



## Regulation and Guidance on Launching Small Crafts from the East Riding of Yorkshire coast

Issued by:  
East Riding Of Yorkshire Council  
**LEISURE & TOURISM UNIT**  
The Foreshores Office  
Princess Mary Promenade  
**BRIDLINGTON**  
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All the beaches, promenades and slipways on the East Yorkshire coastline, other than Bridlington Harbour, Easington and Spurn Point are owned, managed or under the control of the East Riding of Yorkshire Council.

Bridlington Harbour, including the slipway at the western end of the South Pier is controlled by the Harbour Commissioners and any enquiries about the use of the Harbour should be made to the Harbour Master, Harbour Masters Office, Bridlington, East Riding of Yorkshire (Telephone: 01262 670148/149).

All persons fishing must abide by the Sea Fisheries Regulations set out in the North Eastern Sea Fisheries Byelaws.

All clubs, organisations, associations or persons must comply with the Rules of Launching and the regulations and guidance provided in the following **rules and guidance for the launching and operation of vessels** from any identified location within the East Riding of Yorkshire Council area. This includes the Bridlington Bay launch site at Wilsthorpe and Hornsea South Promenade launching facilities which come under the direct control of East Riding of Yorkshire Council.

**N.B.** Vessels are those that are capable of supporting one or more persons on water and having a mechanical device capable of giving propulsion.

**OR** Any vessel capable of supporting one or more persons on water that is greater in size than a Topper style dinghy, windsurfer board or small inflatable including Jet Ski.

**ALL VESSELS MUST BE COVERED BY PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR AT LEAST £2M, WHICH MUST BE PRODUCED UPON REQUEST BY THE COUNCIL OR THEIR SERVANTS OR AGENTS.**

Prior to launching

1. Vessels may only be launched from beaches or slipways with the permission of the site owner, supervisor, operator or inspector at the site or location, who shall have complete discretion as to whether any vessel may or may not be launched.

In particular, NO vessel will be allowed to launch:

- If the launch fee, or permit, where in place, has not been paid.
- If a valid certificate cannot be produced for visual inspection.
- If it is considered to be unsuitable for sea usage
- If it is not equipped with the mandatory safety aids
- If the weather conditions are deemed unsuitable or small craft warnings by HMCG have been issued
- If an excessive number of passengers are to be carried
- If the person in charge appears to be incapable of operating the vessel
- If the trailer carrying the vessel is not capable of transporting the vessel in a safe manner
- If the person in charge is below the age of seventeen years (document to be shown when in doubt)
- If the person in charge has been previously in breach of the launch conditions of bye-laws relating to Water Safety

The person in charge of the vessel shall grant the Council or its agents, or any other authorised official, all reasonable facilities to inspect the vessel and any equipment therein.

**THE DECISION OF THE INSPECTOR OR CONTROLLER AT BOTH  
HORNSEA AND BRIDLINGTON LAUNCHING SITES SHALL BE  
REGARDED AS FINAL**

2. Notwithstanding the authority of the Official to prevent launching, it is stressed that the personal responsibility for ensuring the vessel is sea worthy and has the required safety equipment on board and is not overloaded with excess passengers, lies with the person in charge of the vessel. Due regard must be given to all advice by the Official of potential or actual hazards to mariners (salmon nets, exclusion areas, etc.) and weather forecasts.

3. All seasonal permit holders must clearly identify their vessels with the identification mark allocated by launch control. The mark should have number(s) at least 15cm to 20cm in height and be positioned high on both sides of the bow. The allocated mark must also be painted on the trailer just aft of the ball joint. Other slipway users must have some form of identification on their vessels and trailers that allows the official to readily identify ownership of either trailer or vessel. All fishing vessels must have their fishing registration numbers showing in line with MSA recommendations.

4. Mandatory safety equipment required on all vessels, including but not limited to the following:

- Life-jackets meeting British Standard Specification for each person on board. Buoyancy aids to SSBNF approval may be worn when operating at a minimum distance from the tide edge and not intending to cruise in deep waters. Whilst on board children under the age of 17 years of age must wear life-jackets.
- Suitable anchor attached to a chain and a minimum length of 25 fathoms (150 feet) of rope.
- Flares (hand held type) at least two of which must be within the expiry date shown.

- Compass – fixed or hand held.
- Bailer – if not equipped with self bailer.
- Whistle on lanyard on each life-jacket.
- Fire extinguisher for power boats.
- Paddles or spare engine.

No vessels shall be launched or used on Authority controlled slipways, beaches and sea unless there is in force, in relation to the vessel, an insurance policy covering third party risks either unlimited in amount or with a minimum fixed sum per accident by a major marine insurance company. It is stressed that it is the personal responsibility of the owner or person in charge of the vessel to ensure that the insurance is in date and valid for the vessel.

5. The vessel when in use must be in charge of a competent person of not under 17 years of age who shall at all times operate the vessel in a careful and prudent manner and not cause any nuisance or danger to any other person or vessel. Due regard must be given to the Rules of Navigation at Sea and the local bye-laws governing speed restrictions and Local Warnings to Mariners notices.

6. The person in charge of any vessel who intends to operate beyond visual range of the observers at Bridlington, Humber Coast Guard Station, or Hornsea must notify the inspector and shore based person of the boats intended route and estimated time of return.

