

## PORT OF FLEETWOOD

### NOTICE to MARINERS 14 of 2023

#### Introduction of Merchant Shipping (Watercraft) Order 2023

**Mariners are hereby advised** of the introduction of the Merchant Shipping Watercraft Order on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

Under the new legislation, “Watercraft” means any type of craft which

- i. Is capable of moving under its own mechanical power
- ii. Is used, navigated or situated wholly or partly in or on water, and
- iii. Is capable of being used to carry one or more persons

Please note that the legislation does not directly amend the MSA 1995. The 2023 Order applies certain provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995 (and instruments made, or treated as made, under that Act) and the Harbours Act 1964 to watercraft (as defined in Article 3 of the 2023 Order) as they apply in relation to ships, with modifications in some cases. These provisions are applicable to watercraft used in United Kingdom waters which means all waters inside the United Kingdom’s territorial waters including nontidal and inland waters.

More information regarding the order can be found at:

[The Merchant Shipping \(Watercraft\) Order 2023](#)  
[Marine Guidance Notice 684 \(M\) - Safety of powered watercraft](#)

This local notice to mariners will self-cancel at 2359 on 31st December 2023

**For any further information please contact Fleetwood dock on VHF Ch 12 or Tel 01253 872351.**

7<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Steve Hearn  
Marine Manager