



HARBOUR MASTER'S NOTICE 01 – 2023

Precautions During Weather Events

Harbour Masters Notice 02-2022 is hereby cancelled.

Port users are advised that the following requirements are in place for weather events. Port of Portland (POPL) does not provide Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) and does not maintain a continuous radio listening watch on VHF Channel 12 or 16.

Mooring Line Failure or Cargo Operation Stoppage

In the event that one or more mooring line/s fail or that cargo operation ceases due to vessels surging at berth the Master of the vessel shall notify the Duty Pilot or Harbour Master as soon as practicable:

DUTY PILOT: (03) 5525 2499
HARBOUR MASTER: 0439 209 120

The vessels agent is to provide a brief written report of the occurrence to shipping@portofportland.com.au by close of business the next working day. This shall detail the line that parted, where it parted and a brief overview of the weather conditions at the time.

Management of Mooring Lines

The Master of a vessel berthed at the Port of Portland is to ensure the crew are actively managing mooring lines at all times throughout the port call. Lines are to be regularly checked and kept under tension to ensure the vessel remains securely moored.

Weather Information

Section 17 of [Harbour Masters Directions](#) details that the Master shall ensure that the prevailing weather conditions are continuously monitored and that up-to-date weather forecasts are obtained.

Weather information for the Port of Portland is available from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) website and coastal weather forecasts are available from (<http://www.bom.gov.au/vic/forecasts/westcoast.shtml>).

More detailed weather information is available from the BOM Meteye web site (<http://www.bom.gov.au/australia/meteye/>)

Marine Radio Victoria provide radio weather services on VHF channel 67.

Wind Warnings

BOM issues the following wind warnings;

Warning	Wind Range
Strong wind warning	Winds averaging from 26 knots and up to 33 knots
Gale warning	Winds averaging from 34 knots and up to 47 knots
Storm force wind warning	Winds averaging from 48 knots and up to 63 knots
Hurricane force wind warning	Winds averaging 64 knots or more

Table 1 Summary of Wind Warnings

BOM also issue warnings for severe weather and sever thunderstorms. More information can be found on the BOM website.

Port of Portland will communicate weather warning through the vessel's agent via email.

Infragravity Waves (Long Period Swell)

The port experiences the effects of infragravity waves (long period swell). Infragravity waves are surface ocean waves that have a shorter period than wind generated waves. Infragravity waves are not visible to the eye in open water but can significantly affect a vessel at berth. The waves will cause the vessel to surge alongside the berth which can lead to mooring lines parting and increase the risk of breakaway. At KSA1, KSA2, Berth 5 and the Smelter berth vessels will surge (range) along the berth. At Berth 6 the vessel will develop a corkscrew motion.

POPL will issue specific warnings for infragravity waves and will assist in preparing vessels for the onset of infragravity waves. Preparations will include doubling up spring lines, ensuring that head and stern lines have sufficient lead. Where the severity of the event requires, some or all vessels maybe required to depart the port.

During periods where the port is experiencing infragravity waves, it is critical that the master of a vessel alongside ensure that;

- Mooring lines are continuously monitored and are kept tensioned
- All mooring line failures are reported to the Duty Pilot or Harbour Master
- And stoppage of cargo operations due to the movement of the vessel is to be reported to the Duty Pilot or Harbour Master

Grain vessels loading between April and September are to be cognisant of infragravity wave events and prepare load plans, so that they can, at short notice be brought to a stable condition as per the International Grain Code, to depart the port if required.

Vessels at Anchor in Portland Bay

The anchorage in Portland Bay is outside of the port waters of the Port of Portland. During weather events the anchorage provides limited shelter and has a lee shore. POPL will advise the masters of vessels at anchor of the forecasted conditions and recommend they clear the anchorage and ride out the weather event further out to sea.

Where a vessel chooses to remain, it is recommended that the ship:

- Has its main engines immediately ready to start.
- Anchors with 7 shackles on deck.
- Has sufficient propeller emersion that should it choose to depart the anchorage after the onset of the wind and swell, it can get underway to clear the anchorage.

Where a vessel drags its anchor, it should get underway and clear the anchorage.

For further information contact the Harbour Master.

Andrew Hays
Harbour Master / Marine Manager

15 November 2023