

Hythe (Southampton) Sailing Club

Beach Master Guidelines

SAFETY FIRST !

Introduction

Whenever a launching or recovery procedure takes place on the Club's slipway, by utilising mechanical means, a Beach Master **must** be nominated. The Beach Master is the communication link between the Tractor Driver and the boats crews and controls the movement of personnel into and out of the danger zone. The reason for this procedure is to establish the highest safety levels for this potentially dangerous operation.

Beach Master Credentials

In a sequence of several boats launching or recovering, the Beach Master can be different for each launch/recovery. The Beach Master may be nominated by the Tractor Driver or the Boats Crew but **must** have good experience in the method of launching & recovering cruisers on the slipway at the Club.

The Beach Master should have sound leadership skills and **must** be able to make themselves heard.

Procedure

The Beach Master will:-

- Study these guidelines and the Risk Assessment (attached) prior to the operation.
- Liaise with the Tractor Driver(s) - who will dictate the order of launch/recovery.
- Agree a set of hand signals with tractor driver, prior to commencing activities.
(It is not possible to hear over the engine)
- Be responsible for the placement of all **“Safety Barrier and “Warning Notices”** establishing the danger zone.
- Brief the Boats Crew(s) and chain/ chock / steering arm personnel on safety aspects of the procedure including alarms and hand signals.
- Control the movement of people inside the barriers, and the Small Tractor.
- Ensure that crew members use a ladder to board their boat rather than climb up the trolley.
- Ensure everyone is clear before the tractor driver begins to start the trailer moving.

Multiple Slipway Operations

If there is dinghy racing at the same time, the Beach Master will liaise with the OOD on access to the Slipway. If the wind is favourable, dinghies should be dressed in the Dinghy Pound.

If there is sail training at the same time the Beach Master will liaise with the Sail Training co-ordinator on access to the Slipway.

Most Importantly

Whilst mechanical launches/recoveries are taking place the Danger Zone area is under the control of the Beach Master at all times.

Phil Pascoe
Vice Commodore
Chair Moorings & Pound Sub Committee