

(No. S.H. 14)

RIVER HUMBER

V.H.F. COMMUNICATIONS

The attention of Mariners is drawn to paragraph 8 of Standing Notice to Mariners No. S.H. 3 and to the Marine Safety Agency, *MGN 22 (M + F)* which remains in force.

Vessels engaged in berthing and docking manoeuvres are experiencing considerable difficulties in maintaining efficient communications between the ship, tugs and shore based personnel due to excessive use being made of V.H.F. radio for non essential communications. The loss of communications between the ship, tugs and shore-based personnel at the critical stage of a manoeuvre could result in a serious and hazardous situation developing.

The co-operation of Mariners is sought in exercising strict telephone discipline and by attention to procedure in accordance with that laid down in the British Telecom International Handbook for Radio Operators (1985 Edition). In particular Section 159 of the Handbook states that communications on port operations channels must be restricted to those relating to operational handling, the movement and the safety of ships and, in emergency, the safety of persons. Communications on ship movement channels must be restricted to those relating to the movement of ships. Public correspondence messages are excluded from the service.

Section 13 stipulates that all stations are forbidden to carry out unnecessary transmissions and the transmission of superfluous signals. The unauthorised use of radio apparatus for the transmission or reception of correspondence of a private nature is strictly prohibited.

**CAPT. P.P. HAMES,
HARBOUR MASTER, HUMBER**

1st January 2001