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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**1987 No. 1591**

**MERCHANT SHIPPING**

**SAFETY**

**The Merchant Shipping (Smooth and Partially Smooth Waters) Regulations 1987**

<i>Made</i>	- - - -	<i>8th September 1987</i>
<i>Laid before Parliament</i>		<i>17th September 1987</i>
<i>Coming into force</i>	- -	<i>8th October 1987</i>

The Secretary of State for Transport, after consulting with the persons referred to in section 22(2) of the Merchant Shipping Act 1979(1) in exercise of the powers conferred on him by sections 21(1)(a) and (b) and 22(3)(a) of that Act and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, hereby makes the following Regulations:

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Merchant Shipping (Smooth and Partially Smooth Waters) Regulations 1987 and shall come into force on 8th October 1987.

2. The Merchant Shipping (Smooth and Partially Smooth Waters) Rules 1977(2), the Merchant Shipping (Smooth and Partially Smooth Waters) (Amendment) Rules 1977(3), the Merchant Shipping (Smooth and Partially Smooth Waters) (Amendment) Rules 1978(4) and the Merchant Shipping (Smooth and Partially Smooth Waters) (Amendment) Rules 1984(5) are hereby revoked.

3.—(1) This regulation applies to instruments in force on the making of these Regulations being—

- (a) regulations made pursuant to section 21(1) of the Merchant Shipping Act 1979; or
- (b) rules or regulations made pursuant to any other provision of the Merchant Shipping Acts 1894 to 1977 in which the expression “smooth waters” or “partially smooth waters” or any cognate expression occurs.

(2) For the purposes of any instrument to which this regulation applies and notwithstanding anything therein—

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(1) 1979 c. 39.  
(2) S.I.1977/252.  
(3) S.I. 1977/632.  
(4) S.I. 1978/801.  
(5) S.I. 1984/955.

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- (a) “smooth waters” shall mean (a) the waters specified in column 2 of the Schedule and (b) any other waters which are neither partially smooth waters nor the sea;
- (b) “partially smooth waters” shall mean, as respects any period specified in the Schedule hereto, the waters of any of the areas specified in column 3 of that Schedule in relation to that period.

and cognate expressions (including, in particular, “smooth and partially smooth waters” and “smooth or partially smooth waters”) shall be construed accordingly.

8th September 1987

*Paul Channon*  
Secretary of State for Transport

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## SCHEDULE

### LIMITS OF SMOOTH WATER AND PARTIALLY SMOOTH WATER AREAS

(1) The outer limits of the smooth water areas specified in column 2 of this Schedule shall be taken to be the corresponding inner limits of the partially smooth water areas specified in column 3 of this Schedule.

(2) Unless otherwise indicated, these limits apply to all times of the year. In this Schedule “summer” means the months of April to October, inclusive, and “winter” means the months of November to March, inclusive.

(1) <i>District</i>	(2) <i>Smooth Water Areas</i>	(3) <i>Partially Smooth Water Areas</i>
SHETLAND ISLES:		
Blue Mull Sound	No smooth waters	Between Gutcher and Belmont
Yell Sound	No smooth waters	Between Tofts Voe and Ulsta
Sullom Voe	No smooth waters	Within a line from the north-east point of Gluss Island to the northern point of Calback Ness
Dales Voe	No smooth waters	In winter within a line from the north point of Kebister Ness to the Coast of Breiwick at Longitude 1° 10.8'W.  In summer as for Lerwick.
Lerwick	No smooth waters	In winter within the area bounded to the northward by a line from Scottle Holm to Scarfi Taing on Bressay and to the southward by a line from Twageos Point Lighthouse to Whalpa Taing on Bressay. In summer within the area bounded to the northward by a line from Brim Ness to the north east corner of Inner Score and to the southward by a line from the south end of Ness of Sound to Kirkabisterness.
ORKNEY ISLANDS:		
Kirkwall	No smooth waters	Between Kirkwall and Rousay not east of a line between Point of Graand (Egilsay) and Galt Ness (Shapinsay) or between Head of Work (Mainland) through Helliær Holm light to the shore of Shapinsay; not north west of the south east tip

