



Marine Safety Alert

Alert No:	031	Date:	01/04/2026
------------------	-----	--------------	------------

Best Practice for Respectful and Safe Operation in Shared Spaces

Marine Guidance Notice (MGN) 715 sets out recommended best practice to encourage respectful operation between different water users. The range of water user types sharing the Forth & Tay estuaries has diversified in recent years (e.g. such as the increased use of personal watercraft and autonomous or automated vessels).

The MGN was produced to:

- Inform water users with less experience of the maritime environment of their responsibilities.
- Provide a reminder to experienced water users of their responsibilities; particularly in terms of risks due to diverse water users sharing busy areas.

The three main sections covered within the MGN are

- Navigation and Watchkeeping
- Effective Communication
- Shared Marine Spaces

As statutory harbour authority, Forth Ports would like to raise particular attention to the following practices.

- 2.2. Automatic Identification System (AIS) transponders, where installed, should be kept switched on and transmitting for the entirety of the vessel's voyage.
- 3.3. A safe distance shall be kept from divers and vessels engaged in diving activities.

See the below link for the full MGN:

[MGN 715 \(M+F\) Recommended Best Practice for Respectful and Safe Operation in Shared Spaces - GOV.UK](#)

FORTH PORTS LIMITED	Document ID FP PMSC F21_04	Authorised By MM	Original Date June 2013
MARINE SAFETY ALERT	Date Revised Sept 2025	Revised By MCM	Review Due Sept 2028

Forth Ports Limited

Marine Safety Alert



FORTH PORTS LIMITED	Document ID FP PMSC F21_04	Authorised By MM	Original Date June 2013
MARINE SAFETY ALERT	Date Revised Sept 2025	Revised By MCM	Review Due Sept 2028