

# Code of Practice for recreational users

The Abercorn Basin pontoons are available for recreational visitors. This facility consists of 240m of recreational pontoons which are available for visiting and seasonal berthing. They are also available for organised events on application. Recreational crafts are not permitted to use any other berth facilities in the Port.

Transits to and from this facility are controlled and managed by the Harbour's Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) via VHF Channel 12 as described in Notice to Mariners no. 8 of 2006.

The following summary has been amended specifically for recreational users but the current Notice to Mariners guides should always be consulted on Belfast Harbour's website - [www.belfast-harbour.co.uk](http://www.belfast-harbour.co.uk)

## Summary for recreational visitors to Belfast Harbour

The following rules and conditions apply to all recreational vessels entering Belfast Harbour limits. All recreational vessels south of No 12 buoy and within the Victoria Channel to the Fairway buoy are subject to the instructions of Port Control's Traffic Organisation Service.

Users are required to have Admiralty Chart 1752 or equivalent and a planned passage to and from the Belfast Harbour Marina and the vessel's maximum draft will not exceed 4 metres.

Navigation is permitted in Victoria Channel and Lagan River. Exclusion areas are Herdman Channel and Musgrave Channel unless access is required to Connswater.

### Vessels must maintain a listening watch on VHF Channel 12 whilst in Harbour limits and are required to report to Belfast Harbour radio as follows:

- 2 hrs prior to arrival at the Fairway Buoy or entry point
- 15 minutes prior to arrival at the Fairway Buoy or entry point into the channel
- Passing the Fairway Buoy in and out
- Passing No. 12 Beacon in and out
- Arriving at the berth
- 15 minutes prior to departing the berth and immediately prior to departure

### Initial arrival and departure reports to include:

- Vessel Name
- Position
- Master's name or person responsible for the vessel's navigation
- ETA at Fairway Buoy or planned entry point
- Intended destination (Abercorn Pontoon/Lagan River/ Connswater)
- Number of people on board
- Planned length of stay and estimated time of departure

### Whilst manoeuvring within Harbour limits, the following rules will apply:

- All vessels navigating in the Port Limits must comply with International Regulations for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea
- All vessels must be equipped and manned to undertake all transits safely
- Transits will not impede commercial traffic
- All recreational vessels must operate at all times under power
- Sails must be down
- All users must continuously monitor VHF Channel 12
- Maximum speed in the Harbour South of Number 12 beacon is 6 knots
- No sightseeing or stopping is permitted during transit



### Whilst berthed within Belfast Harbour:

- All vessels must be adequately moored either to the pontoon or to the ground moorings or to a rafted off vessel
- Anchoring is not permitted in the inner Harbour or Victoria Channel
- All vessels must supply a 24 hr. contact number to Port Control if VHF Channel 12 is not to be monitored continuously
- The following will not be permitted at the recreational facility:
  - Fuelling
  - Selling
  - Commercial operations unless approved by the Harbour Master
  - Repairs
  - Painting/Cleaning
  - Movement of or launching of dinghies, tenders or rafts (unless for mooring to ground tackle)
  - Open flames
  - Noisy, noxious or objectionable engines, radios or other apparatus or machinery
  - Discharge of refuse or sewage either into the Harbour or to shore

## Guidance for recreational users

For guidance only – do not use for navigation



In case of an emergency, immediately contact Belfast Harbour Radio on VHF Ch 12 or 16 or by telephone on 02890 553504 or Belfast Harbour Police on 02890 553000 or the appropriate Emergency Service on 999.

These conditions apply to vessels using any recreational facilities in Belfast Harbour and may be changed at any time by the Harbour Master.

Failure to maintain these conditions may result in exclusion from using the facility in the future.

## Emergency Contact Numbers

for recreational users

### Coastguard

VHF Channel 16  
Tel +44 (0)2891 463933 / 999

### Belfast Harbour Radio

VHF Channel 12  
Tel +44 (0)2890 553504

### Port of Belfast

Tel +44 (0)2890 554422

### Harbour Master Office

Tel +44 (0)2890 553015

### Belfast Harbour Police

Tel +44 (0)2890 553000

### N.I. Fire and Rescue Service

Tel +44 (0)2892 664221 / 999

### N.I. Ambulance Service

Tel 999

