Voluntary Code of Practice – Perth Harbour

This Code of Practice was developed through consultation with a wide range of commercial and leisure users of the River Tay, active within the Perth Harbour Statutory Authority Limits.

This document has no standing in law but following the key principles of common sense, sound seamanship and common courtesy and drawing on the experience of many users of the River Tay over many years it provides advice on how to navigate safely. This Code of Practice does not relieve the master/skipper/user from their responsibility for the safety of their vessel and all those on board.

Similarly, nothing in this Code of Practice constitutes a deviation from or variation to the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea 1972 as amended (IRPCS), published in Merchant Shipping Notice No.1781/ COLREG 1 or relieves the master/skipper from their responsibility for complying with the IRPCS.

For the purposes of this Code of Practice, the following expressions shall have the associated meanings as described below: -

- **Large Vessel**: A vessel of more than 24 metres in length overall and/or constrained by its draft.
- **Large Vessel Channel**: The deep-water route upon the River Tay marked on the appropriate charts by way of Aids to Navigation, which is considered to be a "narrow channel" as defined in IRPCS Rule 9.
- **Perth Harbour Limits**: Those waters as detailed on the appropriate charts and as detailed in Section 1.1 of the Perth and Kinross Safety Management System.
- **Small Vessel**: A vessel/craft other than a Large Vessel.

1. **Right of Way**: Large vessels transiting within Perth Harbour Limits shall have right of way. Small vessels and other users shall not impede the passage of a Large Vessel.
2. **Safe Speed**: All other users must adopt a Safe Speed in line with Rule 6 of the aforementioned IRPCS COLREGS.
3. **Wash**: All vessels should show proper seamanship and common courtesy to others and avoid making excessive wash.
4. **VHF Channel 09/16:** All vessels approaching or navigating within the Perth Harbour Limits should monitor VHF Channel 09 & 16. Large Vessels shall make regular calls to Perth Harbour Radio on VHF Channel 09 advising of their position during transit to/from Perth.
5. **Swimmers**: Swimmers utilising the River Tay shall wear high visibility swim caps and be connected at all times to a high visibility tow float. Swimmers shall check the Harbour website or call the Harbour Office to ensure that there is no commercial traffic expected to transit on the River Tay. Swimmers are not permitted entry into the Harbour Basin and should remain clear of the main channel at all times.

6. **Personal Watercraft (PW):** PW shall, at all times maintain a safe speed and operate with due care and consideration of their speed, wash and noise levels during operations. PW are not permitted to operate within the Harbour Basin. Users launching within the Perth Harbour Limits are advised to complete the RYA Personal Watercraft Proficiency Course.
7. **Sailing Vessels:** All sailing vessels should carry an alternative means of propulsion.
8. **Kayak/Canoe/Paddleboarders/Rowers:** Should make every effort to ensure that they are easily visible from other vessels/craft by the use of brightly coloured clothing and lights when appropriate – the attention of users in such vessels is drawn to the 'Be Safe – Be Seen' Guidance available from the Perth Harbour Website
9. **All users;**
    a. Shall, where practicable, inform the Harbour Office of proposed operations over the weekend by 17:00hrs on a Friday
    b. Shall review active, Standing & Temporary Notice to Mariners prior to commencing operations;
    c. Shall review any planned commercial vessel movements prior to commencing operation;
    d. Are advised to carry a reliable, primary method of communication during operations, namely a VHF Radio or Mobile Telephone;
    e. Report any Marine Incidents.

    Note: Users will find the relevant contact details and information pertaining to points 9. 'a' to 9. 'e' on the Perth Harbour website.

Perth Harbour Office Manning Hours	
Monday	0830-1700
Tuesday	0830-1700
Wednesday	0830-1700
Thursday	0830-1700
Friday	0830-1700
Saturday	Closed*
Sunday	Closed*
*out of hours emergency incident support 01738 624 056	

Perth Harbour Contact Details;

Telephone; 01738 624 056

VHF Radio 'Perth Harbour Radio'; 09 / 16

E-mail; perth.harbour@calmac.co.uk

Website; www.perthharbour.co.uk

David Macbrayne Limited (DML) are the operator of Perth Harbour under contract to Perth and Kinross Council who remain the accountable body.

This Code of Practice has been approved and issued by the Statutory (& Competent) Harbour Authority - Perth and Kinross Council, and Perth Harbour Board.