



**Associated British Ports - Lowestoft**

**Local Notice to Mariners No 10 / 2011**

**BRIDGE TRANSITS - LOWESTOFT HARBOUR**

Following an MAIB report into the Antonis incident in Liverpool Docks, ABP Lowestoft has reviewed marine risk assessments for the harbour. The risks of bascule bridge impacts are recognised, but have not been formally published as a warning notice.

Masters, Pilots, Agents and other Port Users are reminded of the constraints the bascule bridge structure imposes upon vessels transiting the bridge channel at Lowestoft. In the fully raised position parts of the bridge structure are within a few centimetres horizontally of the coping edge. Contact with the bridge leaves could damage the vessel, the bridge structure or its control systems.

As a result of this vessels must be especially careful to ensure they do not have any structures or equipment that overhangs the main body of the vessel, above the coping level. Such hazards would include ship's boats and their davits, extended bridge wings, heli-decks, sea-fastenings and wide cargo or any other such structure, as well as an excessive list of the vessel.

If it is not certain whether a risk exists, the Harbour Master and/or Duty Pilot must be consulted before attempting a passage of the bridge channel. Agents and port-users fixing vessels or barges are reminded of the need to consult on planned operations, before committing to a charter.

For further information please contact Lowestoft Port Control -  
VHF Ch.14, Tel No. 01502 572286, Fax 01502 586375.

Harbour Master

Lowestoft

18<sup>th</sup> July 2011