

Ardrossan Harbour Company (AHC) encourages use of the Clyde for all forms of marine leisure activity. However, it does require all persons that engage in any activity to do so in a safe and responsible manner. Clydeport requires the observance of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, Directions and Byelaws issued by the Port Authority, and commends the guidance provided by the various national watersport bodies.

This NTM is issued to ensure that all leisure users understand the requirements placed upon them, in relation to other vessels or craft, to ensure their own safety and that of others.

### Leisure Events

Organisers of leisure events are referred to *Marine Leisure Events Guidance for Organisers and Application for Marine Leisure Event* which are published at <https://www.peelports.com/marine-information?port=ardrossan>

### General guidance (applicable to all areas)

Persons in charge of vessels less than 20m in length (LOA) are reminded that whilst navigating within the waters under the jurisdiction of AHC, they shall not impede the passage of any vessel navigating within the main channels and avoid impeding the passage of any vessel approaching or leaving any piers, jetties, quays or anchorages.

No vessel or boat of any description shall be anchored, or moored either to permanent or temporary moorings in a position likely to impede the passage of any vessel navigating within the main channels approaching or leaving any pier, jetty or quay.

Particular attention is drawn to the requirement to keep a proper lookout and to ensure the vessel/craft is appropriately lit during the hours of darkness. **Be safe – seen and be seen.**

Persons in charge of a power driven vessel must have due regard to their position, speed, the proximity of the nearest danger and effect of their wash on other users, particularly in areas of high recreational activity, when passing piers, quays or pontoons where passengers embark/disembark and when in the vicinity of public beaches.

A person in charge should not navigate any vessel or craft whilst under the influence of drink or drugs. Appropriate National body advice can be found at:

<http://www.rya.org.uk/infoadvice/currentaffairs/Pages/alcoholandboating.aspx>

Small sailing vessels, day boats and dinghies do not generally have fixed navigation lights. However, they are required under the ColRegs to make provision if underway between sunset and sunrise

Rule 25 of the ColRegs states:

*Small sailing vessels, as a minimum, should ‘... have ready at hand an electric torch, lighted lantern or other means to show an all-round (360 degrees) white light, which shall be exhibited in sufficient time to prevent collision.’*

This rule, acknowledging the difficulty of seeing a small vessel at night or in reduced visibility, clearly puts the onus on the small vessel to show the specified light in time.

PWC/Jet Ski use is considered not to be appropriate inside the Ardrossan Harbour breakwater. Definition of PWC/Jet ski, advice on training courses and operator safety is available from the RYA: [www.rya.org.uk/startboating/Pages/PersonalWatercraft.aspx](http://www.rya.org.uk/startboating/Pages/PersonalWatercraft.aspx)

AHC strongly recommends all PWC owners/users undertake formally recognised training, to ensure they fully understand the safe use of this type of craft, prior to using their craft in the port area.

### Kayaks/Canoes.

Kayaks and canoes are permitted and should take note of the following safety advice:

Single kayaks are not advised.

A minimum of 2 kayaks operating “Buddy” system for launching, paddling and recovery from the beach or Marina is permitted.

That only recognised launching facilities are used and with the appropriate consent of the owners/operators.

Kayaks/Canoes should carry the safety equipment recommended by the British Canoe Union but as a minimum should:

wear a buoyance aid  
carry a waterproof VHF radio  
wear high visibility clothing

Further safety information can be found at:

[www.bcu.org.uk/resources-and-policies/health-and-safety/](http://www.bcu.org.uk/resources-and-policies/health-and-safety/)

In addition for night paddling the following guidance, used in other similar waterways within the UK, is recommended:

#### **What does not work?**

Head Torches – the movement of your head ensures it cannot be seen from all directions

Using only one light – unless it is on a pole that is higher than your head

Lights with Low Batteries – a failing or weak light is worse than nothing as it can give you a false sense of security

Going Solo – the more people there are in a tight group the more likely you are to be spotted

Dark Clothing – a black wetsuit or compression top may well be warm but it can also make you invisible to other traffic

#### **What works?**

Canoes/Kayaks – Even with short kayaks lights need to be placed fore and aft to ensure all-around visibility. Lights should be placed high enough above the waterline to ensure they cannot be hidden by waves – the front and back of a lifejacket is a good option. Groups should arrange lights for maximum impact i.e. lights on different kayaks shining fore and aft and on opposite shoulders.

A tight cluster of boats is more visible than a group line astern (a beef burger shape rather than a sausage).

#### **Flashing lights**

Flashing lights are more noticeable than fixed lights, especially in areas with pools of ambient light such as backscatter from shore lights. As such their use is recommended, but with the following provisos:

Flashing lights can seriously impair night vision so if travelling in a group they must be above or below eye level.

All leisure users intending to enter or depart the harbour area inside the breakwater are advised to contact Ardrossan Radio (VHF Channel 12) to advise of their activity and ascertain the likelihood of commercial vessel movements during the period they intend to use the river.

Reference should be made to Standing NTM 12 LOCAL PORT SERVICE

Note: Ardrossan Radio only maintains an on-watch presence whilst commercial ferry traffic is operating in the harbour.