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(1) <i>District</i>	(2) <i>Smooth Water Areas</i>	(3) <i>Partially Smooth Water Areas</i>
		of Eynhallow Island, or north of the southern tip of Holm of Scockness.
Stromness	No smooth waters	To Scapa but not outside Scapa Flow.
Scapa Flow	Within an area bounded by lines drawn from Wharh on the island of Flotta to the Martello Tower on South Walls, and from Point of Cletts on the island of Hoy to Thomson's Hill triangulation point on the island of Fara and thence to Gibraltar Pier on the island of Flotta.	Within an area bounded by lines drawn from Point of Cletts on the island of Hoy to Thomson's Hill triangulation point on the island of Fara and thence to Gibraltar Pier on the island of Flotta; from St. Vincent Pier on the island of Flotta to the westernmost point of Calf of Flotta; from the easternmost point of Calf of Flotta to Needle Point on the island of South Ronaldsay, and from the Ness on Mainland to Point of Oxan lighthouse on the island of Graemsay and thence to Bu Point on the island of Hoy.
EAST OF SCOTLAND:		
Cromarty Firth	Within a line between North Sutor and South Sutor.	Within a line from North Sutor to Nairn Breakwater.
Inverness	Within a line from Fort George to Chanonry Point to Fort William.	Within a line from North Sutor to Nairn Breakwater.
Aberdeen	Within a line from South Jetty to Abercromby Jetty.	No partially smooth waters.
Dundee	Within a line from the tidal basin (fish dock) Dundee to Craig Head, East Newport	Within a line from Broughty Castle to Tayport.
Queensferry, North and South	Within the Firth of Forth but not east of the Forth railway bridge.	Within a line from Kirkcaldy to Portobello.
Leith	Within the Breakwaters.	Within a line from Kirkcaldy to Portobello.
NORTH EAST OF ENGLAND:VE		
Berwick on Tweed	Within a line from Spittal Point to the inner end of the northern Breakwaters.	No partially smooth waters.
Amble	Within the Breakwaters.	No partially smooth waters.

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(1) <i>District</i>	(2) <i>Smooth Water Areas</i>	(3) <i>Partially Smooth Water Areas</i>
Blyth	Within the outer Blyth Pier Heads.	No partially smooth waters.
Newcastle, North and South Shields	Within the Tyne Pier Heads.	No partially smooth waters.
Hartlepool	Within a line from Middleton Jetty to Old Pier Head.	No partially smooth waters.
Middlesbrough	Within a line extending due west from Government Jetty.	No partially smooth waters.
Whitby	Within Whitby Pier Heads.	No partially smooth waters.
Seaham Harbour	Within the Breakwaters.	No partially smooth waters.
Sunderland	Within the outer Sunderland Pier Heads.	No partially smooth waters.
EAST OF ENGLAND:		
Hull	No smooth waters.	In winter within a line from New Holland to Paull. In summer a line from Cleethorpes Pier to Patrington Church.
Goole	Within a line from North Ferriby to South Ferriby.	In winter within a line from New Holland to Paull. In summer within a line from Cleethorpes Pier to Patrington Church.
Grimsby	No smooth waters.	In winter no partially smooth waters. In summer within a line from Cleethorpes Pier to Patrington Church.
Boston	Inside the New Cut.	No partially smooth waters.
LONDON:		
Wisbech	Inside Wisbech Cut.	No partially smooth waters.
King's Lynn	Inside Lynn Cut.	No partially smooth waters.
Yarmouth and Lowestoft	Within the Harbour Entrances at Yarmouth or Lowestoft.	No partially smooth waters.
Woodbridge	On the River Deben to the Mouth.	No partially smooth waters.
Harwich, Ipswich, Felixstowe—River Orwell and River Stour	Within a line from Blackmans Head Breakwater to Landguard Point.	No partially smooth waters.

