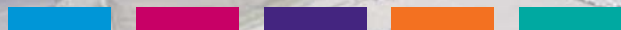
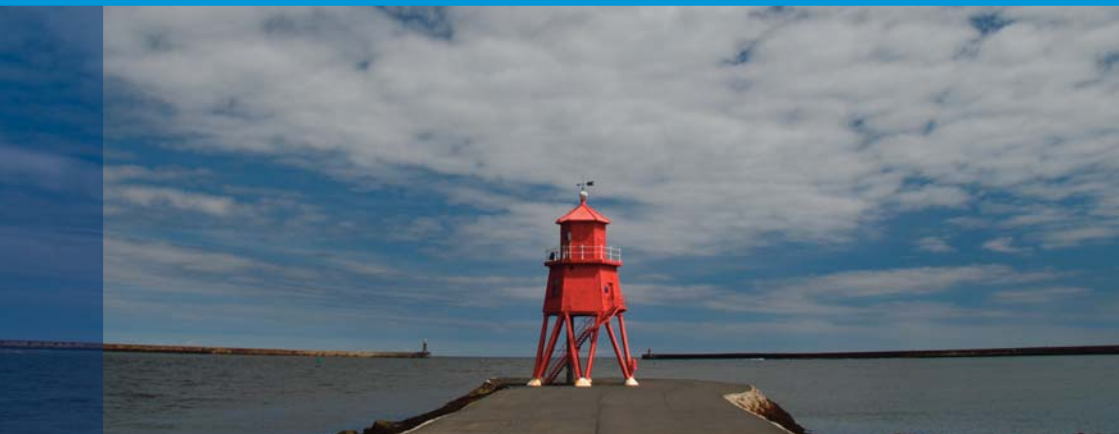




PORT
of
TYNE

GUIDELINES FOR RECREATIONAL RIVER USERS







PORT
of
TYNE

Introduction

The guidance contained within this booklet is aimed at all recreational users of the River Tyne. It highlights important navigational and safety advice, which when followed, will make leisure activities safe for all users of the River Tyne.

Although the river is a busy commercial waterway, the Port of Tyne Authority supports recreational use of the river. The Port is also committed to educating both commercial and recreational users in pursuit of a safe navigational environment.

It is the responsibility of each individual user to understand, respect and have consideration for each other.





The Port of Tyne

As the Statutory Harbour Authority (SHA), the Port of Tyne is responsible for the safety of navigation and the safe use of the River Tyne. Our jurisdiction covers a 17 mile stretch of the river, including 3 miles of seaward approaches, encompassing our designated pilot station.

The Harbour Master has the principle operational responsibility for safety of navigation within the SHA. Tyne Vessel Traffic Service (Tyne VTS) monitor and coordinate all traffic movements 24/7 and are the primary resource for ensuring safety of navigation.

Recreational navigation incorporates a wide range of waterborne craft and activities. Including, but not limited to the use of yachts, powerboats, sailing dinghies, rowing boats, kayaks and personal water craft.

It is only through maintaining a balance between recreational and commercial activity that navigational safety is achieved.

These guidelines have been designed to support the Port of Tyne General Byelaws and General Directions for Navigation. It is intended to act as an easy to follow reference guide to safety, compliance with regulations and provide all purpose support to individual recreational river users.

The 'Guidelines for Recreational River Users' is for guidance only. Nothing contained within this guide will prejudice, diminish, remove or replace any power, jurisdiction or authority of the Port of Tyne Authority, their byelaws or regulation made by them.





River Craft & Events

RIVER CRAFT

A Small Craft Licencing Scheme is operated by the Port of Tyne. This seeks to ensure that all small craft operating on the river can be identified as per Byelaw 41.

All craft permanently moored on the River Tyne (including within a marina) are required to register with the Port. A small annual conservancy fee is applicable and all craft will be issued with a licence plate, to be displayed in a conspicuous position on-board the craft itself.

Application forms can be found at www.portoftyne.co.uk/marine-information/resources

All Applications should be returned to the Harbour Office by either:

Email – harbour@portoftyne.co.uk

Post – River Craft Registration, Port of Tyne Authority, Neville House, North Shields, NE30 1LJ.

EVENTS

If you are planning a river-based event, the organiser must seek permission from the Harbour Master. You will have to provide detailed information and submit a complete risk assessment compliant with the Port Marine Safety Code. To help organisers, the Royal Yachting Association has produced risk assessment forms that you can download at www.rya.org.uk.

