An Roinn Iompair,
Turasóireachta agus Spóirt
Department of Transport,
Tourism and Sport

Marine Notice No. 17 of 2019

Notice to all Shipowners, Fishing Vessel Owners, Agents, Shipmasters, Skippers, Fishers, Yachtsmen and Seafarers

Safety of small vessels engaged in potting operations

The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport wishes to highlight a recent report published by the Marine Casualty Investigation Board on the fatal incident involving 'FV Julie Eleanor' on 22 November 2017. The full report may be obtained from the website of the Marine Casualty Investigation Board, www.mcib.ie.

In response to the Marine Casualty Investigation Board recommendation, the purpose of this Marine Notice is to remind users of small vessels of less than 15m in length, engaged in potting operations, that:

- Those engaged in non-commercial potting are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the Code of Practice for the Safe Operation of Recreational Craft and to comply with the statutory requirements highlighted by the Code, and heed the safety advice and recommendations of the Code.

- Those engaged in commercial potting should comply with the Code of Practice for the Design, Construction, Equipment and Operation of Small Fishing Vessels of less than 15m length overall. The Code sets out requirements and recommendations relating to safety on board small fishing vessels.

These Codes of Practice are available on the Department's website, www.dttas.gov.ie.

Suitable Personal Flotation Devices and Personal Locator Beacons should always be worn. Somebody ashore should be aware of where the boat is intending to operate and when it is expected to return. Vessels should have a suitable means of re-boarding in the event of a crew member falling overboard.

The Department wishes to highlight the increased risks involved with single person operation of such vessels. Owners / Skippers should carry out a risk assessment of the intended operations and take appropriate actions to reduce / mitigate the inherent risks that arise when nobody else is on-board to render assistance or to raise the alarm.

Marine Notices are issued purely for maritime safety and navigation reasons and should not be construed as conferring rights or granting permissions.

Irish Maritime Administration,
Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport,
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