7. ALL PLEASURE VESSELS MUST RETURN TO THE SLIPWAYS AT LEAST ONE HOUR BEFORE SUNSET.

Failure to do so will invoke a Coastguard search and rescue operation it being essential to get a search underway before nightfall. Except in exceptional cases all vessels must return to the site they launched from. Should it be necessary to beach or seek shelter elsewhere, the Foreshore officer at Bridlington (01262) 678255, Hornsea (01964) 533116 or H.M. Coastguard (999 emergency) or (01262) 672317 MUST BE NOTIFIED of the whereabouts of the vessel and crew.

9. Motor vehicles are not allowed on any slipways, promenades or beaches with out the express permission of the Foreshore officer, exceptions being emergency vehicles or services.

10. All vessels must proceed directly out to sea at not more than 8 knots until well clear of any man made structures, sea defences, groynes or bathers. A sharp look out for persons bathing or others using the sea must be kept at all times and in particular when approaching the beach. At Hornsea, Withernsea or Bridlington the vessel should approach the beach with only sufficient speed to maintain steerage. Extreme caution should be displayed with a readiness to take avoiding action if the circumstances warrant it except when launching or approaching the beach in cases of emergency.

**NO PERSONS IN CHARGE OF OR HAVING CONTROL OF A VESSEL MAY ALLOW THE VESSEL TO ENTER THE PUBLIC SAFETY ZONE WHICH EXTENDS SEAWARDS FROM THE TIDE EDGE FOR 300 METRES ON ALL BEACHES CONTROLLED BY THE EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE COUNCIL.**

11. JET SKI'S MUST KEEP 300 METRES SEAWARDS FROM THE TIDE EDGE EXCEPT WHEN LAUNCHING. Failure to adhere to this will result in refusal to launch from any of the Council sites

12. All vessels when towing a water skier must have two occupants, one to act as a helmsman and forward look-out, the other to watch the skier.

13. **WARNING.** Salmon and bass fishing nets are often used near the beaches. The nets extend about 360 metres seaward from the beach. Persons in charge of vessels must keep a sharp look out for such nets, and must not go inside the area of the nets keeping well to the seaward side of them.

**Should notification be received from H.M. Coastguard that conditions are likely to become dangerous, a red flag will be flown at Bridlington Bay Boat Launch, or Hornsea Boat Launch site.**

**From Bridlington Harbour a storm cone or blue and white chequered flag must also be accepted as a warning of dangerous conditions.**

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

14. Any person launching a vessel across any of the Council's land / beaches do so at their own risk, the Council will accept no liability for claims, proceedings, damages, charges and costs howsoever caused, whether in relation to property or the death or injury to any persons whether in contract or in any other manner, directly or indirectly as a result or in connection with the boat launching facilities insofar as the same results from the negligence of the Council, its employees or agents.

15. These conditions may be suspended, varied or withdrawn at any time by the Council. Any permit issued may be withdrawn or cancelled forthwith should the person to whom it is issued be in breach of any of the conditions set out in this document.

16. Pleasure vessels may not be launched before dawn and must return by one hour before dusk and then only during the period from Good Friday or 1st April (whichever is earlier) until 31st October. Launching at all other times will be agreed prior and booked in advance at the Bridlington or Hornsea launch sites.

17. **VHF RADIO TELEPHONY**

In addition to boat owners complying with the Licensing requirement and Operating Regulations as laid down by OFCOM, the East Riding of Yorkshire Council (in the interest of safety and avoidance of confusion) requires owners to adopt their "call sign", the number and letter allocated by The East Riding of Yorkshire Council or their boat's name.

#### **Launch Site Call Signs**

**BRIDLINGTON IS "BRIDLINGTON BAY COMPOUND"**

**HORNSEA IS "HORNSEA COMPOUND"**

**The site receives and transmits on 157.850 MHZ Channel 37**

**The site monitors but does not transmit on Channel 16 (The Distress Safety and Calling Frequency).**

**Calls to and from the site are to be made on Channel 37 only.**

**Calls to the COASTGUARD are to be made on Channel 16**

**Please note that after the initial call you may be requested to switch to a working channel.**

18. ADVISORY NOTES FROM THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME REGULATIONS FOR USE IN CROWDED WATERS.

- Two power boats meeting head on: both shall alter course to starboard.
- Two power boats crossing: the vessel which has the other on her Starboard side shall give way.
- Powered boats and other vessels: the powered boat shall give way to any boat or vessel which is not mechanically propelled.
- Vessels to keep course and speed: the vessel with right of way shall keep her speed and course.
- Vessels overtaking shall keep well clear of an overtaken vessel.
- Vessels in narrow channels: every powered boat shall, when it is safe and practicable, keep to that side of the channel that lies on their starboard side.
- Powered boats when launching from a slipway must proceed directly to sea at low speed. No warming up is permitted (this also applies to launching from the beach).
- Special circumstances: In obeying and interpreting the rules, due regard shall be given to all dangers of navigation and collision and to any special circumstances which may render departure from the above ruled necessary to avoid immediate danger.

When two sailing vessels are approaching each other:

- When each has the wind on a different side: the one which has the wind on the port side shall keep out of the way.
- When both have the wind on the same side: the windward vessel shall keep clear of the leeward vessel.

**SOUND SIGNALS AND DIRECTIONS**

**1 short blast = altering course to starboard**

**2 short blasts = altering course to port**

**3 short blasts = going astern**

**Starboard = right**

**Port = left**

**The above are guidance notes only within specific regulations that the ERYC will look to enforce via the Boat Launch facilities and by observation of craft at sea.**

**It is the duty of the person in charge of any vessel to observe all statutory regulations and advisory notice, as set out in this document and to follow the International Regulations for the Preventing of Collisions at Sea.**