HARBOUR MASTER'S INSTRUCTION
10-2024

DATE: 3 October 2024

SUBJECT: VHF communication and safe navigation protocols - Inner Harbour

This Harbour Master's Instruction applies to all local ferry skippers / operators and other commercial vessels (under pilotage) when navigating within the Port of Fremantle - Inner Harbour.

It has been noted that the volume of VHF communications on channel 16 / 12 (Non-essential and inter ferry) interferes with and sometimes blocks communications between Fremantle VTS and commercial vessels, potentially leading to loss of critical communication regarding navigation safety.

Effective immediately, the below communication protocols are to be complied with by all respective parties;

All Ferry skippers / operators

- VHF channels 16 and 12 are to be monitored at all times

- VHF channel 12 is to be used for communication between Fremantle VTS and local ferries. Communication is to be maintained short, clear and to single movement at a time

- VHF channel 77 is to be used for all inter ferry (ferry-to-ferry) communication

- Clearance to enter Inner Harbour from Swan river is to be requested on VHF channel 12

- Clearance to enter and when departing Rous Head Harbour is to be requested on VHF channel 12. Examples of communication are enlisted below

    ➢ *"Fremantle VTS, this is XXX (vessel name), clearance sea to Rous".*

    ➢ *"Fremantle VTS, this is XXX (vessel name), clearance Rous to sea".*

    ➢ *"Fremantle VTS, this is XXX (vessel name), clearance from river-end into the inner harbour".*

- Ferries are no longer required to report when proceeding to and departing from O'Connor landing when clear line of sight for safe navigation exists.

All commercial vessels when entering and departing a berth from the inner harbour

Fremantle Pilots are required to request for clearance from Fremantle VTS on VHF channel 12 prior entering the inner harbour and prior departing an inner harbour berth.

This is to provide situational awareness to ferry skippers and other local marine traffic regarding arriving and departing vessels.

Safe navigation protocols for all Ferry skippers / operators

- AIS is to be kept 'ON' at all times during navigation

- Vessels to comply with all COLREGS requirements at all times

- Ferries are required to remain astern of all vessels under pilotage when transiting between Rous Head Harbour and O'Connor landing

- Ferries are required not to impede the safe passage of a vessel under pilotage when within Fremantle Port waters

- Fremantle VTS is to be contacted on VHF 12 in case of any doubts regarding vessel movements

Any queries regarding the above process must be submitted to the email address: harbourmaster@fremantleports.com.au

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Capt. Savio Fernandes

Harbour Master