

## Torquay Inner Harbour ~ *Bridge / Cill users guide - updated*

### The Cill Gates

There are two parallel hydraulic 'gates' within a permanent cill wall located at the entrance to the Inner Harbour. This will mean that water is retained at half-tide level, providing depths of between 1.0 and 2.8 metres within the inner harbour. The cill gates, which provide a navigable entrance width of 11.6 metres, will open, subject to operational hours, to provide access to or from the inner harbour from approximately 3.5 hours before, to 3 hours after high tide.

***Following recent adjustments and the fine-tuning of software governing the timing of the cill operation, Marine Services have amended the Traffic Control Signals system to further inform mariners of cill status.***

On a falling tide, when the water level approaches half tide level, the green and white traffic lights will be illuminated as normal.

As the water level falls to a level just 5cm above the point at which the cill will raise, the green lights will remain on but will be accompanied by flashing red lights. This is to warn of imminent automatic impound.

When the green lights go off and the permanent red lights are illuminated, the cill will be raised in 60 seconds.

Mariners should therefore proceed with caution if they see flashing red lights and should not loiter around the immediate cill area.

### Bridge Operation

The bridge will remain closed when the cill gates are in the raised position. When the cill gates are in the lowered position, the bridge will be opened on demand for any vessel that cannot safely navigate under the bridge. An audible alarm and flashing orange lights on the masts indicate that the bridge is operating. When the cill gates are lowered the minimum depth through the entrance will be 2.2 metres. Requests for the bridge to be opened should be made to the Harbour Office via VHF radio Channel 14, telephone ((01803) 292429 / 402739)) or other appropriate means.

### Navigation

For reasons of safety, all mariners should exercise caution when navigating under the closed bridge. This is due to the restricted and constantly fluctuating 'headroom/air-draft'. Navigation is only permitted through or under the central span of the bridge because the fixed cill wall either side presents an obstruction and a hazard. Mariners should also be aware that the base of the cill gates is proud of the surrounding harbour bed. At half-tide, on the inner harbour side of the cill, there will be 2.2 metres of water over this obstruction, adjacent to the bridge.

### Navigation through the Cill

Harbour traffic control signals located on both sides of the bridge/cill will indicate the following instructions: -

Signal: **GREEN AND FLASHING RED LIGHTS** fixed & exhibited vertically

Action: **VESSELS SHOULD NOT PROCEED - CILL GATES WILL LOWER IMINANTLEY**

Signal: **THREE RED LIGHTS** fixed & exhibited vertically

Action: **VESSELS SHALL NOT PROCEED - CILL GATES RAISED AND/OR BRIDGE OPERATING**

Signal: **TWO GREEN LIGHTS over ONE WHITE** fixed & exhibited vertically

Action: **VESSELS MAY PROCEED – CILL GATES LOWERED, TWO WAY TRAFFIC IS SUBJECT TO AIR-DRAFT (HEADROOM) RESTRICTIONS. BRIDGE LIFTED ON REQUEST**

### **Inner Harbour Cill Approach**

Mariners should keep a sharp lookout for vessels entering or exiting the Inner Harbour, especially Passenger Craft and any vessels manoeuvring on or off Torquay Marina. The 5-knot speed limit should be observed at all times and wash should be kept to a minimum. Mariners must not loiter in the immediate vicinity of the bridge or the approaches.

### **Operating hours for the Bridge and Cill**

Initially the operating hours, subject to tide, will be as follows: -  
0700 to 2100 during the summer – (1<sup>st</sup> May to 30<sup>th</sup> September)  
0800 to 1700 during winter – (1<sup>st</sup> October to 30<sup>th</sup> April)

### **NOTE ~ THE CILL GATES WILL BE RAISED OUTSIDE OF THESE TIMES**

Opening arrangements outside these hours can be arranged if sufficient notice is given to the Harbour Office. These hours will be kept under review.

The bridge and cill can be operated directly from the Harbour Office or via a local control on South Pier.

### **Waiting Pontoon**

There is a courtesy waiting pontoon situated on the seaward side of the cill with access to South Pier. This is **STRICTLY** for vessels waiting for the cill/bridge to operate to access the inner harbour.

### **Security**

CCTV cameras monitor the cill entrance and bridge at all times. However, do please take all sensible precautions to guard against theft and report any incidents or suspicious activity to any member of the Marine Services team.

### **Contacting the Harbour Office**

A listening watch is maintained on VHF channel 14 during the cill operating hours.

Call sign: "*Torquay Harbour*". You may also contact the Harbour Office by telephone during normal office hours on (01803) 292429. Outside of office hours and relating to the hours above please call the Quayside Control Kiosk on (01803) 402739 and in an emergency please telephone (01803) 550405. Please email [marine.services@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:marine.services@torbay.gov.uk) for further information.

Normally the Harbour Office will be open during the following hours: -

Monday to Friday: 0900 – 1700 hrs

Weekends: 1000 – 1300 hrs

### **Fishing**

Fishing is prohibited (Harbour Byelaws) within any part of the enclosed harbour or from any vessel in the inner or outer harbour. Please consult the Harbour Office for guidance about the locations where fishing is welcomed and encouraged.

### **Falling In**

There are various ladders and steps located around the inner and outer harbour for getting out of the water. Lifebuoys are strategically located around the harbour perimeter to assist in the rescue of a person in the water.

### **Swimming**

Swimming and diving anywhere in Torquay Harbour is strictly prohibited (Harbour Byelaws)