

Covid19 - Guidance for Users of Teignmouth Harbour and the Teign Estuary (3)

THC continues to deal with a number of questions from people wanting to get out on the water to launch/visit/check/use their boats and to conduct other waterborne leisure activities during the Covid19 pandemic.

As we enter a period of the easing of restrictions placed on us all, it may at times be difficult to interpret what is meant by the Governments Laws and updated Directions and Guidance and how that applies to Water Users.

We await the directive from the Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall Police but the power to fine for not following Covid19 Laws, Directions and Guidance has been increased.

In the light of the recent statement from the Government where the 'Stay at Home' principle has been changed to 'Stay Alert' it is still very clear that people should continue to proceed with caution in the Covid19 environment.

Above all the message is that 'Social Distancing' is still a requirement and any activity where this cannot be achieved or any activity that might involve the assistance of the emergency services (Police, Fire, Ambulance, Coast Guard, Life Boat) where social distancing will not be able to take place must be given due consideration.

If you want to get out on the water to launch/visit/check/use your boat or follow other waterborne leisure activities during the Covid19 pandemic you will need to use your judgement and consider carefully how to justify your activity against the current Government Laws, Directions and Guidance.

In particular it might be prudent to consider what may happen if things go wrong. Are you content to involve emergency service personnel, if they are available, (and cause further risk to their families) and put them in even more danger than they normally would be because of your decision to go out on the water?

The Government requires Teignmouth Harbour to remain open as a port for commercial activity for the foreseeable future.

Harbour staff and those commercial employees who conduct port and harbour activities will continue to work in a controlled manner maintaining Social Distancing.

Please remember that there are far fewer people out on the water or watching the water than there normally would be. So if you decide to venture out onto the water and find yourself requiring assistance please be aware that you may be putting the people who eventually come to help you (and by extension their families), if they are available, in even more danger than they normally would be.

11.05.2020