



Notice to Mariners No. 03 of 2022

Waterford Estuary Chart No. 2046

To all fishing vessel owners, operators, and fishery organisations.

Conduct of Fishing Vessels within Port Limits

Masters/Skippers/Owners/Crew of fishing vessels, and those engaged in fishing, within the limits of Port of Waterford shall at all times comply with the requirements of:

- Marine Notices as issued by the Department of Transport
- Notices to Mariners as issued by Port of Waterford
- Port of Waterford bye-laws, and
- Any other instruction given by the Harbour Master

Masters/Skippers and Owners of fishing vessels are also advised that:

- **Fishing gear, pots, nets, lines etc. are not to be laid in the marked navigation channel as indicated in Appendix 1, or in any such position where they are likely to become an obstruction or danger to any vessel.**
- When laid, all fishing gear shall be clearly visible, marked with an appropriate buoy. If possible, they should be lit to aid visibility.
- Fishing gear shall not be laid in close proximity to navigation buoys.
- Any fishing gear found to be a danger to navigation may be moved or removed without notice. Costs of removal will be for the owner's account.

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Furthermore, attention is drawn to following excerpts from the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGS), as amended:

Rule 5 – Lookout:

Every vessel shall at all times maintain a proper lookout by sight and hearing as well as by all available means appropriate to the prevailing circumstances and conditions so as to make a full appraisal of the situation and of the risk of collision.

In construing and complying with Rule 5, Masters/Skippers of fishing vessels fitted with radar and AIS shall ensure that they are fully operational and properly monitored at all times. A listening watch shall be maintained on VHF 14 and 16 at all times.

Rule 9 – Narrow Channels:

(a) A vessel proceeding along the course of a narrow channel or fairway shall keep as near to the outer limit of the channel or fairway, which lies on her starboard side as is safe and practicable.

(b) A vessel of less than 20 metres in length or a sailing vessel shall not impede the passage of a vessel which can safely navigate only within a narrow channel or fairway.

(c) A vessel engaged in fishing shall not impede the passage of any other vessel navigating within a narrow channel or fairway.

(d) A vessel shall not cross a narrow channel or fairway if such crossing impedes the passage of a vessel which can safely navigate only within such channel or fairway.

In construing and complying with Rule 9, fishing vessels shall not engage in fishing in the marked navigation channel, as indicated on the chartlet in Appendix 1, if such activity is likely to impede the passage of any other vessel.

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Masters/Skippers are also reminded to ensure that the appropriate navigation lights are displayed as required by the COLREGS.

The Master/Skipper of the fishing vessel has the ultimate responsibility for the safety of the vessel and its crew at all times. Due care shall be taken to ensure that the vessel's stability is not negatively impacted by its catch.

Captain Darren Doyle
Harbour Master

Appendix 1 – Navigation Channel

Chartlets are not to be used for navigation.



