

General Direction 3

Diving and Swimming in Harbour Areas, Approach Channels and around the Coast of Jersey

Directions to Divers and Swimmers in St Helier Port Limits

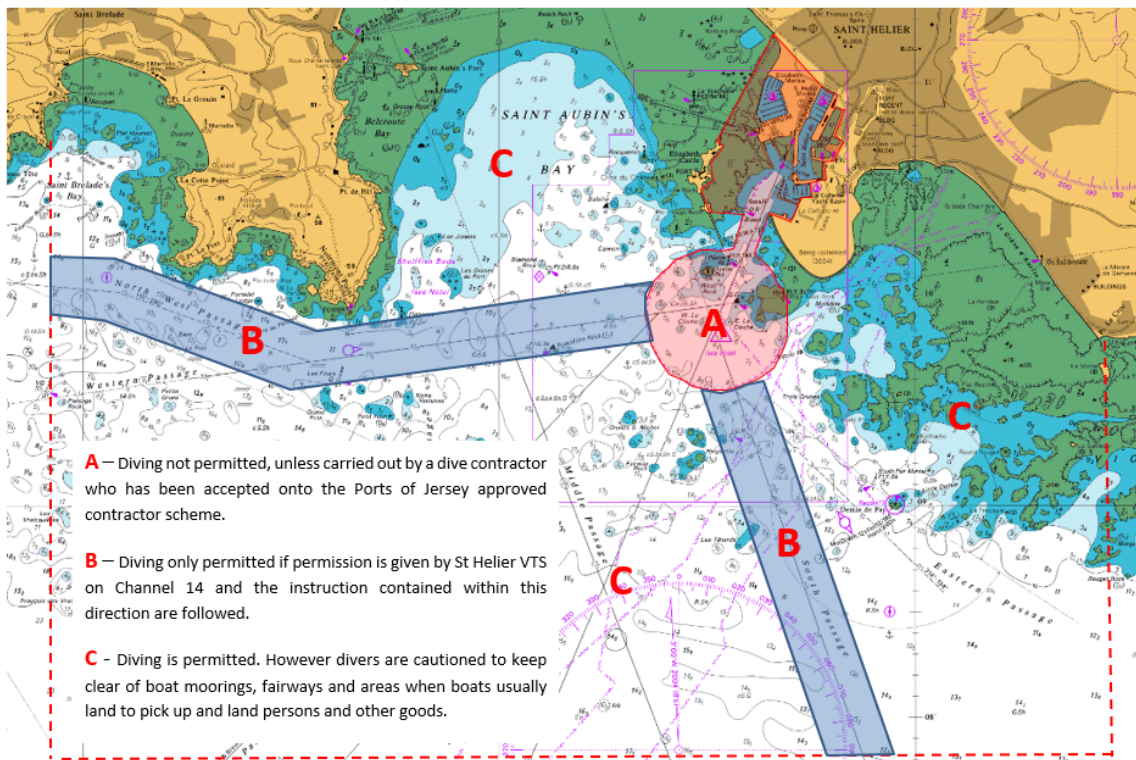
1. Mariners, divers and swimmers are warned of the dangers of undertaking diving operations within the Port of St Helier in the Precautionary Areas, Narrow Channels, and Fairways.
2. The Port Limits of St Helier are indicated below by the dashed red below and are described further in General Direction number 8.
3. A number of Jersey/UK codes of practice relate to diving operations. Attention is drawn specifically to the Jersey Approved Code of Practice for Recreational Diving Projects at

<http://www.gov.je/Industry/HealthSafetyWork/HSI/Legislation/ApprovedCodesPractice/Pages/RecreationaIDivingProjects.aspx>

and the UK Approved Codes of Practice on the HSE website at

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/diving/acop.htm>

4. St Helier is a busy commercial port where due to the proximity of navigational hazards large commercial vessels are required to approach the port along charted Narrow Channels and Fairways and have limited ability to manoeuvre outside of these areas.
 5. Once inside the harbour restricted manoeuvring space and limited under keel clearance means that commercial vessels are unable to deviate from their planned approach.
 6. This poses a real danger to divers and swimmers and in order to mitigate this danger the Harbour Authority requires that within the port limits of St Helier the separation of commercial vessels, divers and swimmers is controlled.
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Area A

7. Diving and swimming in the harbour and its approaches is prohibited unless under the direct control of the Harbour Authority. Commercial diving can only be conducted by contractors who are on the Ports of Jersey approved contractor list. Ports of Jersey operate a Commercial Dive Permit system for this area and approved contractors are required to apply for and obtain permission via a valid permit before any commercial diving takes place.