Application forms can be found at www.portoftyne.co.uk/marine-information/resources

All Applications should be returned to the Harbour Office by either:

Email – marineevents@portoftyne.co.uk

Post – Marine Events, Port of Tyne Authority, Neville House, North Shields, NE30 1LJ.





Navigation Rules

INTRODUCTION

This section explains some of the navigation rules contained in the Port of Tyne Authority General Byelaws that vessels navigating on the River Tyne must comply with.

All vessels must also comply with the General Directions for navigation in the Port of Tyne and the latest Navigation notices published by the Port of Tyne.

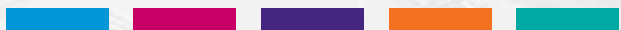
Navigation notices are widely distributed and all local boat clubs receive a copy. Navigation notices are also available on the Port of Tyne website at www.portoftyne.co.uk

For vessels and craft navigating on the River Tyne the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, the marine ‘rules of the road’ are mandatory.

A good working knowledge of these will enhance both the safety and enjoyment of all recreational users (see Section 2).

All river users should ensure that they are familiar with all the regulations specified above but the following byelaws and collision rules are of particular relevance to recreational users.

- 1 It is recommended that all river users obtain a copy of the Port of Tyne Authority General Byelaws.
- 2 General Directions apply to vessels in the Port and Seaward Approaches.





Byelaw 11

VESSELS TO BE NAVIGATED WITH CARE

- (1) The Master shall navigate his vessel with such care and caution and at such speed and in such manner as not, directly or indirectly, to endanger the lives of or cause injury to persons or damage to property or to other vessels including, without prejudice to the foregoing provisions of this byelaw, injury or damage by or resulting from wash, swell or suction and as not to cause any obstruction to or to interfere with the navigation, manoeuvring, working, loading or discharging of vessels, or buoys, moorings, river banks or other property.
- (2) Without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph (1) of this byelaw the Master of a power driven vessel shall reduce its speed so as not to cause a hazard to any other vessel which is being docked or undocked or to any person or vessel engaged in dredging, diving or other underwater operations or in work on any buoy, mooring, quay or other riverside property.

This byelaw refers to all vessels. Take care when navigating, and at all times be aware of your surroundings and take appropriate action to avoid; river users engaged in water sports, smaller vessels, buoys, river marks and mooring points. Do not obstruct the safe passage of other traffic. Realise that wash from your craft can endanger small vessels, sailing boats, canoeists and other river users.

Byelaw 12

SPEED OF VESSELS

Except with the permission of the Harbour Master and without prejudice to the provisions of Byelaw 11 and the Collision Regulations, the Master of a vessel shall not cause or permit the vessel to proceed at a speed greater than six knots over the ground in the Port westwards of Herd Groyne Lighthouse at South Shields.

Do not exceed six knots westward of the Herd Groyne. This byelaw applies to all craft including personal watercraft.





Navigation Rules Continued

Byelaw 20

PERMISSION TO ANCHOR

- (1) The Master of a vessel shall not except with prior permission of the Harbour Master, anchor or otherwise place or stop his vessel in the Port or in the seaward approaches to the Port in such a manner as to cause an obstruction or impediment to other vessels using, approaching or leaving the Port, except in an emergency to avoid collision, drifting, grounding or damage to any vessel or property.
- (2) The Master of a vessel which is in such a position and which in the opinion of the Harbour Master is likely to cause an obstruction or impediment as aforesaid shall upon being ordered by the Harbour Master immediately move his vessel to a position approved by the Harbour Master, except where prevented from doing so by reason of emergency as described: in default of which the Harbour Master may take any action he considers necessary to remove the obstruction or impediment.
- (3) The Master of a vessel which in an emergency has been anchored, placed or stopped in the Port or in the seaward approaches to the Port in such a position as to cause an obstruction or impediment to other vessels shall forthwith report the occurrence to the harbour master.
- (4) No person shall except with the prior permission of the Harbour Master place any obstruction or impediment within the Port or in the seaward approaches to the Port, so as to interfere with the navigation of vessels.

Vessels must not anchor or cause an obstruction within the channel and the seaward approaches. Such activity is dangerous to river traffic and can cause a major hazard. In the event of an emergency you may anchor and must report to Tyne VTS on VHF Ch12 and follow any advice or instruction.

