

West India Docks

Dock Notice

Dock Notice Number: 07/2025 Issue Date: 30th June 2025

Personal Water Craft in West India Docks

The Harbour Authority has recently encountered several instances of unauthorised personal watercraft use (including kayaks, paddleboards, and similar) within the operational water space at West India Docks. Individuals have entered the docks without permission, without buoyancy aids or lifejackets, and without any form of marine communication – presenting serious safety concerns for themselves and other users.

Moving Forward

We understand and appreciate the growing interest in paddle sport and recreational water access. We are now beginning work to create a safe and structured way for personal watercraft users to access the docks, in balance with our statutory duties and commercial marine activity.

Our Intentions Include:

- Introducing a licensing scheme with clear safety and access conditions
- Requiring use of appropriate communications (e.g., mobile or VHF)
- Defining permitted times/areas to avoid conflict with vessel movements
- Monitoring activity via our expanded Harbour Patrol team

This is part of a broader effort to protect life, ensure navigational safety, and explore ways of welcoming responsible recreational access where possible.

Important

Until a formal scheme is in place, **unauthorised use of West India Docks remains prohibited** and will be treated as a breach of harbour regulations.


Dock Notices in force:

2025: 04, 05, 06, 07.

If you or your group would like to express an interest in being part of this process, or receive updates as the licensing framework develops, please contact the Harbour Operations Team.

We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to working towards a safe, shared dock space for all users.

Harbour Operations Team

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Dock Notices may be viewed online: [West India Millwall Docks](#)

Business Operators, Owners, Agents, and Charterers should ensure that the contents of this Notice are made known to the Masters, or persons in charge of their vessels or craft.