

# ASSOCIATED BRITISH PORTS SOUTH WALES

## NOTICE TO MARINERS

### NO 1 OF 2004

#### Approaches to Barry, Cardiff & Newport - Admiralty Charts 1152, 1176 & 1182

#### Bristol Channel Vessel Traffic Service

Please be advised that the following Ports are co-operating with a vessel traffic service within the Bristol Channel.

- Bristol (Avonmouth and Royal Portbury)
- Bridgwater
- Barry
- Cardiff
- Newport
- Sharpness

This service is provided by two operational centres namely:

- **Severn Vessel Traffic Service** operated by Associated British Ports (ABP)
- **Bristol Vessel Traffic Service** operated by The Bristol Port Company (BPC)

#### OVERVIEW

##### **Severn Vessel Traffic Service**

**Notice is hereby given that from 1200hrs May 1<sup>st</sup> 2004 Associated British Ports (ABP)** will commence operating a new vessel information service, call sign **Severn VTS**. The service will be operational on a 24 hour basis every day of the year, and can be contacted directly on **VHF channel 69** or alternatively by telephone on 0845 6018870, by fax on 02920 835006, or by email at [SevernVTS@abports.co.uk](mailto:SevernVTS@abports.co.uk)

##### **Bristol Vessel Traffic Service**

The Bristol Port Company will continue to provide a vessel traffic service on a 24 hour daily basis call sign **Bristol VTS** (formerly Avonmouth Signals). Bristol VTS can be contacted directly on **VHF Channel 12** or alternatively by telephone on 0117 982 2257 by fax on 0117 923 5320 or by email at [bristolvts@bristolport.co.uk](mailto:bristolvts@bristolport.co.uk).

All commercial vessels (50 grt and greater) navigating in the waters contained within the area bounded by a line running south from Nash point to Hurlstone Point and the Second Severn Crossing are required to participate in the reporting procedures associated with the service and report to Severn VTS, and/or Bristol VTS as appropriate, at the nominated reporting points. (Please see the attached chartlet and forthcoming amendments to Admiralty publications for more details).

## **Severn VTS Area**

1. Severn VTS (CH 69) will offer formally an Information Service as defined by the IMO in Marine Guidance Note 238. Port Information will continue to be provided directly from the Ports of Barry, Cardiff & Newport on the appropriate VHF working channel.
2. Charted reporting points in the Severn VTS area are Nash Point (In/Out), Breaksea (In), Holms (In/Out), Lavernock Point (In), Newport Deeps (In/Out).
3. Vessels reporting at the reporting points to provide Severn VTS (Ch 69) with information on their position, identity and intentions.
4. Vessels are to report to Severn VTS prior to departing the locks in Barry, Cardiff or Newport or prior to departing a berth on the River Usk.
5. Vessels passing from the Severn VTS area to the Bristol VTS area, or vice versa, are required to report to the VTS whose coverage they are entering.
6. Vessels within the Severn VTS area may call another vessel on VHF channel 69 and, unless passing a short message relating directly to safety of navigation, move to an agreed working channel.
7. Vessels communicating with Severn VTS, ports and other vessels within the Severn VTS area must use standard marine communication phrases.
8. Vessels at anchor in the Severn VTS area must call Severn VTS 30 minutes before weighing anchor and again when underway.

## **Bristol VTS Area**

1. Bristol VTS (CH12) will provide an information service and Port Information for Avonmouth and Royal Portbury Docks on VHF (CH14).
2. Chartered reporting points in the Bristol VTS area are Flatholm (In/Out), English and Welsh (In/Out), Welsh Hook (In/Out), Second Severn Crossing (In/Out) and for vessels clearing the locks at Avonmouth and Royal Portbury. For vessels outbound from Newport they should report to Bristol VTS at Newport Deep buoy.
3. Vessels reporting at the reporting points to provide Bristol VTS (CH12) with information on their position, identity and intentions.
4. Vessels operating in the River Avon should report (In/Out) Cumberland Basin  
Sea Mills (In/Out)  
Shirehampton (In/Out) (vessels of 30m and greater)  
Nelson Point (In/Out) (vessels less than 30m)
5. Vessels within Bristol VTS area may call another vessel on VHF 12 and, unless passing a short message relating directly to safety of Navigation, move to an agreed working channel.

**MARINE MANAGER, SOUTH WALES**  
**Queen Alexandra House, Cargo Road, CARDIFF, CF10 4LY**

**19 April 2004**

