

Tug guidelines have been established for minimum tug usage in average conditions. Each vessel is assessed on an individual basis and tug allocation is made with the following taken into consideration:

- Handling characteristics
- Bow thruster
- Bow and stern thruster combinations
- Twin screw and rudder combinations
- Active rudder

Pilots may vary the combination or number of tugs used for any movement, depending on experience, prevailing conditions or special circumstances that may apply in consultation with the Harbour Master.

The suggested guidelines for tug usage may be from the [Pilot Reference Booklet](#) and also in the related [Port Notice](#).

## Harbour Master's Directions

The Harbour Master has the statutory powers, including terms of the [Ports Regulations \(S.L.499.01\)](#), to direct and control the time and manner in which any vessel may enter or leave the port.

Safe navigation in the port area is maintained through an ongoing process of risk evaluation and mitigation of which Pilotage, Vessel Traffic Service and Port Procedures are all integral components.

The ports and harbours, including the Grand Harbour (Valletta) and the Port of Marsaxlokk, are in constant use by merchant and commercial vessels, including motor tankers, container ships, ferries and other traffic, fishing vessels and recreational and pleasure craft.

Recreational and pleasure craft are advised to keep clear and user caution as well as maintain a listening watch on the designated VHF channel.

Various [Offshore Aquaculture Zones](#) exist in the territorial waters of Malta. Marine fish farms may be marked by lit or unlit buoys or beacons. Mariners are advised to avoid these structures and their associated moorings.

For more information, download the [Pilot Reference Booklet](#) and associated [Towage Tables](#).

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