



# Dangerously weighted heaving lines (DWHL)

24 July 2019

This notice applies to all vessels entering or transiting the Port of Falmouth.

The use of DWHLs is a significant concern to the maritime community. The use of DWHLs when thrown by ship's crew passing mooring ropes or retrieving a messenger line is dangerous and has caused serious injury. DWHLs are a significant safety hazard and have the potential to cause serious or fatal injury and cannot be an accepted activity in UK ports and harbours. Indeed, instances could lead to a fine or criminal prosecution of a ship's master.

International and domestic codes are clear and unambiguous on the construction and weight of heaving lines.

The Code of Safe Working Practice (CoSWP) 2018 Amendment, Section 26.3.5 states:

"To prevent personal injury to those receiving heaving lines, the 'monkey's fist' should be made with rope only and must not contain added weighting material. Safe alternatives include a small high-visibility soft pouch, filled with fast-draining pea shingle or similar, with a weight of not more than 0.5 kg. Under no circumstances is a line to be weighted by items such as shackles, bolts or nuts, or twist locks."

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) Code of Practice – Safety and Health in Ports, Section 6.13, Mooring Operations, Para 357 states: "A "monkey's fist" at the end of a heaving line should only be made of rope. Additional weights should never be added to it."

MCA Safety Bulletin No2 refers and can be downloaded at the following link:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/464265/safety\\_bulletin\\_No\\_2\\_Dangerously\\_Weighted\\_Heaving\\_Lines\\_28.09.2015\\_rev4.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/464265/safety_bulletin_No_2_Dangerously_Weighted_Heaving_Lines_28.09.2015_rev4.pdf)

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