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(1) <i>District</i>	(2) <i>Smooth Water Areas</i>	(3) <i>Partially Smooth Water Areas</i>
Maldon — River Blackwater	Within a line from the south western extremity of Mersea Island to Sales Point.	In winter within a line from Colne Point to Whitstable. In summer within a line from Clacton Pier to Reculvers.
Burnham on Crouch — River Crouch	Within a line from Hollywell Point to Foulness Point.	In winter within a line from Colne Point to Whitstable. In summer within a line from Clacton Pier to Reculvers.
London—River Thames	Westward of a North/South line through PHA Isolation Hospital, Gravesend.	In winter within a line from Colne Point to Whitstable. In summer within a line from Clacton Pier to Reculvers.
Rochester, Chatham, Sheerness, Whitstable—River Medway and The Swale	Within a line from Garrison Point to the Grain Tower and within a line from Whitstable to Warden Point.	In winter within a line from Colne Point to Whitstable. In summer within a line from Clacton Pier to Reculvers.
Dover	Within a line drawn across the east and west entrances to the harbour.	No partially smooth waters.
Rye—River Rother	Within the area above the tidal signal station at Camber.	No partially smooth waters.
Littlehampton — River Arun	Within the area above Littlehampton Pier.	No partially smooth waters.
S & SW OF ENGLAND:		
Chichester	Within a line drawn between Eastoke point and the church spire, West Wittering.	Inside the Isle of Wight within an area bounded by lines drawn between the church spire, West Wittering, to Trinity Church, Bembridge, to the eastward and the Needles and Hurst Point to the westward.
Langstone Harbour	Within a line drawn between Eastney Point and Gunner Point.	Inside the Isle of Wight within an area bounded by lines drawn between the church spire, West Wittering, to Trinity Church, Bembridge, to the eastward, and the Needles and Hurst Point to the westward.
Portsmouth	Within a line drawn across the harbour entrance from Fort Blockhouse to the Round Tower.	Inside the Isle of Wight within an area bounded by lines drawn between the church spire, West Wittering, to Trinity Church, Bembridge,

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(1) <i>District</i>	(2) <i>Smooth Water Areas</i>	(3) <i>Partially Smooth Water Areas</i>
Bembridge, Isle of Wight	Within Brading Harbour	to the eastward, and the Needles and Hurst Point to the westward. Inside the Isle of Wight within an area bounded by lines drawn between the church spire, West Wittering, to Trinity Church, Bembridge, to the eastward, and the Needles and Hurst Point to the westward.
Cowes, Isle of Wight	The River Medina within a line from the Breakwater Light on the east bank to the Watch House Light on the west bank.	Inside the Isle of Wight within an area bounded by lines drawn between the church spire, West Wittering, to Trinity Church, Bembridge, to the eastward, and the Needles and Hurst Point to the westward.
Southampton	Within a line from Calshot Castle to Hook Beacon.	Inside the Isle of Wight within an area bounded by lines drawn between the church spire, West Wittering to Trinity Church, Bembridge, to the eastward, and the Needles and Hurst Point to the westward.
Beaulieu	Within Beaulieu River not eastward of a North/South line through Needs Oar Point.	Inside the Isle of Wight within an area bounded by lines drawn between the church spire, West Wittering to Trinity Church, Bembridge, to the eastward and the Needles and Hurst Point to the westward.
Keyhaven Lake	Within a line drawn due north from Hurst Point Low Light to Keyhaven Marshes.	No partially smooth waters.
Christchurch	Within Christchurch Harbour excluding the Run.	No partially smooth waters.
Poole	Within the line of the Chain Ferry between Sandbanks and South Haven Point.	No partially smooth waters.
Weymouth	No smooth waters.	Within Portland Harbour and between the River Wey and Portland Harbour.

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(1) <i>District</i>	(2) <i>Smooth Water Areas</i>	(3) <i>Partially Smooth Water Areas</i>
Exeter	Within a line from Warren Point to the coastguard flag staff at Exmouth.	No partially smooth waters.
Teignmouth	Within the Harbour.	No partially smooth waters.
Dartmouth — River Dart	Within a line from Kettle Point to Battery Point.	No partially smooth waters.
Salcombe and Kingsbridge — River Salcombe	Within a line from Splat Point to Limebury Point.	No partially smooth waters.
Plymouth	Within a line from Mount Batten Pier to Raveness Point through Drake's Island. The River Yealm within a line from Warren Point to Misery Point.	Within a line from Cawsand to the Breakwater to Staddon Pier.
Fowey	Inside the Harbour	No partially smooth waters.
Falmouth	Within a line from St. Anthony Head to Pendennis Point.	In winter within a line from St. Anthony Head to Rosemullion Point. In summer within a line from St. Anthony Head to Nare Point.
Padstow — River Camel	Within a line from Gun Point to Brea Hill.	Within a line from Stepper Point to Trebetherick Point.
Barnstaple and Bideford — Rivers Taw and Torridge	Within a line bearing 200° from the lighthouse on Crow Point to the shore at Skern Point.	No partially smooth waters.
BRISTOL CHANNEL:		
Bridgwater	South of a line running due east from Stert Point (51° 13.0'N)	Within the Bar
Bristol	Within a line from Avonmouth Pier to Wharf Point.	In winter within a line from Blacknore Point to Caldicot Pill, Portskewett.  In summer within a line from Barry Dock Pier to Steepholm thence to Brean Down.
Gloucester	North of a line running due west from Sharpness Point (51° 43.4'N).	In winter within a line from Blacknore Point to Caldicot Pill, Portskewett.  In summer within a line from Barry Dock Pier to Steepholm thence to Brean Down.



