

Telephone (office hours): 0191 553 2100 (Capstan House)  
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E-mail: [Kristina.Petty@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:Kristina.Petty@sunderland.gov.uk)

Dear Boat-owner,

### “Wear Boat Safe Scheme”

You are receiving this letter as a boat-owner liable for the payment Harbour Dues for the year 2026/27.

The Port of Sunderland is committed to promoting the safe use of the harbour in accordance with its obligations under the Port Marine Safety Code, while at the same time adopting measures to enhance wider sea safety.

To support these objectives, the Port Board has agreed to offer pleasure boat owners subject to the payment of annual harbour dues, a **50 per cent discount** on charges payable, subject to compliance with the following **terms and conditions**:

1. That you agree to ensure that while your vessel is being used in the River Wear or at sea, the vessel will be equipped with basic safety equipment specified by the Harbour Master, namely:

- Anchor with warp / chain.
- Radar reflector.
- Horn / whistle.
- Man-overboard recovery equipment.
- Kill cord (if outboard engine is primary means of propulsion).
- Bailer / bucket.
- Hand bilge pump.
- VHF Marine radio (fixed or portable).
- Working torch or spot lamp.
- Fire extinguisher.
- First aid kit.
- Temporary hull repair kit.
- Approved lifejackets or buoyancy aids sufficient in number and suitable for all persons on board, including children.
- Illustrated table of recognised life-saving signals.
- **At least three** means for summoning assistance in the event of an emergency.

These may include:

- a. VHF Marine radio (fixed)
- b. VHF Marine radio (portable)
- c. VHF Marine radio (fixed) DSC
- d. VHF Marine radio (portable) DSC
- e. Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB)
- f. Personal Location Beacon (PLB)
- g. Pyrotechnics (Distress flares)



#### h. Mobile telephone

(A RNLI Water Safety Officer can advise on appropriate equipment in this respect at your “Sea Safety Seminar”)

**IMPORTANT: It should be noted that the above are absolute basic minimum requirements and should NOT be interpreted as being an exhaustive list of safety equipment which may be required in all circumstances.**

**It is a condition of the “Wear Boat Safe Scheme” that all equipment carried will be kept in a serviceable condition and be fit for purpose. It is strongly recommended that relevant expiry dates and service due dates are complied with.**

2. That since becoming the owner of the vessel, you have attended or have notified the local RNLI Water Safety Officer of your request to attend, the RNLI Sea Safety Seminar. Once you have attended the seminar, the RNLI Water Safety Officer will notify the Port of Sunderland directly confirming your attendance.

If you have previously received an RNLI ‘Advice Onboard’ certificate and the Port already holds a copy, you are not required to attend the Sea Safety Seminar.

3. The Port are aware that HM Coastguard’s former “Voluntary Safety Identification Scheme” (CG66) and the RYA “SafeTrx” app have both now been discontinued. Although there is no direct replacement scheme, HM Coastguard strongly recommends maintaining an up-to-date float plan, ensuring your vessel’s radio equipment is registered and serviceable, and carrying appropriate means of communication such as VHF DSC radio, EPIRB or PLB.

Documentary proof is not required, but any supporting information may be submitted if the owner wishes via email to [Kristina.Petty@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:Kristina.Petty@sunderland.gov.uk)

4. That all persons on board aged under 16 years of age will at all times when afloat wear an approved lifejacket or buoyancy aid.
5. That when using a tender or similar vessel for boarding or landing purposes, all persons on board the tender or similar vessel will wear an approved lifejacket or buoyancy aid.
6. You will allow the Harbour Master, his deputies or authorised assistants (including Water Patrol Officers) to inspect your vessel at any reasonable time within the statutory limits of the Port of Sunderland to ensure that items 1 and 4 of these terms and conditions are being complied with.

This does not apply unless the owner or person authorised by the owner is on board **and** the vessel is engaged on a voyage.



*For the purposes of these terms and conditions, a voyage includes: when a vessel is underway, ready to get underway, at anchor or on moorings immediately after a voyage.*

To qualify for harbour dues discount under the Wear Boat Safe Scheme, you should complete the online form Wear Boat Safe Scheme (MARINE 100) which can be found on the Port of Sunderland Website, by clicking the link [Wear Boat Safe Scheme – Fill in form](#) or scan the QR code below.



If the form is not fully completed, this could lead to your application for a discount being rejected. This should be submitted to coincide with the payment of your harbour dues.

If you are not the sole owner of your boat, you should first obtain the agreement of all other co-owners before completing the declaration. The person completing the declaration form is referred to as the nominated owner in such cases.

**IMPORTANT:** There is now only one form for registering with Wear Boat Safe Scheme. Please use only Form: **Marine 100 Ver 08**. This form must be used for initial (first) registration and for renewal provided the applicant has successfully registered for the previous financial year. All earlier forms should be destroyed / deleted to avoid any confusion.

Non-compliance with any of these terms and conditions may lead to disqualification from the benefit of discounted harbour dues in the next financial year and indefinitely should a subsequent non-compliance take place.

The provisions of the scheme are unique to an individual boat and are not transferrable.

Registered fishing vessels or other craft used for commercial purposes are not eligible for discounted dues.

To arrange a RNLI "Sea Safety Seminar, you should contact Mr Alan Dixon, RNLI Water Safety Officer by email at: [alandixon10@gmail.com](mailto:alandixon10@gmail.com). If you are a member of a boat club or berthed in Sunderland Marina, you should first liaise with your club secretary or Marine Activities Centre management (as appropriate) as group sessions may be arranged on your behalf. Confirmation of attendance will be provided directly to the Port of Sunderland by the RNLI Water Safety Officer, and therefore applicants do not need to upload certificates.



All personal details received will be held strictly in accordance with GDPR requirements.

The Port of Sunderland believes that the “Wear Boat Safe Scheme” will make a key contribution to water safety and drowning prevention. By signing up, boat owners can make considerable savings to help offset purchase costs of additional safety equipment.

While it is proposed to continue the scheme until further notice, the Port of Sunderland will keep these arrangements under review while reserving the right to discontinue the scheme or vary its terms and conditions in future years.

It should be noted that under future Port of Sunderland byelaws, it is intended that the provisions of item 1 of these terms and conditions will become mandatory in law for pleasure boats and small commercial vessels (subject to certain exemptions). In addition, a calling-in procedure has been introduced, requiring all vessels navigating within the harbour to notify Port Control (Sunderland LPS) by marine VHF radio. The Port currently anticipates that the new byelaws will be approved and brought into force around the summer. Once enacted, the finalised byelaws will be published on the Port of Sunderland website and made available for all harbour users to view.

All Wear Boat Safe Scheme applications must now be submitted **online** using the dedicated online Form. A QR code and direct link to the form will be provided for ease of access. The form is also available directly via the **Port of Sunderland website**. Applicants should ensure the form is fully completed, as incomplete submissions may result in the application being rejected.

Should you have any queries concerning this matter, please contact the Port of Sunderland Marine Services Manager

Phone 0191 553 2100

Email [Kristina.Petty@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:Kristina.Petty@sunderland.gov.uk)

*Note: If ownership of the boat has changed since submission of the original declaration, a new application must be made by completing the Wear Boat Safe Scheme Declaration Form (form MARINE 100Ver08) in full.*

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Hunt  
Port Director



Capt. AK Ullah  
Harbour Master

