

Padstow Harbour - Navigational Safety Guidance

- **Shallow draft vessels should avoid obstructing larger vessels which are following the main navigational channels.**
- **Small craft please avoid the main navigational channels in poor visibility unless you absolutely have to use them.**
- **If you are following the buoyed channels please keep to the starboard (right hand) side.**
- **Do not anchor, drift or create an obstruction within the navigational channels.**
- **Do not secure to any navigational marks, buoys or beacons.**
- **Be visible and make your intentions clear – we do not have any large ships operating within the estuary, but even the fishing vessels and dredgers are constrained by their draft and find it difficult to get out of the way of smaller, shallow draft vessels.**
- **Be alert and keep a sharp look out (astern as well) for other vessels coming towards you, often at high speed!**
- **KEEP TO THE SPEED LIMITS! The speed limits help to reduce the risk of an incident – please abide by them. Speed is measured “Through the Water”, i.e. by impellor log etc and NOT BY GPS. Please remember to make allowance for the tide streams and adjust your speed accordingly.**
- **RULE 6, SAFE SPEED! Just because the speed limit in certain areas of the port is 40 knots doesn’t mean it is safe to navigate this fast at all times – at this speed you are covering 70 feet per second!! It is the legal responsibility of skippers to determine a safe speed for their craft - please bear in mind factors such as the number of other vessels nearby, the visibility, the weather conditions (particularly around the Doom Bar), the height of tide, the presence of swimmers near beaches and the stopping distance of your vessel in an emergency.**
- **WATCH YOUR WASH! – Even when you are keeping to the speed limit you may be creating a heavy wash which will affect other vessels. Please slow down to reduce your wash when passing vulnerable vessels – for example, vessels embarking passengers, fishing boats working with store pots, vessels at anchor, youngsters in canoes or sailing dinghies, etc.**
- **The International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea apply to all vessels – including those racing.**
- **NON SKIERS – Please take great care when navigating through the waterski area – unless you have to transit through this area, it’s best to stay clear.**
- **Positively NO waterskiing, or towing inflatables outside the waterski area. All ski boats / tow boats must have a ski permit and numbers clearly displayed. A code of conduct for vessels using the ski area is available from the harbour office.**