



## **Poole Harbour** **Roosting Sites Code of Practice**

To prevent disturbance to breeding and roosting bird species and promote the protection of supporting breeding habitat within specific areas of Poole Harbour the points listed below should be observed by any person carrying out dredge fishing activity within Poole Harbour between 25<sup>th</sup> May and 23<sup>rd</sup> December:

- Avoid fishing in close proximity to saltmarsh areas
- When moving around areas of saltmarsh keep speed to a maximum of 6 knots
- Avoid landing or disembarking on any saltmarsh area
- Avoid contact between a vessel and any part of the saltmarsh
- When operating in areas defined under section 5.4 of the Poole Harbour Dredge permit during the period when these areas are open between 1<sup>st</sup> July and 1<sup>st</sup> November avoid excessive noise, beyond that caused by deployment of gear

Additionally, between 25<sup>th</sup> May and 1<sup>st</sup> July each year, to avoid disturbance to Mediterranean Gull (*Larus melanocephalus*), a feature of the Poole Harbour Special Protection Area (SPA), in the area of Seagull Island, any person carrying out dredge fishing activity within Poole Harbour should observe the following:

- Avoid dredge fishing between the three parts of Seagull Island
- Avoid contact between a vessel and any part of Seagull Island
- Avoid landing or disembarking on any part of Seagull Island

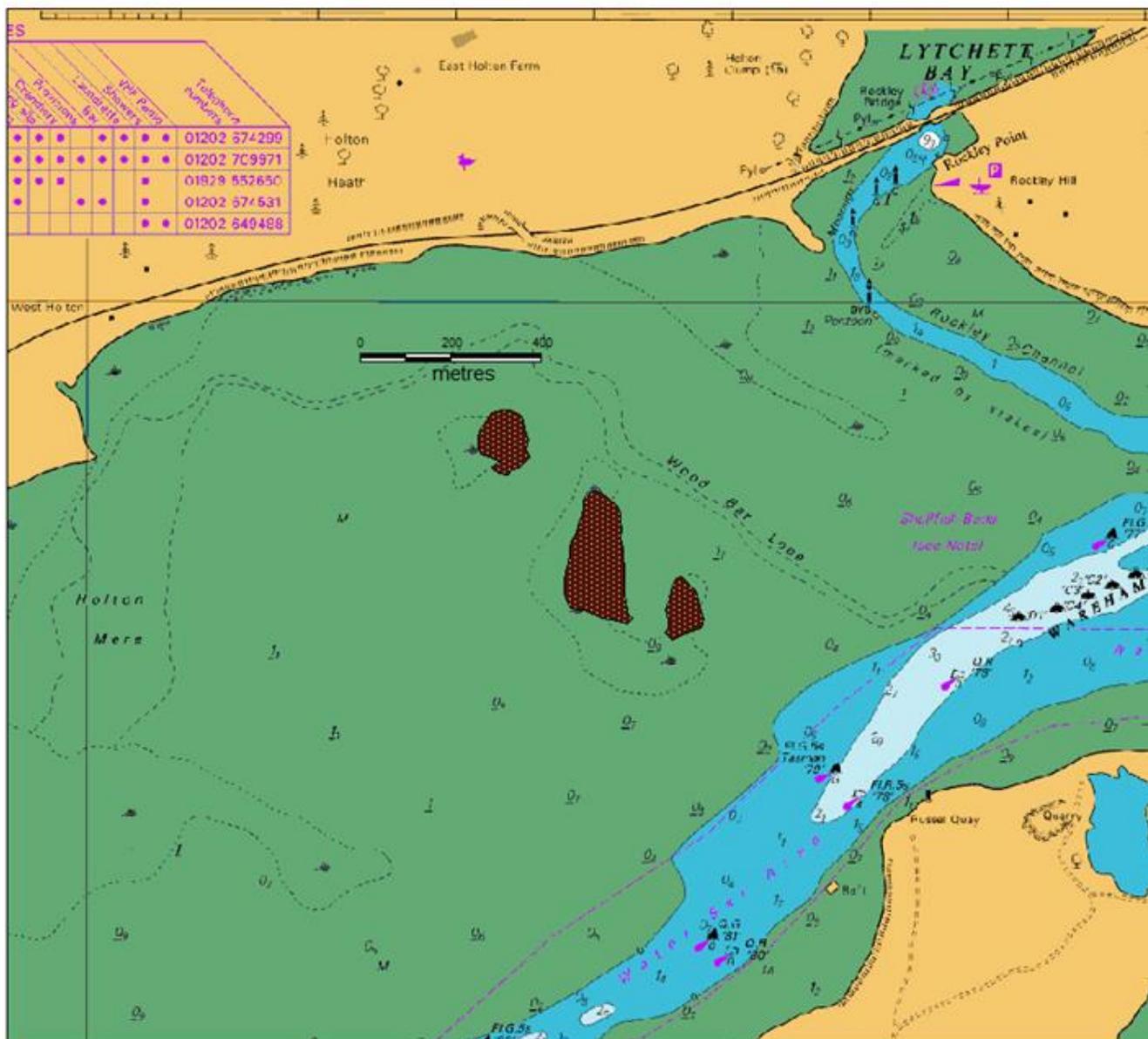
- When moving around or between parts of Seagull Island keep speed to a maximum of 6 knots
- Avoid excessive noise, beyond that caused by deployment of gear, when in close proximity to any part of Seagull Island

### Explanatory Note

*This Code of Practice (CoP) aims to avoid disturbance to breeding and roosting bird species and promote protection of supporting breeding habitat within specific areas of Poole Harbour with particular reference to avoiding disturbance to the Mediterranean Gull (*Larus melanocephalus*) during the key breeding period of 1<sup>st</sup> April to 1<sup>st</sup> July in the area of Seagull Island where a large colony of this species is known to breed each year. By following the advice provided, fishermen will minimise the disturbance impact to this feature of the Poole Harbour SPA, a European Marine Site (EMS). The IFCA has a duty under the Habitats Directive 2010 to ensure that fishing activity does not disturb or have an adverse effect on the wildlife for which an EMS is legally protected.*

*This CoP was developed as a first alternative to a regulatory permit condition under the Poole Harbour Dredge Permit Byelaw as the disturbance can potentially be minimised through small changes to fishing practice.*

**Poole Harbour, Seagull Island Extent:**



**Legend**

 Seagull Island

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