

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

**HARBOUR WARNING**

IT IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL THAT YACHTS DO NOT INTERFERE WITH THE SAFE PASSAGE OF COMMERCIAL SHIPPING ON, OR NEAR NEWCASTLE HARBOUR.

DISCUSSIONS WITH THE NEWCASTLE HARBOURMASTER AND NSW MARITIME REVEAL THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION THAT ALL SKIPPERS SHOULD BE VERY AWARE OF:

- THE PORT OF NEWCASTLE OPERATES 365 DAYS BY 24 HOURS. ON AVERAGE THERE ARE AT LEAST 10 MAJOR SHIPPING MOVEMENTS PER DAY. IT IS A BUSY PORT.
- THE NAVIGATION CHANNEL IS ONLY 185M WIDE AT THE HEADS. SHIPS (WITHOUT TUG BOATS) ARE UP TO 50M WIDE.
- SHIPS START "ENTERING" NEWCASTLE APPROXIMATELY 4KM OFF THE BREAK-WATERS. INSIDE THIS LIMIT THEY CANNOT TURN OR STOP. THEY MUST KEEP COMING.
- SHIPS GENERALLY ENTER THE HARBOUR AT ABOUT 8-10 KNOTS IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN STEERAGE WAY. THEY CANNOT AND WILL NOT SLOW DOWN TO AVOID YACHTS. MANY SHIPS HAVE A "BLIND SPOT" OF UP TO 500M AHEAD.
- THE SKIPPER OF ANY VESSEL MUST ENSURE THAT IT IS NOT NAVIGATED WITHIN 200M OF THE BOW OF A COMMERCIAL VESSEL OR SHIP THAT IS UNDERWAY.
- WHILST IN THE HARBOUR, A SKIPPER WHO BELIEVES THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO START THE ENGINE IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE INTENTIONS TO KEEP CLEAR OF AN APPROACHING VESSEL MAY DO SO WITH NO PENALTY BEING IMPOSED.

YOUR COOPERATION IN THIS MATTER IS ESSENTIAL  
IF WE ARE TO CONTINUE SAILING IN THE HARBOUR.