Byelaw 94

BATHING, SWIMMING AND DIVING

- (1) No persons shall bathe, swim, dive or engage in under water activities except with the permission of the Authority:-
 - a. In or to or from any part of the dock estate;
 - b. In the fairway within the port;
 - c. In any other areas which the Authority may designate as areas in which all or any of those activities are prohibited.





- (2) No person shall dive or engage in other underwater activities unless the Harbour Master has been notified of the time and place at which such activities are to take place and their expected duration at least two hours before they are due to commence.

Every vessel engaged in diving operations should show where it can best be seen Flag A of the International Code of Signals. Diving or any other underwater activity is not permitted in the river without the consent of the Harbour Master and such activity must be brought to his attention at least two hours in advance. Divers should always clearly mark their dive area with appropriate flags/marker and report to Tyne VTS prior to commencing and again when diving is complete. Recreational diving is not permitted within the Statutory Harbour Authority Area.

Byelaw 95

WATER SKIING, AQUAPLANING AND OTHER SIMILAR ACTIVITIES

No person shall engage or take part in water-skiing aquaplaning, kiting or parachute towing or any similar waterborne or airborne activity except with the permission of the Authority given either specifically or generally and only in such areas as may be designated by the Authority and in accordance with such conditions as the Authority may impose.

Before engaging in any of the above mentioned activities outside the designated areas, permission must be obtained from the Harbour Master.

Byelaw 96

REGATTAS, RACES AND SIMILAR EVENTS

- (1) No person shall organise any regatta, race procession, pageant or other similar event or any part of such event, when a number of vessels is expected to participate or to assemble, to take place within the Port unless he supplies to the Authority such information in regard to that event as the Authority may require and obtains the prior written consent of the Authority to the holding of such event within the Port.
- (2) The organiser of any of the events referred to in paragraph (1) of this byelaw shall ensure that it only takes place in accordance with any conditions imposed by the Authority or the Harbour Master and in areas or places or on courses and at times previously approved by the Authority or the Harbour Master.

Races, regattas, pageants or river based events must not take place without prior consent of the Harbour Master. Risk assessments, where appropriate, must be completed by the organiser as advised by the Harbour Master.





International Collision Regulations

INTRODUCTION

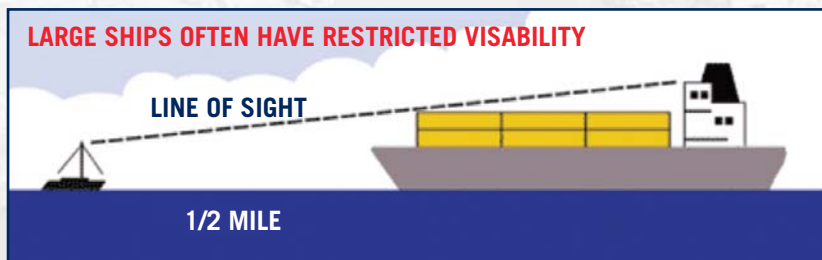
All vessels navigating in the River Tyne must comply with the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea. The following rules are particularly relevant to small vessels.

Rule 5

LOOKOUT

Every vessel shall at all times maintain a proper look-out by sight and hearing as well as by all available means appropriate in the prevailing circumstances and conditions so as to make a full appraisal of the situation and of the risk of collision.

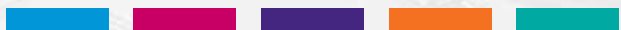
While navigating in the river make sure to keep a look out at all times (by sight & sound), be aware of any obstructions, traffic movements and possible dangers. A small craft cannot always be seen from a ship's bridge.



Rule 9

NARROW CHANNELS

- (A) A vessel proceeding along the course of a narrow channel or fairway shall keep as near to the outer limit of the channel or fairway, which lies on her starboard side as, is safe and practicable.
- (B) A vessel of less than 20 metres in length or a sailing vessel shall not impede the passage of a vessel that can safely navigate only within a narrow channel or fairway.
- (C) A vessel engaged in fishing shall not impede the passage of any other vessel navigating within a narrow channel or fairway.





