

**Local Notice to Mariners****Number 100 of 2025****16/09/2025****Port of Southampton Designated Watersports Areas**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Port of Southampton is a busy and well-established commercial port that is heavily used by a variety of leisure craft. To try and deconflict commercial and leisure activities there are certain Watersports Zones that have been established. It is important that all users are aware of the appropriate areas to operate within, and the rules which apply to their use. These area's do not take away the responsibility of vessel operators to always operate safely and with due regard to all other water users from swimmers to commercial ships.

**Speed Limits**

As per the Southampton Byelaws

- (1) There is a speed limit of 6 knots which applies to all craft proceeding north of the imaginary line drawn from Hythe Pier to Weston Shelf Buoy as can be seen in Figure 1 below.
- (2) No person shall operate a personal watercraft at a speed greater than 6 knots over the ground within 200 metres of Mean High Water Springs on either side of Southampton Water in the area hatched black on the map annexed to these Byelaws. (Map shown below)
- (3) Outside of the above two areas, a 40 knot speed limit applies within Southamptons SHA

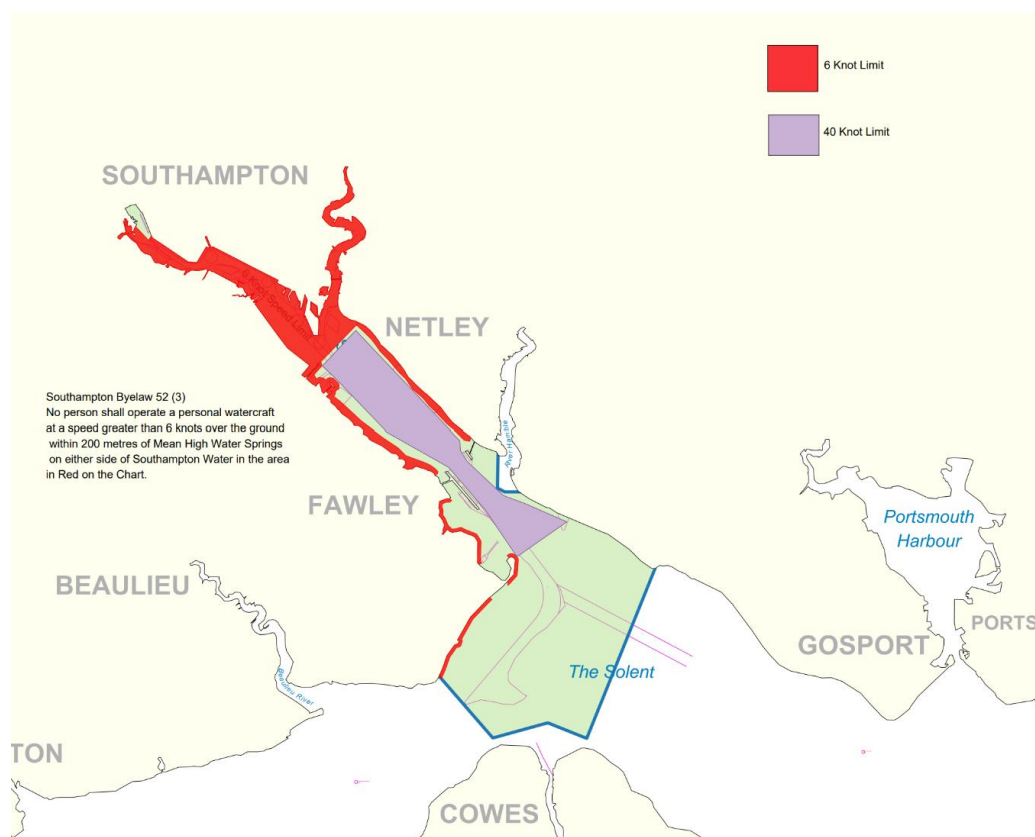
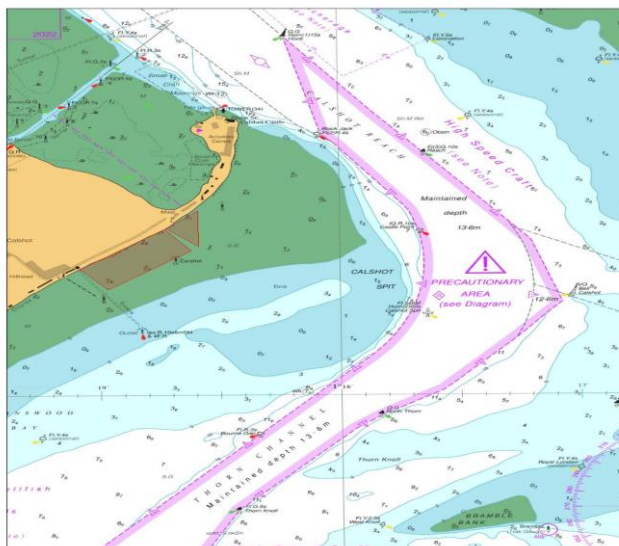


