LOCAL NOTICE TO MARINERS No 21(T) OF 2017
Cowes Week Regatta Fireworks Display: Friday 4th August 2017

Notice is hereby given that the annual Cowes Week Regatta Fireworks Display will be held on Friday 4th August 2017. The display will commence at 2130 BST. The fireworks display will be launched from a barge holding position in the outer fairway to Cowes Harbour (see Figure 1). Due to navigational safety reasons Cowes Harbour Commission (CHC) will introduce and enforce an Exclusion Zone of 200m around the barge from 2100 BST until the conclusion of the display using CHC’s Powers of General Directions (Cowes Harbour Revision Order 2012, Section 12, para 7b) to protect spectating craft from firework fallout and debris; in the interest of safety all vessels must remain outside the Exclusion Zone.

Order of Events
From 1900 hours onwards, CHC patrol vessels will be directing small craft to moorings and anchorages, as appropriate. The main fairway will be closed to all commercial traffic from 2120 BST to 2150 BST for the duration of the fireworks display. Prior to the display the fireworks barge will hold station in the vicinity of the Trinity Mooring buoy and transfer to the holding position above using a tug at approximately 2110 BST. The Exclusion Zone (Figure 1) will be strictly enforced and applicable to all craft before the fireworks display begins at 2130 BST.
Safety of Navigation

Notice is also given that during the time period preceding, during and immediately following the fireworks display, particular attention must be given to safety of navigation within the Harbour approaches and main navigable fairway.

No vessel may anchor where it will obstruct the main fairway and its approaches. All vessels are reminded that the seabed around all mooring buoys is fouled with chain and ground tackle; such ground tackle extends a significant distance from the mooring buoys.

Mariners are reminded of the importance of displaying the correct navigation lights, maintaining a good lookout by all available means, at all times and in all directions, and proceeding at a speed consistent with safe navigation, particularly at the conclusion of the display as spectator craft get underway and return to their home ports (see below Safe Speed).

Safe Speed (CHC & ABP/QHM, 6kts and 15kts speed limits respectively)

Mariners are reminded that a speed limit of 6 knots through the water is in force for every vessel navigating in the Inner Harbour or within 100 metres of the Mean High Water Mark (CHC General Directions 2017, available on the CHC website). All vessels navigating in Cowes Harbour should expect to encounter very dense concentrations of traffic and poorly lit moored craft on departure of the fireworks display area, and should therefore anticipate the need to proceed at a speed slower than the Harbour speed limit (see above) so as to comply with rule six (safe speed) of The MS (Distress and Prevention of Collisions) Regulations 1996 as amended.

Similarly, a strict speed limit of 15 knots will be imposed by ABP Southampton and the QHM Portsmouth for all vessels navigating throughout Southampton Water, from 2130BST to 2300BST, to promote the safe and orderly departure of vessels from the display area (see ABP Local Notice to Mariners for more information). The only craft exempted from this speed restriction will be Red Funnel and Red Jet high-speed vessels. Red Jets on the Cowes to Southampton route will indicate their presence by illuminating their quick flashing yellow identification lights during the above period.

Mariners are advised that this measure has been introduced to reduce the risk of collision between the many hundreds of small craft that gather to view the firework display. In previous years collisions have occurred, particularly after the event, which have resulted in serious personal injury to passengers and crews of small craft.

This notice is self-cancelling on Saturday 5th August 2017.

Capt. Stuart McIntosh

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25th July 2017