



NOTICE TO MARINERS

NtM 01-2018

Safety of Navigation within Lochboisdale Harbour and Ferry Pier Approach.

This NtM effective 1 January 2018 (revised May 2018) is to advise mariners that large vessels (defined here as any vessel with a draught greater than 3m and /or 20m in LOA) and including all RO-RO Ferries operating within the Lochboisdale Harbour and Ferry Pier approach are to be considered 'vessels constrained by their draught' in accordance with International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea. All vessels, other than those not under command or a vessel restricted in their ability to manoeuvre, shall, if the circumstances of the case permit, avoid impeding the safe passage of a large vessel. The Lochboisdale Harbour and Ferry Pier approach areas are to be considered as a narrow channel / fairway. All vessels less than 20m in length, sailing vessels or crossing vessels shall not impede the passage of any large vessel which can only safely navigate within this narrow channel or fairway.

Action by vessels constrained by their draft: -

Large vessels navigating within the Lochboisdale Harbour and Ferry Pier approach, including the Gasay North Channel from Gasay Rock to the Ferry Terminal shall consider themselves as vessels constrained by their draft and therefore severely restricted in their ability to deviate from course they are following. As such, efforts should be made to warn other vessels of their intended passage through the Lochboisdale Harbour and Ferry Pier areas. Therefore, all inbound large vessels, on passing Mackenzie Rock Buoy, are required to broadcast a Sécurité message on VHF Channel 16, to warn other vessels of their intentions. The broadcasted message is to be worded as outlined below: -

“All Ships, All Ships, All ships - This is the (vessel type and VESSEL NAME) inbound to Lochboisdale (Ferry Pier / harbour as appropriate) via the channel north of Gasay island. I am constrained by my draught and unable to deviate from the course I am following. All vessels are requested to keep clear of the channel north of Gasay until the (VESSEL NAME) is clear.”

All outbound large vessels are required to broadcast a Sécurité message, 5 minutes before departure / transiting the channel, to allow sufficient time for other vessels to clear the channel.

“All Ships, All Ships, All ships - this is the (vessel type and VESSEL NAME) outbound from Lochboisdale (ferry pier / harbour as appropriate) via the channel, north of Gasay island. I am constrained by my draught and unable to deviate from the course I am following. All vessels are requested to keep clear of the channel north of Gasay until the (VESSEL NAME) is clear.”

Action by all other vessels: -

All vessels using the channel north of Gasay island should have due regard for vessels constrained by their draft. Upon hearing a Sécurité broadcast from an inbound or outbound large vessel, they shall, if the circumstances of the case admit, avoid impeding the passage of any large vessel (as defined here) within the Lochboisdale Harbour and Ferry Pier approach. Extra vigilance should be taken when leaving the breakwaters at Lochboisdale Harbour Marina and the channel should be checked as clear of large vessels

before entering it. In normal circumstances, a large vessel will be limited to the narrow channel south of the starboard lateral Buoy north of Gasay Island as shown below: -

Standard Operating Footprint for large vessel transiting the Gasay North Channel:



If the Masters or Skippers of vessels under 20m in length, sailing vessels or crossing vessels are in any doubt as to whether a particular vessel is indeed a vessel which can safely navigate only within a narrow channel or fairway or is a vessel constrained by its draught, they should assume it is and avoid impeding their passage. Further information can be obtained using the contact details below.

All previous versions of this NtM are now withdrawn.

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