

PORT OF AYR LOCAL NOTICE TO MARINERS

NO. 4 /2017

RE ISSUE

General Awareness and Guidance when Navigating in Restricted Visibility

A collision on the Humber Estuary in dense fog occurred, involving an outbound Ferry and a small Motor Cruiser.

The Incident resulted in no injuries to personnel but a total loss of the Motor Cruiser.

An internal investigation into the circumstances and causes of the incident has taken place and the Harbour Authority continues to assist the Marine Accident Investigation Branch with its ongoing enquires.

As part of our requirement for continuous improvement and as part of our responsibilities under the Port Marine Safety Code this notice seeks to raise awareness of issues and reinforce guidance which may help to prevent an incident occurring within the Harbour and approaches. Any guidance issued will be reviewed and amended as necessary once the findings of the MAIB investigation are known. Navigating any vessel in restricted visibility requires a full understanding of the COLREGS in particular Part B (Steering and Sailing Rules) both Section III (Rule 19)-Conduct of vessels in restricted visibility and Section I (Rules 4 to 10 inclusive)- Conduct of vessels in any condition of visibility. Pilots, PEC, Masters, Skippers Fishing Vessels and leisure sailors are therefor reminded of the contents of the attached Marine Guidance Note, MGN 369 Navigation in Restricted Visibility which should be read in conjunction with this notice.

ABP Ayr and Troon will at all times endeavour to disseminate relevant traffic information in good time as such identifying all small craft and informing vessels in the vicinity of such small craft, in the case of the Port of Troon where a high volume of leisure traffic exist Port closure lights will be activated and information broadcasts concerning the position of inbound or outbound vessels will be executed. However Pilots and PECs are reminded not to place over reliance on this information service and to ensure they are using all available means when ascertaining local traffic conditions. Although the use of AIS as an additional aid to situational awareness in restricted visibility is an accepted good practise it should be remembered that not all small craft will be fitted with AIS and that any information received should not be used for collision avoidance. This reinforces the need for a proper RADAR watch to be maintained at all times.

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the operations and
services we provide

Working safely
and sustainably

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infrastructure
and equipment

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Capt S.Wright

Harbour Master Ayr & Troon

1st January 2017

Owners, Agents, Charterers, Marinas, Yacht Clubs and Recreational Sailing Organisations should ensure that the contents of this Notice are known to the masters or persons in charge of their vessel or craft.