



Notice to Mariners

1 of 2026

Planning vessels under keel clearance to determine a maximum safe draft when loading to and from Drogheda Port

To: Owners, Operators, Managers, Masters, Pilots, Agents and Stevedores

When planning the vessels voyage and in particular the vessels under keel clearance to apply to determine a safe maximum draft, consideration should be given to the tidal predictions, anticipated weather and the sea conditions for Drogheda Port, its seaward approaches, river entrance and navigation channel.

The following weather conditions may influence the tidal predictions (depths) for Drogheda Port - River Boyne – seaward approaches, river entrance and navigation channel (ref: Drogheda Port Company Tidal Prediction):

- Northerly winds may reduce predicted depths while southerly winds may increase them.
- High barometric pressure may reduce the predicted depths.
- Near gale to storm events may reduce predicted depths at the seaward approaches/river entrance. This will occur particularly during periods of easterly to southeasterly near gales to storms event when wave action will stir up sediments at the seaward approaches particularly during the low water period, southeasterly near gale to storms events having the greatest impact.

Attention is drawn to vessels Masters in loading their vessels and determining a safe maximum draft of the need to allow for sufficient under keel clearance taking account the effects of dynamic squat and ships speed in the seaward approaches, river entrance and navigation channel, increase of draft due to heeling, rolling or pitching and interaction when navigating in shallow water.

In planning the voyage and in advance of arrival at Drogheda Port, Masters are also reminded to consult the appropriate nautical publications for tidal, berthing, e.t.a., and pilotage information ref: BA 1431 Cautionary Notes, Admiralty Publication NP 40, ALRS Volume 6(1), ALL Volume 'A', the Drogheda Port Company Tidal Predictions and Notices to Mariners.

Additionally, Masters are reminded of the SafeSeasIreland (SSI) pre-arrival reporting requirements in respect of ISPS, polluting cargoes, hazardous cargoes and the landing of ship and cargo generated waste.

Capt. Laurence Kirwan
Harbourmaster & Pilotage Superintendent
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