



NOTICE TO MARINERS

HP/955/198 – NTM 21/13

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Avoidance of Vessel Conflict at Recognised and Chartered Anchorage Areas

It has been reported that in recent years there have been instances where mariners legitimately at anchor at recognised and chartered anchorage areas, have been requested by Masters of Caledonian MacBrayne RoRo ferries to reposition their vessels to allow sufficient sea-room for the safe passage of the ferry to approach and depart Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) harbour areas and to avoid a possible close-quarters situation or risk of collision.

The chosen course for RoRo ferries approaching or departing CMAL ports is primarily determined by the prevailing weather conditions or circumstances and local navigational constraints. While every attempt is made by Masters to avoid selection of a course which may pass close to recognised anchorage areas there may be occasions when this is unavoidable.

Mariners are advised to be aware of the possibility of such situations occurring, particularly during periods of inclement weather, at the following recognised anchorage locations:

Castlebay, Barra:	56° 57.204N	007° 29.457W
Lochboisdale, South Uist :	57° 08.815N	007° 16.466W
Tarbert (Harris) :	57° 53.523N	006° 46.998W

Mariners are therefore requested to consider their proximity to ferry routes when anchoring or mooring vessels or boats of any description to either permanent or temporary moorings in such a position which may conflict with the passage of any vessels approaching or leaving any piers, jetties or quays within CMAL areas of jurisdiction.

Should any mariners experience such situations at the above-named locations or elsewhere in the vicinity of CMAL harbour areas, it is requested the circumstances are reported to CalMac Ferries Ltd port operations staff who will thereafter forward the information for the attention of the CMAL Harbour Master.

Further work is currently on-going in consultation with UK Hydrographic Office to assess the accuracy of charted information within and near to CMAL harbour areas and to improve published information with regard to ferry operations.

Further information can be obtained using the contact details.

David McHardie
Harbour Master
Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited