

Aquatic Events Advice ~ Geelong Port Waters

The VRCA requires notification advice of aquatic events which take place within, or in close proximity to the port areas of Geelong and within or in close proximity to the Entrance Channels into Geelong ("Port waters").

Aquatic Events Advice is required pursuant to Section 4.12 of the Harbour Master's Directions made pursuant to Chapter 2, Part 2.2 of the Marine Safety Act 2010.

Aquatic Events which occur outside Port waters may require a permit from Parks Victoria. Parks Victoria can be contacted on telephone number 131 963.

Event organizers must ensure that event participants are informed to keep clear of commercial shipping at all times. The responsibility is not negated where there is no advice forwarded from the VRCA. This is a continuing responsibility of both Event organizers and participants.

An Aquatic Events Advice must be lodged not less than 5 working days prior to the scheduled event date(s).

To submit an Aquatic Events Advice:

1. Download the Aquatic Events Advice form from the VRCA website:
www.regionalchannels.vic.gov.au
2. Fill in the sections of the Advice on page 2, including in the section titled "Other Relevant Information" the general area in which the event is to take place.
3. Ensure that the Emergency contact details are completed.
4. Return Advice to the Harbour Master via email: tscopaz@regionalchannels.vic.gov.au or facsimile 03 5225 3599
5. The Aquatic Events Advice form will be reviewed at the VRCA

If the proposed Aquatic Event is **approved**, the Harbour Master will:

- i. add the appropriate comments in the "VRCA comments Section"
- ii. allocate a number to the advice
- iii. return the advice and a separate PDF copy of page 3 to the applicant via email or facsimile 03 5225 3599
- iv. distribute the advice to Geelong Port Marine Control, the Port Phillip Sea Pilots and where relevant to the Harbour Control and Point Lonsdale.

The VRCA can issue an Aquatic Events Advice which covers regular events for the whole of the season, for example a single Advice can be issued for "Saturday racing" when the events take place in the same general area, at approximately the same time.

If the proposed Aquatic Event is **not approved**, you will be provided with reasons for this rejection. Non approval of an Event must be treated as a Direction by the Harbour Master that the Event is not to take place on the basis proposed in the Aquatic Events Advice form.

Please contact the Harbour Master for assistance with this Advice.

Aquatic Events Advice			No.
Event Type			
Organisation Name			
Postal Address			
Telephone & Facsimile No's			
E-mail Address			
Start Time, Date			
Finish time, Date			
Starting Location			
Finishing Location			
Event Organiser Name			
Postal Address			
Telephone & Facsimile No's			
E-mail Address			
Vessel type(s) and number of vessels involved			
Emergency Contact Details	VHF		
Any other relevant Information (e.g. Route taken, special requirements)			
Signature:		Date:	No of Additional pages:
Name:		Contact No:	
<p>Aquatic Events Advice is issued on the basis of Harbour Master's Direction number 3.4 & 3.5 made pursuant to sections 89 of the Port Management Act 1995</p> <p><i>Please note it is an offence under the Port Management Act to not comply with any Harbour Master's Direction</i></p>			
VRCA Comment	<p>Race participants must keep safely clear of all commercial shipping at all times. Race instructions must include the requirement for participants to monitor VHF Channel 12 at all times within Port waters.</p> <p>Event organisers must not commence the event unless they have cleared their start with Geelong Port Marine Control at least one hour prior to their scheduled start and obtained latest shipping information. Event organizers must adjust race times and/or course and or waypoints so as not to interfere with commercial shipping movements.</p> <p>The "Final Schedule" must be broadcast on VHF Channel 12. (This is a short broadcast of final start information).</p> <p>Organizers may require permission from Parks Victoria for events in waters outside the Port Waters.</p> <p>The Harbour Master reserves the right at his/her sole discretion to direct that the Event not take place, be postponed or be delayed or exclude any waters identified by the Harbour Master either generally or specifically for any reason whatsoever, including commercial shipping movements and/or safety considerations and/or security requirements.</p>		