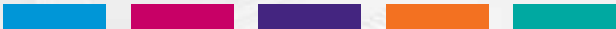
- (D) A vessel shall not cross a narrow channel or fairway if such crossing impedes the passage of a vessel that can safely navigate only within such channel or fairway. The latter vessel may use the sound signal prescribed in Rule 34(d) if in doubt as to the intention of the crossing vessel.
- (E)
 - (i) In a narrow channel or fairway when overtaking can take place only if the vessel to be overtaken has to take action to permit safe passing, the vessel intending to overtake shall indicate her intention by sounding the appropriate signal prescribed in Rule 34(c) (i). The vessel to be overtaken shall, if in agreement, sound the appropriate signal prescribed in Rule 34(c) (ii) and take steps to permit safe passing. If in doubt she may sound the signals prescribed in Rule 34(d).
 - (ii) This Rule does not relieve the overtaking vessel of her obligation under Rule 13.
- (F) A vessel nearing a bend or an area of a narrow channel or fairway where other vessels may be obscured by an intervening obstruction shall navigate with particular alertness and caution and shall sound the appropriate signal prescribed in Rule 34(e).
- (G) Any vessel shall, if the circumstances of the case admit, avoid anchoring in a narrow channel.

The Port of Tyne defines the dredged channel (as shown on Admiralty Chart no 1934 as a 'narrow channel or fairway'). Rule 9 gives instructions to vessels navigating in or near a narrow channel. To cross the river, take the quickest way practicable, keeping a sharp look out for other traffic. Do not attempt to cross ahead of oncoming traffic. When proceeding up or down river, all vessels shall keep as near to the starboard side of the river, as is safe and practicable.



Rule 13 OVERTAKING

- (A) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Rules of Part B, section I and II any vessel overtaking any other shall keep out of the way of the vessel being overtaken.





- (B) A vessel shall be deemed to be overtaking when coming up with another vessel from a direction more than 22.5 degrees abaft her beam, that is, in such a position with reference to the vessel she is overtaking, that at night she would be able to see only the stern light of that vessel but neither of her sidelights.
- (C) When a vessel is in any doubt as to whether she is overtaking another, she shall assume that this is the case and act accordingly.
- (D) Any subsequent alteration of the bearing between the two vessels shall not make the overtaking vessel a crossing vessel within the meaning of these rules or relieve her of the duty of keeping clear of the overtaken vessel until she is finally past and clear.

Any vessel or craft (be it powered, sailing, large, small etc.) must keep clear of a slower vessel it is overtaking.

Rule 34d

MANEUVERING AND WARNING SIGNALS

When vessels in sight of one another are approaching each other and from any cause either vessel fails to understand the intentions or actions of the other, or is in doubt whether sufficient action is being taken by the other to avoid collision, the vessel in doubt shall immediately indicate such doubt by giving at least five short and rapid blasts on the whistle. Such signal may be supplemented by a light signal of at least five short and rapid flashes.

This sound signal indicates that a vessel is concerned about your movements.

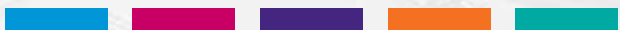
Sound Signals

The following International and local sound signals are in regular use in the River Tyne. Recreational river users should be aware of sound signals so that they are able to understand the intentions of larger vessels.

Sound

Meaning

One short blast.	<i>I am altering my course to starboard.</i>
Two short blasts	<i>I am altering my course to port.</i>
Three short blasts	<i>I am operating astern propulsion.</i>
Five or more short and rapid blasts	<i>I do not understand your intentions.</i>





Sound

Meaning

One long blast	<i>Made by a vessel to alert others to its presence, such as when leaving a dock or when approaching a "Blind" corner.</i>
Two long blasts followed by one short blasts	<i>I wish to overtake you on your starboard side.</i>
Two long blasts followed by two short blasts	<i>I wish to overtake you on your port side.</i>
One long blast, one short blast, one long blast and one short blast.	<i>Acknowledgement of overtaking signal.</i>

A long blast or sound of the horn is about four to six seconds long, a short blast about one second long.

Traffic Signals

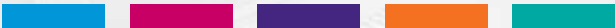
Traffic signals are displayed at entrances to Royal Quays Marina and St Peter's Marina.



Three RED lights vertically disposed
Vessels shall not proceed



Three GREEN lights vertically disposed
Vessels may proceed, one way traffic in force





TYNE VTS

TYNE VESSEL TRAFFIC SERVICE (TYNE VTS)

24 hours a day, 7 days a week, Tyne VTS monitors and controls all commercial shipping, fishing and leisure movements on the River Tyne.

