

CAUTION REQUIRED REGARDING VESSELS TURNING ABOUT

To ensure safe navigation, mariners are kindly reminded of the importance of practicing good seamanship and exercising utmost caution when executing turns in the river. It is essential that vessels in the proximity of those performing turning manoeuvres also exhibit equal levels of caution and vigilance.

A VESSEL TURNING

Any vessel turning is required by **Thames Byelaw 25.2** to ensure that the fairway is sufficiently clear for the manoeuvre so as **not to endanger or impede any other vessel**. Before commencing a turn, or instructing assisting tugs to manoeuvre, the mariner should ensure, by all available means, that there are **no vessels** which may be adversely affected by their movement. The sound signals prescribed in **Thames Byelaw 42** should be used to indicate the vessel's intentions.

A VESSEL PASSING A VESSEL TURNING

Notwithstanding the above, vessels intending to pass a vessel which is turning or about to turn should navigate with **particular caution**. They should be aware of the possible space required by a vessel turning, considering **wind and tidal conditions**. Assisting tugs may be using long tow lines resulting in a far larger swept path. Passing should be carried out at **a safe distance and safe speed** considering the effects of hydrodynamic interaction, wash and draw off.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT BY LONDON VTS

When a **reporting vessel** is turning off a berth, London VTS may manage traffic. If any vessel wishes to overtake or pass a vessel once its turn has commenced, London VTS may agree that passing can take place in one of the following circumstances:

- The turn is complete to such an extent that the pilot or PEC holder informs VTS that they permit through traffic under VTS traffic management.
- The turn is taking place clear of the navigational channel.
- The passing/overtaking vessel has sufficient room to pass the opposite side of the channel, or in the secondary channel, with permission from London VTS.

Any vessel intending to pass a reporting vessel which is turning, or about to turn, should make early contact with London VTS for instructions.

20/10/2023

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

ADAM LAYER
Harbour Master

EXPIRY DATE: 30/06/2024

TO RECEIVE FUTURE NOTICES TO MARINERS BY **E-MAIL**,
PLEASE REGISTER VIA OUR WEBSITE pla.co.uk/Subscription-to-Newsletter

Telephone calls, VHF radio traffic, CCTV and radar traffic images may be recorded in the
VTS Centres at Gravesend and Woolwich



View all Active Notice to Mariners
using the above QR Code