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(1) <i>District</i>	(2) <i>Smooth Water Areas</i>	(3) <i>Partially Smooth Water Areas</i>
Chepstow	The River Wye at Chepstow North of latitude 51° 38.0'N.	In winter within a line from Blacknore Point to Caldicot Pill, Portskewett.  In summer within a line from Barry Dock Pier to Steepholm thence to Brean Down.
Newport	North of the overhead power cables crossing at Fifoots Points.	In winter no partially smooth waters.  In summer within a line from Barry Dock Pier to Steepholm thence to Brean Down.
Cardiff	Within a line from South Jetty to Penarth Head.	In winter no partially smooth waters.  In summer within a line from Barry Dock Pier to Steepholm thence to Brean Down.
Barry	Within a line joining the seaward ends of the breakwaters.	In winter no partially smooth waters.  In summer within a line from Barry Dock Pier to Steepholm thence to Brean Down.
Port Talbot	(i) Within enclosed Docks. (ii) Within a line joining the seaward ends of the breakwaters.	No partially smooth waters. No partially smooth waters.
Neath	Within a line running due north from the seaward end of Baglan Bay Tanker Jetty (51° 37.2'N, 3° 50.5'W).	No partially smooth waters.
Swansea	Within the enclosed docks.	Within a line joining the seaward ends of the East and West breakwaters.
Llanelli and Burry Port	Within an area bounded by a line drawn from Burry Port Western Pier to Whiteford Point.	No partially smooth waters.
Milford Haven	Within a line from South Hook Point to Thorn Point.	No partially smooth waters.
Fishguard	Within a line joining the seaward ends of the North and East breakwaters.	No partially smooth waters.

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(1) <i>District</i>	(2) <i>Smooth Water Areas</i>	(3) <i>Partially Smooth Water Areas</i>
Cardigan	Within the Narrows at Pen-Yr-Ergyd.	No partially smooth waters.
Aberystwyth	Within the seaward ends of the breakwaters.	No partially smooth waters.
Aberdyfi	Within a line from Aberdyfi Railway Station to Twyni Bach Beacon.	No partially smooth waters.
LIVERPOOL:		
Barmouth	Within a line from Barmouth Railway Station to Penrhyn Point.	No partially smooth waters.
Portmadoc	Within a line from Harlech Point to Graig Ddu.	No partially smooth waters.
Holyhead	Within an area bounded by the main breakwater and a line drawn from the head of the breakwater to Brynglas Point, Towyn Bay.	No partially smooth waters.
Caernarvon, Bangor	Within the Menai Straits between a line joining Aber Menai Point to Belan Point and a line joining Beaumaris Pier to Pen-y-Coed Point.	Within the Menai Straits from a line joining Llanddwyn Island Light to Dinas Dinlleu and lines joining the South end of Puffin Island to Trwyn Du Point and Llanfairfechan Railway Station.
Conway	Within a line from Mussel Hill to Tremlyd Point.	No partially smooth waters.
Chester	River Dee not below Connah's Quay.	In winter within a line from Hilbre Point to Point of Air.  In summer within a line from Formby Point to Point of Air.
Liverpool	Within a line between the Rock Lighthouse and the North West Gladstone Dock Tower.	In winter no partially smooth waters.  In summer within a line from Formby Point to Point of Air.
Preston	Within a line from Lytham to Southport.	Within a line from Southport to Blackpool inside the banks.
Fleetwood	Within a line from Low Light to Knott End Pier.	In winter no partially smooth waters.  In summer within a line from Rossal Point to Humphrey Head.

