

NOTICE TO MARINERS 20 of 2017

REPORTING INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS

All mariners are reminded of their duty to report accidents and incidents in the Thames in accordance with the Port of London Thames Byelaws, no. 8.

A recent survey of the Princes Channel showed a reduction to the published depth in one area, which was almost certainly caused by a vessel grounding as the result of squat.

This grounding was not reported at the time and therefore the shoal patch was not discovered until a routine survey was carried out. If the grounding had been reported at the time a check survey could have been undertaken. This would have shown the area of reduced depth, which would then have been promulgated to river users. Thankfully on this occasion the unknown shoaling did not lead to another vessel taking the ground, but certainly had the potential to do so.

Following an incident or accident a verbal report **must** be made immediately to the harbourmaster, either directly or through London VTS. This must be followed up with a written report as soon as is practicable and should contain sufficient detail for the Harbour Master to be able to commence an investigation without the need to clarify basic details which can often delay the investigation process and potentially increase the risk of a repeat incident before the PLA is able to react and implement new safety measures.

Failure to report an incident or accident in accordance with the Thames Byelaws is an offence and could lead to prosecution.

2 August 2017

Port of London Authority
London River House, Royal Pier Road,
Gravesend, Kent DA12 2BG

BOB BAKER
CHIEF HARBOUR MASTER



TO RECEIVE FUTURE NOTICES TO MARINERS BY **E-MAIL**,
PLEASE REGISTER VIA OUR WEBSITE www.pla.co.uk
Telephone calls, VHF radio traffic, CCTV and radar traffic images may
be recorded in the VTS Centres at Gravesend and Woolwich