Tyne VTS provide information and advice to assist onboard decision making and ensure a safe, secure and efficient passage for all river users.

All vessels over 20m LOA (length overall) are required to report to Tyne VTS as per the General Directions to Navigation. Any vessel under 20m LOA may still report to Tyne VTS, and will from there on be considered a participating vessel.

Call Sign: Tyne VTS

VHF Channel: 12

Email: tynevts@portoftyne.co.uk

GENERAL & SPECIAL DIRECTIONS

The General Directions for Navigation in the Port of Tyne, apply to vessels of over 20m in length, but all river users should be aware of their contents. General Directions apply at all times and in all areas of the Port of Tyne's jurisdiction and can be obtained from www.portoftyne.co.uk/marine-services/navigational-information.

The Harbour Master will issue Special Directions to ensure safety of navigation in specific instances. A Special Direction applies only to the vessel to which it is issued, and for a specific location and time. Due to their short duration the Harbour Master may issue Special Directions by any appropriate means, including by VHF Radio.





Local Notice to Mariners and Navigation Notices

Local Notices to Mariners and Navigation Notices are issued periodically by the Harbour Master to inform river users of changes, requirements, potential hazards or events relating to the river or safety of navigation.

These have the same weight in law as the Port of Tyne General Byelaws and river users must comply with any requirements contained within.

These Notices can be found at:

<https://www.portoftyne.co.uk/marine-information/navigational-information/notices-to-mariners>.

Temporary River Closures

Whenever it is known in advance that general navigation is to be restricted, or the river is to be closed at a specific time and location a Navigation Notice will be issued, or in the case of a short duration or unscheduled event a Special Direction may be issued.

A Harbour Master's launch may be situated in the vicinity of the obstruction/event and all vessels navigating in the vicinity are to observe the instructions given in the navigation notice, Special Direction or directly from the control launch.

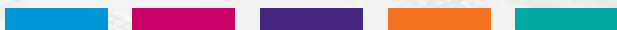




NAVIGATING SAFELY

CODE FOR SEAWARD OF THE HERD GROYNES

- (1) The estuary in this area is heavily utilised by commercial seagoing traffic and it is intended that this guide should assist the recreational user to enjoy the river's natural amenity value to the full whilst at the same time recognise the need to allow the uninterrupted use of the dredged channel by commercial shipping.
- (2) Therefore, except for entering or departure from the Port, no recreational water activity shall take place in the navigable channel or between the two transits shown in figure 1.
- (3) These transits mark the Seaward Approaches to the Port and must be kept clear in accordance with Byelaw 20.
- (4) Waterborne recreational activities within the piers shall be confined to the following areas:-
 - a. To the southward of the straight lines joining the points Herd Groynes Lighthouse to the Herd Sand Buoy then to South Pier Lighthouse;
 - b. To the northward of the straight lines joining the points riverward end of No.1 Groyne through No.2 and No.1 Black Middens Buoy then to the North Pier Lighthouse.
- (5) Water-skiing is NOT permitted in this area.
- (6) Small pleasure craft must clear the navigable channel, must not cross the channel nor enter the channel when instructed by any craft belonging to the Port of Tyne, Northumbria Police or any safety or rescue boat in the area. The control craft may communicate this instruction by VHF radio or in person.
- (7) No craft shall approach or navigate within 75 metres of the North or South Piers.
- (8) All boats and craft must keep clear of swimmers.
- (9) Crossing from one area to another must be at right angles to the navigable channel and only when no commercial shipping is within an area approaching the piers and the west end of the Fish Quay, North Shields.
- (10) High speed craft must be navigated with extra caution and remember that your wash may endanger small craft, swimmers and others near the shoreline.