Figure 1 Southampton Speed Limits



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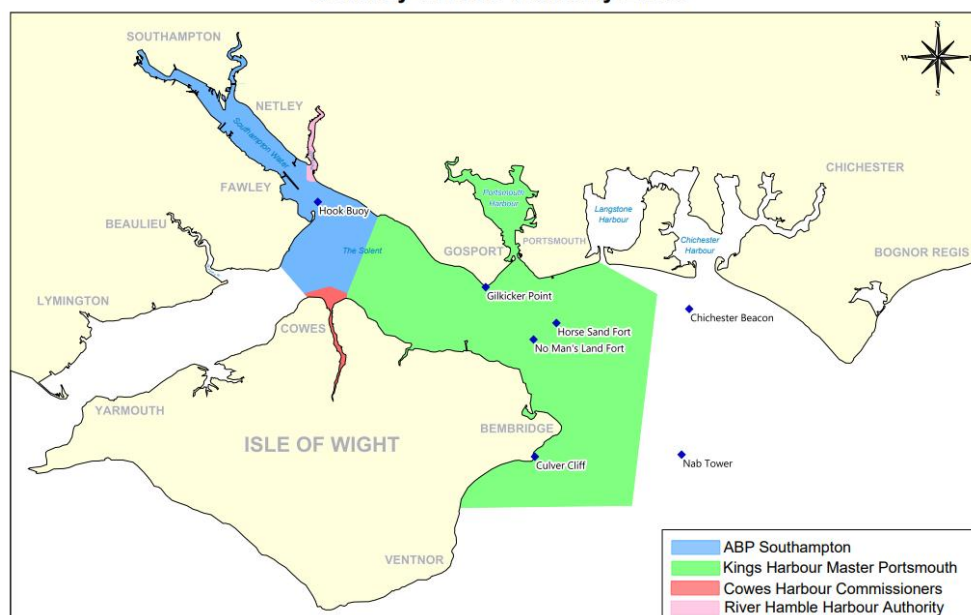


### Southampton Byelaws – Water skiing, aquaplaning, power boat racing, paragliding etc

No person shall engage or take part in water skiing, aquaplaning, paragliding, power boat racing, parachute towing or any similar activity, except with the written permission of the Harbour Master given either specifically or generally and only in such areas as may be designated by the Harbour Master and in accordance with such reasonable

[The Southampton Harbour Byelaws 2003](#) and the 2025 [General Directions](#) stipulate the legal rules that must be followed within the Port limits. Be advised that breaches in the Harbour Byelaws and General Directions may result in prosecution or enforcement actions. The ABP Southampton Statutory Harbour Area to which these legal rules apply is shown below (represented by the blue area).

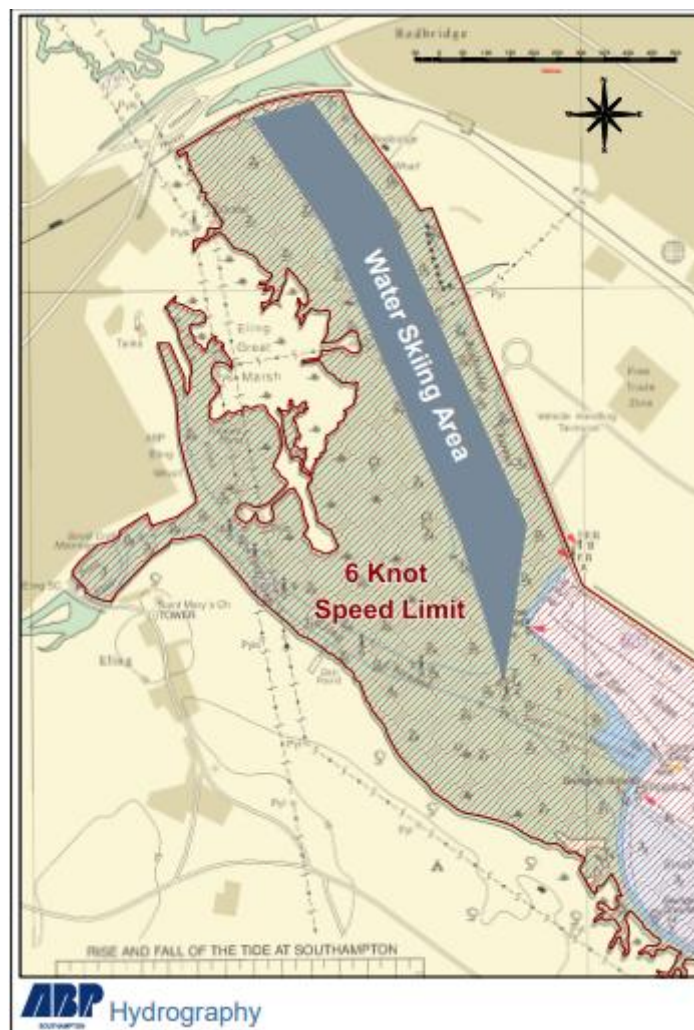
### Statutory Harbour Authority Limits



Local Notices to Mariners may be amended or withdrawn at any time. Check Southampton VTS Website for the latest list of notices in force. Owners, Agents, Charterers, Marinas, Yacht Clubs and Recreational Sailing Organisations should ensure that the contents of this Notice are made known to the masters or persons in charge of their vessels or craft.

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**Local Notice to Mariners****Eling Waterski Area**

Waterskiing is only permitted within the Port Limits in the designated area shown above.

The waterski area at Eling is useable from approximately 1 hour before, until 2 hours after the 1<sup>st</sup> high water. There are some obstructions in the area, many of which are partially submerged, therefore large-scale admiralty charts should be consulted before use. The area extends from Totton Bypass bridge to Horse Head Buoy at the end of Southampton Container Terminal. The channels and areas surrounding this charted area are not permitted for waterskiing.

For the avoidance of doubt, personal watercraft/ jet skis, ribs, and other power craft (not involved in water skiing) must comply with the 6-knot speed limit throughout this entire area.

**Steven Masters,  
Harbour Master**