Please see important information on accompanying pages

Signature:
 Harbour Master
 Victorian Regional Channels Authority
 Level 2/235 Ryrie St, Geelong 3220
 Ph: 03 5225 3500 Fax: 03 5225 3599

Date ____/____/____

Section 3.5,1 - Navigation of small vessels

- (1) The Master of a vessel less than 50 metres in length, other than a port working vessel, shall ensure that the vessel keeps out of the way of:
 - (a) vessels more than 50 metres in length.
 - (b) a tug or launch assisting the movement, berthing or un-berthing of another vessel.

Note: *If in doubt, the Master should assume the other vessel's length is more than 50 metres and keep out of the way*

- (2) The Master of a vessel less than 50 metres in length, other than a port working vessel, shall not:
 - (a) anchor in any fairway or channel.
 - (b) approach within 50 metres of a vessel berthed at a tanker terminal berth.
- (3) The Master of a vessel less than 50 metres in length shall not navigate port waters while taking part in any regatta, contest, race or other event unless the conduct of the event has been notified to the Harbour Master, all requirements of the Harbour Master have been met and the Harbour Master has not given any direction pursuant to sub-paragraph (4).

Note: *The Harbour Master requires notification advice of aquatic events which take place within the port waters. The notification of an event to the Harbour Master must be in the form prescribed in Section 4.12, Aquatic Events, and must not take place unless there has been due compliance with all requirements of the Harbour Master in relation to such aquatic event*

Extract from the Port Waters of Geelong Operating Handbook

Section 4.12 - Aquatic Events

- 1) The VRCA requires prior notification advice of aquatic events which are proposed to take place within, or are likely to enter into port waters.
- 2) An Aquatic Events Advice form must be lodged with the VRCA not less than 5 working days before the event is proposed to take place: The Aquatic Events Advice form must include the following information:
 - (a) Name, telephone contact and facsimile number of the organisation or person organising the event.
 - (b) The course and waypoints for the event.
 - (c) The proposed start and finish dates and times.
 - (d) The approximate number of boats expected to take part.
 - (e) The size and type of boats expected to take part.
- 3) Event organisers must ensure that event participants are instructed to keep clear of commercial shipping at all times.
- 4) Pursuant to Section 3.5 of the Harbour Master's Directions, the Harbour Master may at any time suspend or cancel any regatta, contest or race or other event in port waters in the interest of safety or commercial operations.
- 5) Pursuant to Section 89 of the Port Management Act 1995, it is an offence to fail to comply with any direction, or to obstruct the Harbour Master (or a person acting under the direction of a Harbour Master) in executing his duties.

[Note: Aquatic Event Advice forms for the port waters can be obtained from the Victorian Regional Channels Authority website: www.regionalchannels.vic.gov.au. Forms should be marked to the attention of the Harbour Master and facsimiled to the Victorian Regional Channels Authority (03) 5225 3599 or emailed to admin@regionalchannels.vic.gov.au]

Approval and Communications Procedures for Aquatic Events within the Port Waters of Geelong.

The Approval and Communications Procedures identify the critical areas of interaction between commercial shipping and recreational boating and re-define the event organisers' responsibilities in relation to ensuring due compliance by them with the Harbour Master's Directions and made or varied from time to time. Hence, when an Aquatic Event is planned that takes place within, or in close proximity to, or intersects any of the main shipping channels or fairways or otherwise involves Port Waters, event organizers are required to:

1. Lodge an advice of aquatic events form as required by section 4.12(1) of the Port Waters of Geelong Operating Handbook, not less than 5 working days before the event (and not to proceed with the proposed Aquatic Event if it is not approved).
2. For all events involving Port Waters, event organizers must check with Geelong Port Marine Control at least one hour before the scheduled start to obtain the latest shipping information and must adjust start times so as not to interfere with commercial shipping movements. The 'Final Schedule' must be broadcast on VHF Channel 12.
3. Instruct the participants to keep clear of shipping in all Port Waters, in accordance with the Harbour Master's Directions relating to Small Vessels and also the General Traffic Rules and as informed from time to time via Geelong Port Marine Control.
4. Keep Radio Watch on VHF Channel 12 and direct all participants to do so.
5. Ensure that the event is undertaken strictly in accordance with the directions of the Harbour Master as given from time to time
6. Advise Geelong Port Marine Control when the last boat is clear of Port Waters and/or the event concluded.

Incidents on Port Waters

1. Event organizers and participants are reminded of the need to report incidents in Port Waters as required by sections 5.1.4 and 5.2.2 of the Harbour Master's Directions.
2. The Harbour Master reserves the right at his/her sole discretion to direct that the Event not take place, be postponed or be delayed or exclude any Port Waters identified by the Harbour Master either generally or specifically for any reason whatsoever, including commercial shipping movements and/or safety considerations and/or security requirements.
3. Vessels which have sunk stranded or collided within Port Waters and owners of objects that obstruct Port Waters must report the Incident to Harbour Control and to such other regulatory authorities as is required in accordance with law.
4. The Harbour Master may give directions prohibiting the entry into or requiring the removal of vessels from Port Waters in certain circumstances, including where such vessels may be unseaworthy or in danger of sinking and causing an obstruction to navigation in Port Waters.

Please see important information on accompanying page

Aquatic Events Advice			No.
Event Type	Yacht Race		
Organisation Name: Postal Address: Telephone & Facsimile No's: Email Address:	RGYC PO Box 111 Geelong Vic 2222 5222 2222 5222 2211 joblo@jo.com.au		
Start Time, Date & Location	09:00 01/01/2001 Yarra Pier		
Finish time, Date & Location	13:00 01/01/2001 Yarra Pier		
Event Organiser Name Position Postal Address: Telephone & Facsimile No's: Email Address	Jo Blo Commodore 12 Blo Cres Geelong 2222 5222 2222 52222222 joblo@jo.com.au		
Vessel type(s) and number of vessels involved			
Emergency Contract Details	Jo: 0400 000 1111 John: 0400 111 000 VHF		
Any other relevant Information (e.g. Route taken, special requirements)			
Signature:	Date:	20/12/2000	No of Additional pages:
Name: Jo Blo	Contact No:	0400 000 111	
Aquatic Events Advice is issued on the basis of Harbour Master's Direction number 3.4 & 3.5 made pursuant to sections 89 of the Port Management Act 1995 <i>Please note it is an offence under the Port Management Act to not comply with any Harbour Master's Direction</i>			
VRCA Comment	<p>Race participants must keep safely clear of all commercial shipping at all times. Race instructions must include the requirement for participants to monitor VHF Channel 12 at all times within Port waters.</p> <p>Event organisers must not commence the event unless they have cleared their start with Geelong Port Marine Control at least one hour prior to their scheduled start and obtained latest shipping information. Event organizers must adjust race times and/or course and or waypoints so as not to interfere with commercial shipping movements.</p> <p>The "Final Schedule" must be broadcast on VHF Channel 12. (This is a short broadcast of final start information).</p> <p>Organizers may require permission from Parks Victoria for events in waters outside the Port Waters.</p> <p>The Harbour Master reserves the right at his/her sole discretion to direct that the Event not take place, be postponed or be delayed or exclude any waters identified by the Harbour Master either generally or specifically for any reason whatsoever, including commercial shipping movements and/or safety considerations and/or security requirements.</p>		

Please see important information on accompanying pages

Signature:
 Harbour Master
 Victorian Regional Channels Authority
 Level 2/235 Ryrie St, Geelong 3220

Date ____/____/____
 Ph: 03 5225 3500 Fax: 03 5225 3599