

# PORT OF BOSTON

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## **NOTICE TO MARINERS 010/2023**

### **Introduction of Merchant Shipping (Watercraft) Order**

Mariners are advised of the recent change to merchant shipping legislation and the introduction of the Merchant Shipping (Watercraft) Order 2023 on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

The changes are designed to ensure that the owners, operators and users of watercraft within all UK waters (including inland waters) can be held accountable for their actions and omissions.

Powered watercraft are enjoyed by many people on a regular basis. They are, generally, used safely and with respect for the rights of other water users and wildlife. However, in a minority of cases, the way in which such craft are used can endanger both their users and others.

The Order creates obligations on users, operators and owners of powered watercraft, as appropriate, to ensure they protect both themselves and other water users from harm. Any person may have responsibilities under one or more of these terms depending on circumstances. For example, the user or operator of a powered watercraft may also be the owner.

Under the new legislation, “watercraft” means any type of craft which:-

- (a) Is capable of moving under its own mechanical power
- (b) Is used, navigated or situated wholly or partly in or on water, and
- (c) Is capable of being used to carry one or more persons.

More information and a detailed explanation of the new legislation can be found online - [MGN 684 \(M\) Safety of powered watercraft - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/mgn-684-m-safety-of-powered-watercraft)

This Notice will be incorporated into the ports annual standing notice to mariners.

Harbour Master  
Port of Boston Ltd