



NOTICE TO MARINERS NO. 4/20

Upper Severn Estuary

British Admiralty chart no. 1166 (A & B)

Approaches to Sharpness Dock – temporary variation to minimum underkeel clearance requirements

1. Significant changes have been observed in both the extent and height of the sands west of the entrance to Sharpness Dock. In order to maintain adequate underkeel clearance it may be necessary for vessels to "swing" in an area further NW of the piers. This time taken to complete the manoeuvre and come to a position alongside the pier will thus increase.
2. An accretion of mud/sand between the entrance piers (the "bellmouth") is affecting the manoeuvring of vessels with minimal underkeel clearances has been noted, with extra time being required to complete the passage into the basin.
3. For the reasons outlined above, and in order to ensure that vessels may manoeuvre safely to enter the port, the minimum underkeel clearance (above sill) required to enter the port is increased to 1.2m until such time as it can be confirmed that the extent and height of the sands in the approaches to the port and within the bellmouth no longer require such additional clearance.

Owners, Agents and Charterers should ensure that the contents of this Notice are made known to the Masters or persons in charge of their vessels or craft.

M Johnson
Harbourmaster/Marine Officer

L Kneale
Harbourmaster Sharpness Port Authority

18 March 2020.