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Lancaster	Within a line from Sunderland Point to Chapel Hill.	In winter no partially smooth waters.  In summer within a line from Rossal Point to Humphrey Head.
Heysham	No smooth waters.	In winter no partially smooth waters.  In summer from within a line from Rossal Point to Humphrey Head.
Morecambe	No smooth waters.	In winter no partially smooth waters.  In summer within a line from Rossal Point to Humphrey Head.
Barrow	Within a line joining Haws Point, Isle of Walney to Roa Island Slipway.	No partially smooth waters.
Douglas, Isle of Man	Within a line from Princess Alexandra Pier to Victoria Pier.	No partially smooth waters.
Carlisle	Within a line joining Port Carlisle to Torduff Point.	Within a line from Southernness Point to Silloth.
WEST OF SCOTLAND:		
Dumfries	Within a line from Airs Point to Scar Point.	Within a line from Southernness Point to Silloth.
Stranraer	Within a line from Cairn Ryan to Kirkcolm Point.	Loch Ryan within a line from Finnart's Point to Milleur Point.
Ayr	Inside the Bar.	No partially smooth waters.
Glasgow	Above partially smooth waters.	Outer limit: a line from Skipness to a position one mile south of Garroch Head thence to Farland Head. Inner Limit in winter: a line from Cloch Lighthouse to Dunoon Pier. Inner limit in summer: a line from Bogany Point, Isle of Bute to Skelmorlie Castle and a line drawn from Ardlamont Point to the southern extremity of Etterick Bay, inside the Kyles of Bute. Note: The above inner summer limit is extended between 5th

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		June and 5th September (both dates inclusive) by a line drawn from a point two miles off the Ayrshire coast at Skelmorlie Castle to Tomont End, Cumbrae, and a line drawn from Portachur Point, Cumbrae to Green Point Ayrshire.
Colintraive	Between Colintraive and Rhudhabodach.	No partially smooth waters.
Cambeltown Harbour	Within a line from Macringan's Point to Ottercharach Point.	No partially smooth waters.
Oban	No smooth waters.	Within an area bounded on the north by a line from Dunollie Point Light to Ard na Chruidh and to the south by a line from Rudha Seanach to Ard na Cuile.
Loch Etive	Within Loch Etive above the Falls of Lora.	No partially smooth waters.
Ballachulish	Within Loch Leven and not outside Peter Straits.	No partially smooth waters.
Fort William	In Loch Linnhe north of Corran Point Light, and including Loch Eil and the Canal to Inverness.	No partially smooth waters.
Kyle of Lochalsh	Within Kyle Akin not westward of Eilean Ban Light or eastward of Eileanan Dubha.	Through Loch Alsh to the Head of Loch Duich.
Strome	Between Stromemore and Strome Ferry.	No partially smooth waters.
Ullapool — Loch Broom	Within a line drawn between Ullapool Point Light and Aultnaharrie.	No partially smooth waters.
Kylesku	Across Loch Cairnbawn in the area between the eastern-most point of Garbh Eilean and the western-most point of Eilean na Rainich.	No partially smooth waters.
Stornoway Harbour	Within a line from Arnish Point to Sandwich Bay Lighthouse, north-west side.	No partially smooth waters.

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The Sound of Scalpay	Not east of Berry Cove and not west of Croca Hoin on Harris.	No partially smooth waters.
North Harbour, Scalpay and Tarbert Harbour	Within one mile from the shore of the Island of Harris.	No partially smooth waters.
NORTHERN IRELAND:		
Carlingford Lough	Within a line from Greenore to Greencastle Point.	No partially smooth waters.
Strangford Lough	Within Strangford Lough but not seaward of Rue Point.	No partially smooth waters.
Larne	Within a line from Larne Pier to the ferry pier on Island Magee.	No partially smooth waters.
Belfast	Within a line from Holywood to Macedon Point.	In winter no partially smooth waters. In summer within a line from Carrick-fergus to Bangor.
Lough Erne	Upper or Lower Lough Erne.	No partially smooth waters.
Lough Neagh	Within two miles of the shore.	At a greater distance than two miles from the shore.
Londonderry	Within a line from Magilligan Point to Greencastle.	No partially smooth waters.

### EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Regulations)*

These Regulations replace the Merchant Shipping (Smooth and Partially Smooth Waters) Rules 1977 as amended in 1977, 1978 and 1984. They extend the winter and summer partially smooth water limits for Lerwick to the northward and specify a new winter area of partially smooth waters in Dales Voe and a new area of smooth waters at Aberystwyth. In other respects the limits of smooth and partially smooth waters remain unchanged.

Smooth and partially smooth waters are referred to in 14 sets of rules and regulations now in force made under the Merchant Shipping Acts 1894—1979.