



COWES HARBOUR COMMISSION

LOCAL NOTICE TO MARINERS No. 16(T) of 2026

Drifter Float Trials

Notice is hereby given jointly by the Cowes Harbour Master and ABP Southampton Harbour Master that the University of Southampton will be undertaking Drifter Trials in various locations in the Central and Western Solent between **Tuesday 16 and Wednesday 17 June 2026**. The trials will start at **0900hrs** and finish at approximately **1800hrs**.

The lightweight drifters/floats will be deployed for short observations of approximately a 30 minute duration in the following locations and as seen in Figure 1:

- Off Cowes Green
- Gilkicker
- Calshot Beach
- Lepe Spit

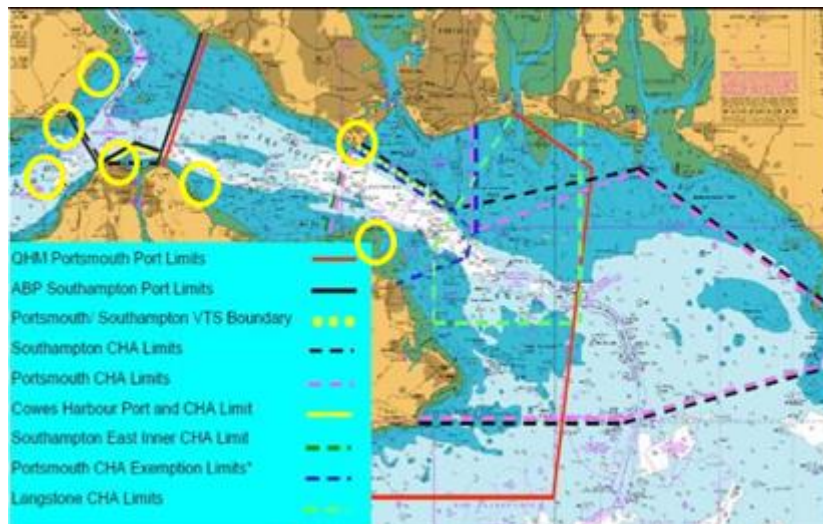


Figure 1: Drifter Trial Locations across the Solent

The aim of the trials is to gain better predictability of the tidal stream with the Solent to aid future modelling for emergency services in SAR incidents. A picture of the drifters that will be deployed are as seen below:



The vessel both deploying and recovering the drifter floats, and acting as Safety Boat, is the RHIB 'Rebel Protector' (LOA 9m) MMSI 232029921 Call Sign MICH3.

Vessels will display lights and shapes as required by the COLREGS and will maintain a listening watch on VHF Channel 11,12 and 16. Mariners are advised to keep clear as safe navigation permits, passing with slow speed and minimum wash. Additional information can be requested from "Southampton VTS" on Channel 12.

This local notice to mariners will self-cancel at 2359 on 18 June 2026.

Jon Kidd

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15 June 2026

Owners, Agents, Charterers, Marinas, Yacht Clubs and Recreational Sailing Organisations should ensure that the contents of this Notice are made known to the masters or persons in charge of their vessels or craft.