



PORTS AND YACHTING DIRECTORATE

LOCAL NOTICE TO MARINERS No 121 of 2021

Our Ref: **TM/PYD/21/21**

13 August 2021



Transport Malta

Malta Transport Centre,
Triq Pantar, Hal Lija, LJA 2021
Malta

Tel: (356) 2122 2203
Fax: (356) 2125 0365
Email: info.tm@transport.gov.mt

www.transport.gov.mt

Introduction of Fast Ferry Services

Further to Local Notice to Mariners No. 002 of 2021.

The Authority for Transport in Malta hereby reminds all that from 06 June 2021, Fast Ferry Services have been introduced and put into operation between the Ports of Valletta (Grand Harbour, Malta) and Mgarr (Gozo) through the operation of passenger High-Speed Craft (HSC).

To that effect, all mariners are reminded of their obligation to observe all applicable sections of the Regulations for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea (COLREGS) as amended. Small craft shall, as far as reasonably practicable, avoid using and crossing unnecessarily, the routes followed by the High-Speed Craft, and shall navigate with caution when close to the approaches and fairways of the Ports of Valletta and Mgarr.

All mariners shall at all times maintain a proper lookout, proceed at a safe speed and determine if a risk of collision exists. In any circumstance, when taking action to avoid collision, they shall have due regard to good seamanship. Any action taken to avoid a collision shall be positive and made in ample time.

Water sports operators, especially those offering rental facilities for personal watercraft (PWC), jet-skies, speed boats and other fast craft, are reminded of their obligations to advise their clients of the operational characteristics of the craft rented out; and the common courtesies of operating small craft, together with the applicable boating regulations and including the Collision Regulations. Such operators shall also instruct their clients to avoid any close quarter situations with the High-Speed Craft.

With due regard to the safety of the passengers on board, all High-Speed Craft participating in the fast ferry service shall, at all times navigate with caution and in full compliance with the requirements of COLREGS and of the Permit to Operate as required by the HSC Code.

Enforcement action will be immediately taken in the event of non-compliance, without prejudice to any other legal action.