CODE FOR UPRIVER OF THE REDHEUGH BRIDGE

- (1) High powered craft and craft towing water skiers and any other similar activity must be confined to a stretch of river extending from the River Derwent approximately one mile eastward to Dunston Staiths, (the fast craft zone) The east and west limits of the area are conspicuously marked by notice boards.
- (2) A designated area is in place for the use of jet skiers. For safety of navigation, jet skiers must have regard for other river users and stay within this area.
- (3) The area set aside for jet skier's measures approximately 160m x 100m and is located immediately upriver of the River Derwent and about 50m off Derwenthaugh Jetty.
- (4) The west slipway at Derwenthaugh is to be used by sailing dinghies, canoes and water skiers.
- (5) An additional area for power craft and craft towing water skiers is located west of the slipway at Newburn, the east limit of which is marked by a notice board.
- (6) The areas referred to previously are shown in Figure 2.
- (7) The available water area at Newburn is restricted and to avoid congestion and maintain safety it is essential that no more than six boats are permitted in the zone at any one time. This number of boats is strictly controlled at the slipway.
- (8) It is therefore essential that no other power boat launched elsewhere enters the zone without obtaining permission to do so from the safety and rescue boat stationed in the vicinity.
- (9) Fast moving craft in the areas must be considerate, allow other vessels to navigate without interference and reduce speed to avoid a dangerous wash to other users of the river.
- (10) At least one rescue boat conspicuously marked as such should always be in attendance.
- (11) When towing water skiers or similar activities, one crew member in addition to the person in charge must be carried in the craft.
- (12) Flag signals with the following meanings may be shown from any authorized craft or from the shore:-



A square red flag

Powerboat circuit race or water ski event, to stop immediately and the area cleared



A square yellow flag

Caution



A black and yellow chequered flag

Powerboat circuit race or water ski event in progress

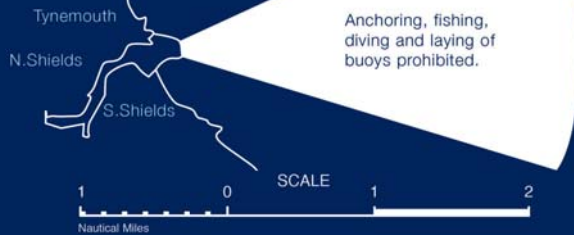


A square red flag marked STOP

All craft must stop and clear navigable channel



(Fig. 1)

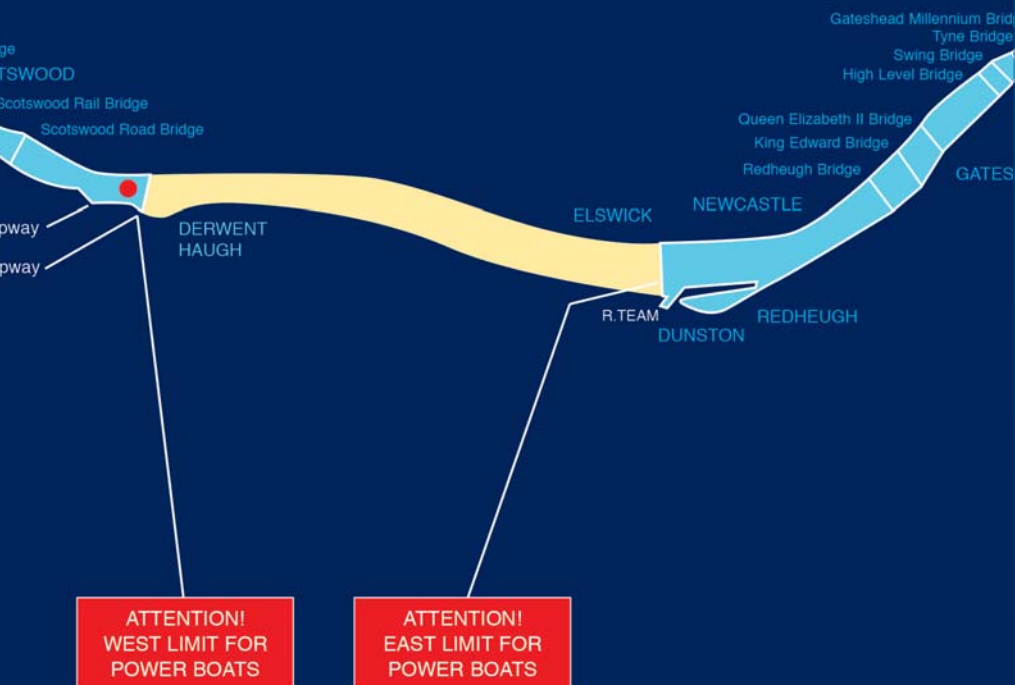


(Fig. 2)





PORT of TYNE





PORT
of
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Neville House

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