



## **Associated British Ports**

### **Ipswich**

Local Notice to Mariners No 8 2008

#### **Use of Lifejackets**

Recreational boat users are strongly advised to wear a lifejacket that is maintained, correctly worn and fit for purpose when onboard any recreational vessel operating in the harbour or at sea.

On the River Orwell this is important when large commercial vessels are transiting the main navigation channel at or near the low water time, when wash from the vessels causes considerable change in the water depths over the mud flat areas affecting the stability of recreational craft.

There is also the danger of falling overboard when using the lock at Ipswich. Care should be taken when making fast to the mooring pontoon and when the sluices are lifted which can cause sudden turbulence in the lock. The lockmaster will always announce when the locking operation is about to start, so inform all on board to hold on tight before the turbulence starts.

*In 2007, 49 drowning incidents in the UK were reviewed and in 29 cases, lives may have been saved if the person was wearing a suitable lifejacket or personal floatation device.*

Harbour Master

7<sup>th</sup> August 2008