

FORTH PORTS LIMITED

NtM No 10 of 2019 (Revised)

19th September 2019

NOTICE TO MARINERS FIRTH OF FORTH

OPEN WATER SWIM EVENTS

Mariners are advised that following a review of an incident that occurred on the river last year Forth Ports are taking steps to improve the safety of individuals and groups who would like to participate in open water swimming within FP jurisdiction.

Whilst Forth Ports do not wish to stop such an activity we have a responsibility to ensure that they are undertaken in a safe manor. With this in mind we will be implementing the following:

- Any swim comprising of more than 10 people should follow the Scottish Amateur Swimming Association Open Water Swimming – Event Organisation and Safety Guidelines.
- The maximum number of swimmers participating in any one event will be limited to 100.
- There should be enough rescue boats (these do not include kayaks) to recover all swimmers from the water in the event of an emergency at short notice without overloading the boat so as to affect its sea keeping abilities.
- Cross river swims should be planned to take place during slack water. Where it is not possible to complete the crossing during slack water consideration should be given to the effect of the tidal flow on the swimmers.

Those planning such an event are still required to complete an event notification form prior to the event, additional documentation such as risk assessments and procedures may be requested.

Status of previously published notices:

No 10, 41, and 45 of 2018

No 13, 23, 24, 26, 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34 of 2019 remain in force

**Scott Cameron
VTS Manager**