

NOTICE TO MARINERS

No.11 of 2024

Dangerously Weighted Ships Heaving Lines

Attention is drawn to MCA Safety Bulletin No.2 of 2015 Dangerously weighted ships heaving lines.

Mariners are hereby advised that the practice of weighting heaving lines with infills of metal and like objects poses a significant risk of injury and is not acceptable in the Port of Belfast.

As per Code of Safe Working Practices for Merchant Seafarers 2015 edition – Amendment 7 Section 26.3.5 “To prevent personal injury to those receiving heaving lines, the ‘monkey’s fist’ should be made with rope only and must not contain added weighting material. Safe alternatives include a small high-visibility soft pouch, filled with fast-draining pea shingle or similar, with a weight of not more than 0.5 kg. Under no circumstances is a line to be weighted by items such as shackles, bolts or nuts, or twist locks.”

Vessels using dangerously weighted heaving lines may be subject to prosecution.