

FORTH PORTS LIMITED

P No 26 of 2013

04th September 2013

NOTICE TO MARINERS FIRTH OF FORTH

VOLUNTARY TOWAGE ENDORSEMENT

As part of an industry wide consultation the MCA have produced a Voluntary Towage Endorsement Scheme, detailed in MGN 468, published in March 2013 which allows the owners and operators of vessels engaged in towage work to demonstrate that the individuals operating the vessels are suitably experienced and competent to carry out such work.

As required by the Forth Ports Authority Order Confirmation Act 1969 all craft engaged in towage operations on the River Forth are required to obtain a Forth Ports Towage Licence prior to carrying out any towage operations.

To enable Forth Ports to be confident that the Master's of all licensed tugs on the Forth are appropriately qualified and experienced as well as increasing the safety of navigation on the River, all Masters of tugs holding a Forth Ports Towage Licence will in future be required to hold a Certificate of Competency (CoC) to STCW standards or Boatmaster License with the appropriate towage endorsement.

The above applies to General Towage (towing and pushing), however Forth Ports expect all tugs that engage in ship assist towage to be operated by STCW certificated masters.

Guidance in relating to the Voluntary Towage Endorsement Scheme can be found within the MCA MGN 468 (M).

R BAKER
Chief Harbour Master