

NOTICE TO MARINERS

NO. 4 OF 2025

Marine Leisure and events

As we enter the summer, all boat owners and operators or recreational craft, marine event organisers, clubs and harbour / water users are reminded that your safety on the water is a top priority. To protect yourself, others, and the marine environment, please follow these safety guidelines and be aware of your legal responsibilities. All harbour users should be able to enjoy and safely use the harbour.

This notice should be read in conjunction with:

- [Code of Practice for the Safe Operation of Recreational Craft](#)
- [Home - Water Safety Ireland](#)
- [Sea Area Forecast - Met Éireann - The Irish Meteorological Service](#)
- [Maritime Safety Act 2005](#)
- [Marine Events Application - Port of Cork](#)
- [Port of Cork Byelaws](#)

Recreational Craft, Including Jet Skis

1. Always Wear Life Jackets



- By law, all persons on board must wear a **suitable personal flotation device (PFD)**.
- Ensure every passenger has a correctly sized life jacket, especially children.
- Dispensations and conditions pertaining to certain types of classes of rowing vessels in the upper river must be adhered to

2. Weather and Sea Conditions



- Check Met Éireann's **marine weather forecasts** before departure.
- Avoid launching in unsafe or unpredictable conditions.

3. Navigation Rules and Licensing

- Observe all **navigation regulations** and respect buoys, markers, and restricted zones.

4. No Alcohol While Operating Watercraft



- It is a criminal offence under the Maritime Safety Act 2005 to operate a vessel while impaired by alcohol or drugs.

5. Emergency Equipment Requirements (displacement craft)

Carry the following at a minimum:

Fire extinguisher	Flares or other distress signals	Waterproof torch
VHF Radio or mobile phone in waterproof case	First aid kit	Sound signal (horn/whistle)
Anchor and line		

6. Inform Others of Your Plans



- File a float plan: tell someone your route and expected return time
- Always carry emergency contact information

7. Respect the Environment



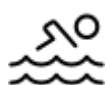
- Avoid polluting marine waters
- Do not disturb wildlife or protected habitats

8. Jet Skis



Jet Skis or fast power craft shall observe a speed restriction of 5 knots when operating, from the water line to 100m seaward on all Beaches, Piers and Slipways and shall not operate in the proximity of swimmers in any part of Cork Harbour within the defined limits of the Port, except in the event of an emergency

9. Swimming



Only swim in designated areas that are safe and monitored. Do not swim from piers or slipways, to do so could endanger your own life and that of others.

Maritime Events, Sailing & Rowing Races and Angling competitions

Organisers of Maritime Events must submit an “Event Application” to the Port of Cork Company at least 30 days prior to the event date.

Event Organisers, including the organisers of sailing races should always be aware of the weather forecast and the limitations of the craft involved. Events or Races should not commence in restricted visibility or adverse weather conditions. Cork Harbour Radio shall be notified on VHF Channel 12 prior to starting an event or race, details of the course shall be given to Port operations.

Please respect the designated speed limits in the harbour and support the safety of all harbour users.

The Port of Cork is a busy commercial port, large vessels cannot deviate from the navigation channels and should not be impeded by marine leisure craft. Where possible and safe to do so, marine leisure craft should stay away from the navigation channels, please always navigate with caution.

Please see below a non-exhaustive summary table for organised events

Event Type	Contact Port Operations	Submit Marine Event application	Submit Event Plan	Safety boats on water with VHF	Avoid Main Shipping Channel
Sailing – Racing Cruisers	x				x
Sailing – Racing Dinghies	x			x	x
Sailing - Regatta	x	x	x	x	x
Rowing - Racing	x	x	x	x	x
Rowing Practice				x	x
Angling	x				x
Angling Competitions	x	x	x		x
Long distance open water swimming	x	x	x	x	x

*Please note: the above may be revised and expanded as appropriate by the Harbour Master.
Larger events must submit applications with the local authorities, gardai and HSE as appropriate.*

Contacts:

- Port Operations: 'Cork Harbour Radio' on VHF Ch 12 or tel: 0214811380 (24/7)
- events@portofcork.ie
- Coastguard: 999/112 or VHF Ch 16/26 (Cork Coastguard Radio)
- Emergency services: 999/112

BY ORDER,

CAPTAIN P. O'REGAN,

HARBOUR MASTER.

Port of Cork Company
Tivoli Terminal Building
Tivoli Docks & Industrial estate
Cork, Ireland