



Notice to Mariners No. 02 of 2025

Waterford Estuary Chart No. 2046

To all shipowners, shipmasters, agents, stevedores, fishing vessels, pleasure craft users, seafarers and fishery organisations.

Prohibition of dangerously weighted heaving lines

The use of inappropriately weighted or 'armed' heaving lines is extremely dangerous and presents a risk of serious injury to linesmen and the crews of tugs. The Masters of visiting vessels are hereby advised that the practice of inappropriately weighting heaving lines is not acceptable at the Port of Waterford. The following extract from the Code of Safe Working Practices (COSWOP – Section 26.3.6) shall be adhered to:

"To prevent injury to seafarers receiving heaving lines, the monkey's fist should be made with rope only and must not contain added weighting material. Safe alternatives include a small high-visibility soft pouch, filled with fast-draining pea shingle or similar, with a weight of not more than 0.5 kg. Under no circumstances is a line to be weighted by items such as shackles, bolts or nuts, or twist locks."

Linesmen and tug's crew should be aware of the risk of injury from being struck by heaving lines which may be weighted with a monkey's fist or other weighted object. Linesmen and tugs crew should stand clear when receiving heaving lines as they may not land in the area expected.

The use of inappropriately weighted or 'armed' heaving lines should be reported to the Harbour Authority. The use of inappropriately weighted or 'armed' heaving lines at the Port of Waterford may be reported to Port State Control.

Captain Darren Doyle
Harbour Master