



Shannon Estuary Advice to Leisure Users

- Communications is the key to safety
- Port VHF Channel is Ch. 11 - it is strongly recommended you keep a listening watch on Ch. 11
- When you encounter Commercial traffic either ahead or astern of you - contact vessel on Ch. 11 to indicate your intentions.
- Buoys in the Estuary are there to mark the Channel for Commercial shipping which cannot move outside its limits
- Leisure craft are obliged to give way to Commercial Shipping
- Most shipping movements between Airport and Limerick take place from 2 hours before Highwater up to Highwater
- Elsewhere in Estuary movements can occur at anytime

Remember: -

- Currents can be very strong in the Estuary
- Wind can adversely effect Sea State.
- INBOUND - Keep all Green Buoys and Marks to Starboard
- OUTBOUND - Keep all Red Buoys and Marks to Starboard
- Commercial vessels due to the nature of the Channel will not necessarily proceed from Buoy to Buoy.
- Commercial vessels may be proceeding faster than you realise

Safety: -

- Ensure your craft is suitable and properly equipped for a passage on the Estuary - in particular VHF and Radar Reflector
- You are advised to avail of the RNLI "sea-check" before transiting the Estuary.
- Do not take alcohol before or during a transit of the Estuary.
- Understanding Sound Signals: -

In certain situations a Commercial Vessel may use sound signals which are explained as follows

<i>1 Short blast</i>	<i>Altering to Starboard</i>
<i>2 Short blasts</i>	<i>Altering to Portside</i>
<i>3 Short blasts</i>	<i>Going Astern</i>
<i>5 or more Short blasts</i>	<i>Keep Clear</i>

This practical advice is offered to ensure your safety and enjoyment on the Estuary.

In an emergency call "Shannon Coastguard" on Ch. 16