No. 14/2015  27th April 2015

Restricted Visibility Routine
This notice supersedes LNTM 07/2008

Restricted Visibility Routine will be in force when the visibility is reduced (normally 500 metres or less) such that an extra risk is imposed on vessels navigating in the main shipping channels.

“Restricted Visibility Routine in force” will be broadcast on channel 14 and the following are to be observed:

1. Vessels of 25 metres or more in length should seek clearance from the Harbour Control on VHF channel 14 before moving in the harbour. The Harbour Control Officer (HCO) will inform vessels of other movements, which may affect their navigational decisions.

2. Small boat and yacht traffic are strongly advised not to leave their berth, but if they decide to do so, they must proceed with great caution, keeping clear of the main shipping channels when a commercial ship is underway, to avoid the possibility of hampering larger vessels navigating with the use of radar. All vessels should monitor VHF channel 14 if fitted.

3. The HCO will usually give priority to vessels moving with the tidal stream over those moving against it.

4. Ships entering or leaving the harbour are to maintain a distance of one nautical mile between each other when travelling in the same direction.

5. Ships must not overtake in the channels

6. Ships are not to pass in the channels except with the agreement of both masters and Harbour Control.

7. Vessels are not to exit the Little Channel until any ship using the Middle Ship Channel or Turning Basin is clear.

8. Additionally to normal reporting, Harbour Control is to advise the chain ferry when an outbound vessel with Pilot or PEC holder is approaching North Haven.

Mariners are reminded of the requirements of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea: to proceed at a safe speed (Rule 6 and 19); to display navigation lights (Rule 26); and to make sound signals (Rule 35)

Mariners are reminded that Radar, AIS, CCTV, telephone and VHF channels are recorded.

Captain B P Murphy
Harbour Master

ALL LOCAL NOTICES TO MARINERS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE PHC WEBSITE: www.phc.co.uk