

NAABSA Berth Procedure

There are several NAABSA (Not Always Afloat But Safely Aground) berths operated on the river Forth. The safe operation of these berths is the responsibility of the berth operator. All vessels calling at these berths should ensure they comply with this procedure and all Forth Ports Byelaws and General Directions.

Prior to arrival the Agent must confirm that;

- The vessel calling at the berth is suitable for operating at a NAABSA berth.
- The vessel is capable of providing alternative fire fighting arrangements at the berth.
- The vessel uses the appropriate intakes, such as cooling water so as not to compromise the mechanical performance of the vessel with the intake of siltation and other such matter.

Inspection & Survey

Regular visual inspections of the berth, at low water, should be carried out by the berth operator to ensure the berth is kept clear from obstructions.

Berth operators should be immediately advised by telephone in the event of any items, however small, that have entered the water. This is necessary to prevent any channel obstruction or vessel damage.

Berths are subject to regular bathymetric survey and the berth operator will ensure that the berth is dredged as required to maintain depths to Chart Datum.

Regular bathymetric surveys of the berth area are recommended to be carried out no less than 6 monthly intervals.

Berth

Vessels should be close to even keel when taking the ground on NAABSA berths. The Masters should keep records of grounding times and the vessels condition at the time of grounding.

When the tide is flooding, the Master must ensure that moorings are rigorously tended when the vessel is about to re-float.

Masters shall be aware that vessels do not always re-float at the time expected due to the nature of NAABSA berths, and the crew should be suitably aware of this.

The Master shall advise the Operations staff working on the vessel when the vessel is likely to re-float or if the vessel has not re-floated at the expected height of tide when a vessel could significantly rise in the water.

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