

## Notice to Mariners

No 3 of 2024

### Use of Dangerously Weighted Heaving Lines (DWHLs) in the Port of Tyne

Notice is hereby given that following the issue of a joint notice by the British Ports Association, British Tugowners Association, Port Skills and Safety, UK Chamber of Shipping, UK Major Ports Group, and UK Marine Pilots Association regarding the unacceptable use of DWHLs in UK ports and harbours the Port of Tyne wishes to advise that the use of DWHLs in the Port will not be tolerated.

DWHLs are a significant safety hazard and have the potential to cause serious or fatal injury. Instances of their use will be reported to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and could lead to a Port State Control Inspection, fine or criminal prosecution.

Incoming vessels are reminded of their duty to adhere to the following international and domestic codes of practice:

- Code of Safe Working Practices (CoSWP) 2018 Amendment, Section 26.3.5;

*“To prevent personal injury to those receiving heaving lines, the ‘monkey’s fist’ should be made with rope only and must not contain added weighting material. Safe alternatives include a small high-visibility soft pouch, filled with fast-draining pea shingle or similar, with a weight of not more than 0.5 kg. Under no circumstances is a line to be weighted by items such as shackles, bolts or nuts, or twist locks.”*

- International Labour Organisation (ILO) Code of Practice – Safety and Health in Ports, Section 6.13, Mooring Operations, Paragraph 357;

*“A ‘monkey’s fist’ at the end of a heaving line should only be made of rope. Additional weights should never be added to it.”*

Ship-owners, ship-managers, ship’s agents and their principals are requested to bring this matter to the attention of vessel masters.



Alan Feast  
**Harbour Master**

1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2024