



## **Standing Notice to Mariners**

**SN No5 2024**

**12/01/2024**

### **Perth Harbour**

### **Dangerous Weighted Heaving Lines**

Dangerously Weighted Heaving Lines (DWHL) are a significant safety hazard and have the potential to cause serious or fatal injury and is not an accepted activity within Perth Harbour.

In September 2015, the MCA issued Safety Bulletin No.2 highlighting the problem of DWHL being used by some mariners to facilitate the transfer of larger, heavier mooring lines to shore mooring personnel. The MCA again highlighted the continuing problem with reference to the subject within MGN 592 (M+F) published on 24 August 2018.

The use of DWHL remains a significant concern to the maritime community who have issued an industry joint notice against the continued illegal use of DWHL in UK ports and harbours.

In addition, international and domestic codes are clear and unambiguous on the construction and weight of heaving lines. Further information can be found at:

- Code of Safe Working Practice (CoSWP) 2020 Amendment, Section 26.3.5
- The International Labour Organisation (ILO) Code of Practice –Safety and Health in Ports, Section 6.13, Mooring Operations, Para 357

Masters are reminded the person in charge at the mooring stations should check that lines are not dangerously weighted. If any such lines are found, these should be removed and replaced with appropriate heaving lines.

If any line handlers suspect that a heaving line thrown ashore is dangerously weighted, they are requested to remove and retain the weighted portion of the line, inform the vessel's Master they have done so, raise a near miss report and notify Perth Harbour Manager.

On receipt of a report of weighted heaving line use, in accordance with the latest MCA guidance (Annex A) the Harbour will report the incident to the nearest Marine Office.

### **Perth Harbour**

**24/7 contact – 07979990077 or 07944 508 706**

**[Harbour@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:Harbour@pkc.gov.uk) / VHF Ch 09**