

NOTICE TO MARINERS No 25 - 2024

Severe Weather Guidance for Masters of Vessels Moored at Any Berth in the Cromarty Firth

This guidance is designed to ensure that all vessels berthed at any facility in the Cromarty Firth are adequately prepared in the event of a forecast significant weather event.

Port of Cromarty Firth receives twice daily local weather forecasts from the UK Met Office. These are available on request from Port Radio.

If winds are forecast to be in excess of 40kts from any direction or if there is a named storm forecast for the Cromarty Firth area, our Duty Marine Manager will contact the vessel to ensure the following is in place:

- The vessel Bridge to be manned by a responsible officer and the Master to be on call for the duration of the weather event.
- Propulsion to be on-line or at reasonable state of readiness
- Mooring ropes to be constantly monitored.
- Additional mooring ropes to be deployed if deemed necessary. Be aware of bollard capacities and normally no more than 2 mooring ropes per bollard.
- Where used, Yokohama fenders to be monitored around High Water times. Be aware of the possibility of fenders over-topping onto the quayside during very high spring tides.
- Ships gangway to be constantly monitored or recovered to the ship if deemed necessary.
- Consideration to be given to sailing to sea in advance of extreme weather.

Harbour tug assistance may be available but should be confirmed in advance via local agents. This normally requires 24 hours' notice but may be available at shorter notice.

Please be aware there is 24/7 access to our Duty Marine Manager through Port Radio on VHF CH11 or on 01349 852308 for local advice. We also have 24/7 access to a Met Office weather forecaster.

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