

LOCAL MARINE NOTICE

Number: 15-2019 Date: 28 May 2019

SAFETY NOTICE - SMALL BOAT USERS

Date: 28 May 2019
AUS Chart: AUS 51

Recently the occupants of a small recreational vessel were endangered when their vessel broke down in the shipping channel whilst trying to cut across the bow of a ship transiting the channel.

Masters of private and recreational vessels are advised that most commercial vessels transiting the channel between the berths and Entrance Point are unable to deviate from their course because of their draft and the proximity of shallow waters on either side of the channel.

Such vessels often have limited visibility and an extensive blind spot directly ahead of the vessel due to the length of the vessels and or cargo or other obstructions on the deck and also, are unable to stop quickly. Their navigation is hampered also by the extreme tidal currents in that part of the port.

Stopping or anchoring in the channel should be avoided. If crossing the channel when a larger vessel is in transit it is prudent to adjust your course so as to pass astern rather than ahead of the vessel operating in the channel.

The Port Authority supports recreation boating and seeks to share the natural amenity of our port, the Port's prime focus is safety for all mariners and their vessels.

Carefully considering your options and acting wisely will result in a much safer and enjoyable day on the water.



Lindsay Copeman
HARBOURMASTER

Marine and other port users are requested to notify the Kimberley Ports Authority on the discovery of new dangers or suspected dangers to navigation.