



## Falmouth Harbour Commissioners

**- Press Release-**

### **Skippers Warned About Dangers of Wash**

Falmouth's new Assistant Harbour Master has warned boat skippers to keep to the speed limit and be aware of the dangers of excessive wash affecting other water users.



Duncan Paul says safety is paramount as more and more people take up water-related hobbies.

All boats have the potential to generate waves, or wash, which can cause injury and damage to craft.

Speeding boats can create a dangerous wash, which could cause injury or damage to smaller boats, canoeists and other water users. Boats on moorings are particularly vulnerable to wash.

Assistant Harbour Master Duncan Paul, who is responsible for regulation in the harbour, explained: “Wash can have an impact on smaller vessels, causing them to move substantially, swamp with water or even capsize.

“For people sitting on their moorings, perhaps making a cup of tea, a sudden jerk could be quite dangerous and skippers are often unaware of the chaos left in their wake.

“We’d ask all boat skippers to make sure their wash isn’t causing inconvenience or danger to other vessels by sticking to the eight knot speed limit in the harbour. However we’d also like to remind skippers they are responsible for their wash in all areas, such as the Carrick Roads, whether there’s a speed limit or not.

“Good boat handling skills can also help reduce wash and improve fuel efficiency.”

It is an offence under the harbour byelaws to endanger others by navigating with insufficient care, which includes the generation of excessive wash where it may affect others.

Mr Paul said: “Safety has always been top on the list of priorities for Falmouth Harbour Commissioners. We are keen to encourage a wide variety of recreational activities and hope that people are aware of their environment and show consideration to what is going on around them.

“We want to prevent irresponsible behaviour and ask anyone that sees dangerous practice in the harbour to alert the relevant authority.”

Duncan Paul has experience commanding a variety of vessels, including freight ferries and gas tankers. Prior to joining FHC in June, he worked ashore as security manager for The Maersk Company in the UK and Ireland.

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