



COWES HARBOUR COMMISSION

LOCAL NOTICE TO MARINERS No. 22(T) of 2026

University of Southampton - Drifter Float Trials

Notice is hereby given that the University of Southampton will be undertaking Drifter Trials in various locations in the Central and Western Solent between **Wednesday 22 and Thursday 23 July 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, with the approximate locations in Figure 1:

- Off Cowes Green
- North of Cowes detached Breakwater
- The Shrape Mud



Figure 1: Drifter Trial Locations across the Cowes Harbour area

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.

This local notice to mariners will self-cancel at 2359 on 24 July 2026.

Jon Kidd

Harbour Master, Harbour Office, Town Quay, Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO31 7AS
Email: chc@cowes.co.uk Website: www.cowes.co.uk

21 July 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.