



Peel Ports Leisure Craft Conservancy Licence Fee – Update

As you will have read in various publications and notices, changes have been made by Peel Ports to the Leisure Craft Conservancy Licence Fee and application process covering the tidal Medway & Swale Estuary

In order to provide further clarity to the officially issued communications we have put together this summary to try and clear the mist and help get everyone's application underway.

Who should register and pay for a 2023 Leisure Craft Conservancy Licence?

Anyone who uses a recreational craft (including any vessel propelled and steered by directional controlled water jet), except for dinghies under 5.1 metres in length, who uses their craft within the Peel Ports Statutory Harbour Authority area is required to purchase a licence for their vessel.

This means that if you just keep your vessel in one of the locked in marinas, such as Chatham Marina or Gillingham Marina, or your vessel is ashore at one of the local yacht clubs then you do not need to purchase a licence.

However, if you launch your vessel or take it out through the lock gates of the above marinas for any reason, e.g., to test the engine, then the Leisure Craft Conservancy Licence Fee becomes immediately payable.

What happens if I do not register and pay for a Leisure Craft Conservancy Licence?

If you are found by Peel Ports to be using your vessel within the Peel Ports Statutory Harbour Authority area you are required to register and pay the appropriate fee.

Failure to pay the appropriate fee leaves you open to prosecution which could result in a fine of up to three times the current annual conservancy fee.

What period does the 2023 Leisure Craft Conservancy fee cover?

The 2023 Leisure Craft Conservancy Fee covers the period from 1st January 2023 until the 31st March 2024, i.e., a period of 15 months. From 2024 the licence will run from the 1st April to the 31st March to align it more to the leisure craft season.

How much does the 2023 Leisure Craft Conservancy Fee Licence cost?

The cost of the 15-month Licence fee covering the period from 1st January 2023 to 31st March 2024 costs £109.61 including VAT per vessel. However, if you register and purchase before the 31st March 2023 then the fee for the 15 month period is reduced to £87.69 including VAT, saving you £21.92 including VAT.

If you keep your vessel and use it from a local club based in the Peel Ports Statutory Harbour Authority area, then you may also be able to save additional funds if you register and purchase your licence through your club. We recommended that you contact your club to see if they are offering such a scheme to its members.



If I own more than one vessel, do I have to buy more than one licence?

Unfortunately, yes, if use more than one vessel within the Peel Ports Statutory Harbour Authority area you are required to purchase a licence for each vessel.

How do I apply for my 2023 Leisure Craft Conservancy Licence?

Peel Ports are trying to make the process of applying for a 2023 Leisure Craft Conservancy Fee Licence easier by offering an on-line registration and application process. Full details of how to apply on-line can be found in the attached guide.

You will see as part of the application process that Peel Ports are looking for as much information as possible relating to your vessel including a photo of your vessel. This information is being requested to assist Peel Ports with identifying and returning any vessels that break free from their moorings, whose owners get into difficulties, or cause potential risks to other leisure users through inappropriate use or behaviour. Peel Ports are currently in the process of updating their GDPR policies which will be published on their website so that you know where the data will be stored, how it can be removed and how it will be used.

Once your application has been paid and processed you will receive the appropriate licence disc which will be posted to you to display on your vessel. You will also receive a free copy of the 2023 Peel Ports Tide Tables booklet.