
MARINE LEISURE ACTIVITY POLICY STATEMENT

The Blyth Harbour Commission act as a regulator and enforcer regarding a range of legal duties and powers conferred within Acts of Parliament and within full compliance of the Port Marine Safety Code for safely managing marine operations within statutory harbour limits.

The scope of the Marine Leisure Activity Policy is to formally recognise the growth and diverse range of leisure activities undertaken within Blyth Harbour's statutory harbour limits.

This policy will regulate the safe and efficient use of the harbour and all who navigate and operate upon its waters and will provide direction, guidance and support to those organisations, associations and individuals who may promote or undertake Marine based leisure activities within the statutory harbour limits.

In order to comply with marine safety regulatory standards and legislation all marine leisure activity will comply with the following safety directions as required;

- All Marine leisure activity will be considered / assessed on a risk mitigation basis in compliance with the Port Marine Safety Code. All clubs, associations and event planners will be required to submit formal risk assessment of proposed marine leisure activity to Blyth Harbour Commissioners for approval.
- All marine leisure activity will be in compliance with national legislation & regulatory standards, the Blyth Harbour General Bylaws and will be subject to the Port of Blyth Marine Enforcement Policy as necessary.
- All marine leisure craft operators will comply with any General Direction made by the Blyth Harbour Commissioners and any Special Direction made by the Harbour Master or delegated marine assistants.
- Jet skis, paddle boards, inflated leisure equipment or any other similar floating or towed leisure equipment will be prohibited for use within the operational harbour, navigable channel and immediate Port entrance.
- No leisure craft or leisure activity shall obstruct or interfere with the safe navigation of commercial shipping on any occasion whilst underway or alongside whilst within the statutory harbour limits or obstruct / interfere with any commercial activity or commercial development taking place.
- It is a requirement before any marine leisure activity can proceed to notify the Harbour Masters office / port control for approval to proceed and notify again the port control on completion of such marine leisure activity.
- Blyth Harbour Commissioners are committed to engaging in full stakeholder consultation when formulating operating policy, safety guidance and safe operating procedures.

The above guidance is not exhaustive and operates in conjunction alongside the extant Marine Safety Policy, the Marine Enforcement Policy and the Port of Blyth Marine Safety Management System.

Martin Lawlor
Chief Executive