

Towage Guidelines

Issue: Three

These Towage Guidelines are given by Mostyn Docks Limited for the use of vessels using the Port of Mostyn.

The Port of Mostyn is a riverside facility that is approached from seaward through a narrow buoyed channel, navigation is hampered by the proximity of shoals and sandbanks. For vessels operating without a pilot extensive local knowledge is essential.

Tug assistance is generally not required for self propelled vessels navigating the buoyed channels, except for vessels having a minimal underkeel clearance, who may be advised to have a passive escort in order to mitigate grounding and stranding risk.

High sided vessels having a large windage area will require tug assistance for swinging, berthing and un-berthing, except for such vessels that have a proven ability to operate safely without tug assistance in the wind conditions in which they intend to berth / un-berth.

There are no tugs stationed at the port therefore any vessel requiring towage assistance is responsible for securing these services elsewhere, ensuring the suitability of the tug or tugs for the intended purpose and seeking **approval** for their use from the Harbour Master. **Approval for use of a tug or tugs is requested from the Harbour Master by completing the “Application for Approval to Conduct Towage Operations in the Port of Mostyn”.** **Towage operations may only be conducted by approved vessels strictly in accordance with the any conditions or limitations specified in such approval.**

Barges, pontoons, Jack-up Rigs, and other floating objects, having no means of propulsion and which are under tow, are required to have a second tug in attendance when transiting the Mostyn Channel. Except that where the combined length overall of the object being towed and the towing vessel is less than 50 metres, a second tug may not be required other than in adverse weather conditions.

Movement restrictions may apply during adverse weather, depending on vessel type, wind strength and direction as well as wave height. Prior to commencing a movement during adverse weather, consultation with Mostyn Local Port Service is essential.

Movements into and out of Mostyn, including towage operations are not allowed to commence during periods of restricted visibility, or when restricted visibility is forecast to occur during the operation. For the purposes of this document visibility is restricted in the Mostyn Channel when the person conducting the movement of a vessel is unable to see at least two of the aids to navigation in Mostyn Channel.

Whenever practicable pilots authorised by the Port of Mostyn are to carry out at least one towage operation per annum aboard a tug.