assist in keeping marine risks as low as reasonably practicable.

- **LIFEJACKETS AND LIFESAVING EQUIPMENT (INCLUDING FLARES)** The importance of routinely wearing both appropriate and suitably tested lifejackets cannot be overstated. This minimum precaution can dramatically increase both the chances of survival and the likelihood of rescue. Similarly, the carriage of distress flares and portable buoyancy equipment will ensure that assistance to the vessel or those overboard is rendered without delay.
- **SAFE SPEED** The observance of harbour speed limits and maintenance of a safe speed appropriate to conditions will reduce the risk of an accident and the extent of damage or injury. An important factor in assessing appropriate speed is the effect of wake on other harbour users.
- **VHF RADIO** All vessels within the harbour equipped with VHF sets should monitor Ch 12. Emergency assistance is immediately available through the Coastguard via VHF Channel 16. To facilitate an early response in emergency, vessels without fixed radio installations are recommended to carry portable VHF sets and monitor Channel 12 or 16.
- **GOOD LOOKOUT** It is absolutely essential that a good lookout is kept at all times when underway. A vigilant watch will reduce the risk of conflict with other vessels and will ensure that assistance is rendered to vessels in difficulty without delay.
- **BOAT LICENSING REGULATIONS** There are legal requirements relating to small vessels in commercial use such as hire or charter. Such vessels must be properly inspected and certificated by the appropriate authority prior to operating commercially. Contact the harbour office for further information if you are in any doubt about your responsibilities in this regard.
- **REPORTING DAMAGE OR INCIDENTS** Incidents involving damage or injury in the harbour should be reported to the harbour office as soon as possible. Accident report forms are available at the harbour office and at www.maib.gov.uk
- **WEBSITE ADVICE & INFORMATION** Safety information is available on the following websites
<https://mcanet.mcga.gov.uk/public/c4/seasmart/index.htm> <http://www.rya.org.uk/>
<http://www.mcga.gov.uk/c4mca/mcga-home> <http://www.rnliseasafety.org.uk/>

NB. Owners, Agents, Charterers, Marinas, 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 D T Stabler MNI
Harbour Master