

LARNE PORT

NAVIGATION AND COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES FOR SKIPPERS OF RECREATIONAL CRAFT ENTERING, TRANSITING OR USING THE PORT OF LARNE

1. All vessel movements within Larne Harbour statutory harbour limits are regulated and managed by the Harbour Master through the Larne Port Control centre, call sign '**Larne Port Control**'. Port Control is staffed and/or monitored by Marine Officers and/or Operators trained in accordance with MGN-401, utilizing equipment for vessel tracking (radar, AIS, CCTV) and vessel communications (VHF, telephone).
2. The purpose of Larne Port Control is to improve the maritime safety and efficiency of navigation, safety of life at sea and the protection of the marine environment.
3. Good communication is the key to achieving this purpose for all port users and to facilitate this, all recreational craft entering, leaving, transiting or using Larne Port are requested to contact '**Larne Port Control**' at the following reporting points:
 - On approaching No.1 buoy — when inbound from sea or outbound to sea
 - On approaching No. 7 buoy — when you are leaving the Lough heading seaward or after passing through the port heading south into the Lough.
 - Prior to leaving any berth, mooring or slipway, stating one's intentions
4. Contact '**Larne Port Control**' on either **VHF Ch. 11** or telephone **028 2887 2179**.
5. Larne Port Control will give guidance on any traffic movements and provide weather and tidal information on request. In the interest of maritime safety please follow any advice or instructions given by Larne Port Control. Due to a restricted overnight service (2215hrs-0515hrs), any leisure users intending to move through port limits during these hours is recommended to pre-advise LPC during normal daytime hours (0515hrs – 2215hrs) if practicable to do so.
6. All vessels, commercial and recreational, operating within the statutory harbour limits are requested to maintain a listening watch on VHF Ch. 11, whenever practicable. If it is necessary to change to another VHF channel, e.g. to call Belfast Coastguard, you should return to Ch. 11 as soon as that communication ends. Alternatively, it is recommended that boat users carry a mobile phone, such that they can be contacted by or contact LPC.
7. The principal navigational channel within the Port of Larne starts from seaward at the approaches to No.1 buoy, passing No. 2 and No.4 beacons through to No. 7 buoy at the south end of the harbour. This channel is in regular use by commercial vessels, primarily Ro/Ro ships, but also other commercial traffic.
8. Navigation within the principal navigational channel is only permitted under power, exceptions only available to locally registered clubs who have been granted permission to do so by the Harbour Master and specifically by Larne Port Control.
9. Recreational users of the harbour are requested to keep clear of the principal navigational channel and commercial berths whenever possible. They should consequently use the Eastern side of the lough entrance channel, staying well clear of commercial shipping.
10. When the principal navigational channel has to be crossed, this should be done as nearly as practicable at right angles and avoid crossing the bow of an on-coming commercial ship. Ensure you contact 'Larne Port Control' prior to crossing the channel.
11. Jet skis are not permitted to operate within the inner port, or the principal navigational channel, at any time.
12. Recreational users of the port area are advised to remind themselves of and observe the Collision Regulations – particularly Rule 9 and 18 - and local Notices to Mariners which are available on the Larne Port website.
13. Every port user is requested to notify 'Larne Port Control' of any incident e.g. a close quarters situation or an accident observed or experienced within the harbour. Remember Larne Port Control can be contacted on Ch.11 or telephone 028 2887 2179 at any time.

Harbour Master

14th June 2021