

HOLYHEAD – LOCAL NOTICE TO MARINERS 03/2025

Commercial and Leisure Diving Operations

Issued 1st January, 2025
Expires 31st December, 2025

Commercial Diving

Commercial diving is deemed to be any diving activity carried out for gain or favour. Commercial diving is not permitted within or near the approaches to the Harbour without the express permission of the Harbour Master.

Any commercial diving activity is to be conducted in compliance with the Diving at Work Regulations 1997, Approved Code of Practice (ACOP), for Commercial diving projects inland/inshore.

Diving contractors are to be a registered diving contractor under the UK Health and Safety Executive (HSE), and be fully accredited members of the Association of Diving Contractors (ADC).

Before permission to dive is granted the contracting party (client) must satisfy the Harbour Authority in writing that all legislative requirements have been met. Specifically the Harbour Authority will expect the client to have sighted the risk assessment, diving project plan, diving operation record, divers record books, and to have assured themselves that the diving operation will be carried out in a proper manner. The client should advise the diving contractor of any hazards that may be encountered during the diving operation.

The Diving Contractor's permit to work should then be taken/mailed to Port Control along with a copy of the HSE Schedule 1 acknowledgement for registration as a diving contractor, and evidence of current membership of ADC.

If satisfied, the Harbour Authority will issue a 'Port of Holyhead General Work Permit' to the contracting party. Diving operations may then begin.

Divers entering or leaving the water must be reported to Port Control by VHF channel 14, as must the end of operations. Port Control will keep the diving supervisor informed of any additional hazards to the diving operation.

This procedure is required to ensure that the Harbour Authorities obligations under the relevant legislation are complied with.

Sports Diving

It is recommended that the start and finish of sport diving activities are reported to Port Control and Holyhead Coast Guard. Dive boats should monitor VHF channel 14 for shipping movements.

Divers should be aware of strong currents near the breakwater end and that large ferries, including fast craft, operate daily, in the area.

When diving off beaches, particularly in the New Harbour, divers should be aware that numerous boats will be sharing the water with you and to take this risk in to account before diving.

Surface Signaling Devices (SSDs) should be used.

Sport diving activities should be conducted using the guidance issued by such bodies as BSAC, PADI, SDI Etc.

Anyone considering undertaking a recreational diving project in the Harbour must first gain permission from the Harbour Master and then comply with the requirements of HSE publication Diving at Work Regulations 1997 Recreational diving projects.

John Goddard
Harbour Master
Holyhead Harbour