

Marine Safety Alert



Alert No: 19

Date: 13.08.2020

Small Vessels – Maintaining a Proper Lookout

There has been a number of incidents recently involving small fast moving vessels making contact with objects.

It should be noted that every vessel should be following the below in regards to safe navigation and keeping a proper lookout as per the COLREGS and River byelaws.

International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea

‘Rule 5 - Look out: Every vessel shall at all times maintain a proper look-out by sight and hearing, as well as by all available means appropriate in the prevailing circumstances and conditions, so as to make a full appraisal of the situation and of the risk of collision.’

‘Rule 7 - Risk of collision: (a) Every vessel shall use all available means appropriate to the prevailing circumstances and conditions to determine if risk of collision exists. If there is any doubt such risk shall be deemed to exist.’

Forth Ports – River Forth Byelaws

‘22 - The master of every vessel shall navigate his vessel:-

(a) with due care and caution;

(b) at a speed and in a manner which shall not endanger the safety of any other vessel;

(c) so as not to cause damage to any buoy, mooring or any other property, and;

(d) so as not to endanger the safety of or cause any injury to any person.’

‘23 - The master of every vessel when navigating the Forth shall ensure that a careful lookout is maintained in order to avoid damage to fishing vessels, gear or nets. Signals for fishing vessels are specified in the Collision Regulations and should be observed by all vessels at all times.’

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