8. Details of the process required to become an approved contractor are available from Ports Safety Officer Maritime House, La Route du Port Elizabeth, St Helier, Jersey, JE1 1HB. A Commercial Dive Permit can be arranged through St Helier VTS or the Marine Operations Department at the same address.

9. Consideration may be given to swimming events or recreational diving projects, however this will be on a case by case basis and because of the potentially hazardous nature of the area permission is unlikely to be given unless an application is made in good time and a full event and method statement is put together in accordance with ACOP 7.

Area B

10. Due to the movement of large commercial vessels in this area diving and swimming is not permitted unless prior permission is given by St Helier VTS on channel 14.

11. Permission will only be given during times when commercial vessels are not operating and dive teams will be required to operate with a guard vessel maintaining a listening watch on channel 14 whilst exhibiting a rigid replica of the International Code flag "A" not less than 1 metre in height.

12. Dive teams must use a Surface Marker Buoy (SMB) at all times, The SMB will be used to give a warning to other craft, however it does not give the divers right of way.

Area C

13. Permission is not required to dive in this area however divers and swimmers are reminded to keep clear of boat moorings, fairways and areas where boats usually land to pick up and land persons and other goods.

14. If drift diving, dive teams must avoid drifting into area B, if they are in any doubt that this may be occurring the guard boat should contact St Helier VTS immediately on Channel 14.

15. Dive teams should use a Surface Marker Buoy (SMB) at all times, The SMB will be used to give a warning to other craft, however it does not give the divers right of way.

16. Vessels must not be left unattended at anchor when diving.

Directions to other Commercial Divers Operating in St Helier Port Limits

17. Commercial Diving not Covered by the Authorised Contractor List.

18. There are other forms of commercial diving such as scallop diving that take place inside St Helier Port Limits which are not covered by the PoJ approved contractor scheme

19. To ensure adequate separation between commercial vessels and divers the Harbour Authority allows this type of diving in area C only provided that divers comply with and self-regulate in accordance with the appropriate UK HSE Approved Codes of Practice.

20. Divers are required to inform St Helier VTS on channel 14 when they enter and exit the water.

Vessels Requiring Services of a Diver Team

21. If a vessel requires the services of a dive team for routine maintenance or for urgent repair they can only employ a contractor who has been accepted on to the Ports of Jersey approved contractor list.

22. If the vessel has a preferred contractor who has not been accepted onto the scheme that contractor can apply to be accepted by contacting Ports Safety Officer Maritime House, La Route du Port Elizabeth, St Helier, Jersey, JE1 1HB

23. It is not acceptable for a recreational diver to carry out any work (for example clearing a fouled propeller) on any commercial vessel within the Port Limits of St Helier even if no payment is to be received.

Outlying Harbours

24. Swimming and diving is permitted in the Outlying Harbours. However swimmers and divers are cautioned to keep clear of boat moorings, fairways and areas when boats usually land to pick up and land persons and other goods.

Tombstoning and jumping from the piers

25. Tombstoning is the act of jumping in a straight vertical posture into the sea or other body of water from a high jumping platform, such as a cliff or pier. It is strictly prohibited anywhere in St Helier Harbour for safety operational reasons.

Pier jumping is discouraged but not prohibited in the outlying harbours because of the risks of shallow water and the possibility of hitting a boat entering or leaving close to the pier heads. If persons want to pier jump off Ports of Jersey piers they do so at their own risk. Single jumpers are strongly discouraged, but if groups wish engage in this activity they should post a look out for moving vessels and check the water depth before doing so. Care should be taken to avoid interfering with private boat moorings.

Long Distance and around island swims

26. Applications for long distance and “around the island” swimming events are to be made to Jersey Coastguard. Swimmers are to be accompanied by a guard boat and Jersey Coastguard is to be advised immediately before the event commences and updates on progress provided.



Captain Bill Sadler

Harbour Master, Jersey Harbours
