

DORSET COUNCIL

WEYMOUTH HARBOUR Notice to Mariners No. 07/20 (T)

WEYMOUTH HARBOUR RETURN TO BOATING UPDATE 3

1. Mariners are advised that, as a consequence of the government guidance for Coronavirus, the following changes to operations will apply in Weymouth Harbour from 13th May, updated on 19th May, 9th June **and 12th June (recent updates in bold italics)**. These measures are in place to allow the opening to the Harbour whilst still protecting harbour users and staff. The measures will be reviewed regularly as more guidance is received.

2. The detailed measures are:

Marina Pontoon Visits Berth-holders may visit their boats on Marina berths (North Quay, Westway Road, Weymouth Marina). ***Visitors must be individuals, the same household group or with up to 6 people with different households as long as social distancing by at least 2m and staying outside.*** No overnight stays are permitted on Weymouth Harbour berths. Every individual is responsible for social distancing and the other government safety measures at all times – 2m separation, no blocking the pontoon, careful passing, washing hands etc.

Leisure Vessel Movements Leisure vessel movements are permitted for:

- Return day trips as an individual, members of the same household or as a pair of two people from different households who are social distancing (only applicable for larger private boats to achieve 2m separation)
- No overnight trips away
- One way passages between Portland and Weymouth for lift-outs, maintenance and change of berthing locations with same crew consideration above.

Commercial Vessels Commercial Vessels may continue to operate subject to the criteria for essential work.

Angling and Dive Charter Boats Operators should not allow skippered day boat hire or skippered day charter boat hire. Angling and dive charter boats are not permitted to operate.

On Tuesday 9th June in the absence of guidance from DEFRA regarding the operation of Charter Boats from our harbours, Dorset Council officers in consultation with the Harbours Committee Chairman and Portfolio Holder decided to take a cautious but practical approach to allowing charter boat businesses to operate again following lockdown restrictions. This was conveyed to operators at Weymouth, Bridport and Lyme Regis through Notices to Mariners. On Thursday 11th June we received official guidance from Central Government which contradicts our NTMs. This states that ‘Operators should not allow skippered day boat hire or skippered day charter boat hire.’ In light of this introduction of new guidance we have updated the Notice to Mariners. Furthermore, it is likely that there will be implications around insurance cover for charter boat operators if operating outside of the government guidance.

Passenger Carrying Vessels Tourist and trip boat operators must remain closed. Vessels licensed by Dorset Council to operate from the quayside, and those selling trips on the quay, are considered to be part of the leisure and hospitality section to be considered later in the Government’s roadmap to recovery. An expected date for such operations is 4th July subject to further changes in the government guidance.

Personal Watercraft The Weymouth Bay safety zones are now in place so PWCs may be operated in Weymouth Bay in accordance with Notices to Mariners 04/16 (PWCs) and 09/13 (Weymouth Bay Water Activities). Permits are to be purchased at the Harbour Office prior to launch.

Slipway The Town Slipway may be used between 0730 and 1800 only subject to prior booking with the Harbour Office. Fees and dues are to be paid at the Harbour Office before the slipway is used.

Visiting Vessels No visitor requests for Outer Harbour berths will be accepted at this stage as most of these are considered to be 'overnight stays' which are not approved in the government guidance. Social distancing can also not be achieved for visiting craft when rafting. Short stays, for contractor assistance only, should be requested at least 24 hours in advance and will only be approved by exception.

Weymouth Harbour Office The Weymouth Harbour Office will continue to operate in amended winter hours (0730 – 1745). The preferred method of communication is by e-mail or phone.

Weymouth Harbour Office Facilities The berth-holders toilets, showers and laundry at the Harbour Office will be closed between 0930 to 1100 and 1600 to 1700 for cleaning. Use of the facilities are subject to social distancing.

Weymouth Town Bridge The Weymouth Harbour Town Bridge will continue to operate in winter hours. There will be no 2000 Town Bridge Lift until further notice and all Bridge Lifts and transits are by request and subject to a minimum 1 hour's notice.

Weymouth Town Bridge Waiting Pontoon There is insufficient space on the waiting pontoon to achieve social distancing satisfactorily. Vessels are strongly advised to time their arrival to match the Town Bridge Lift to avoid the use of the Waiting Pontoon.

Weymouth Bay Buoys The Weymouth Bay zone buoys were deployed on 19th May as per Notice to Mariners No. 09/13.

Contractors If a contractor is required to visit a boat, please request approval from the Harbour Office by e-mail in advance, giving authorization from the owner.

3. Covid-19. Please help us to maintain a safe Covid-19 free environment by applying the government guidance and consider your own, my staff and other harbour users' safety.

4. Vessel Safety. Many vessels have not received any attention for a period of time during lockdown. Boat-owners are advised to complete thorough checks before putting to sea.

5. This Notice to Mariners will be reviewed regularly as and when the circumstances change.

6. Weymouth NTM 06/20 (T) is cancelled.

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.

Keith Howorth
Harbour Master

Date: 12th June 2020