

# Kilrush Marina

## Berth holder Instructions for User Operation of the Sea Lock

To avail of the automated lock a mobile phone number must be “authorised” by Marina Staff. The gate control system will only recognise and respond to authorised numbers. Generally, up to three authorised numbers will be allowed per berth, contact the marina office on 065 9052072 or e mail info@kilrushmarina.ie to arrange this. The gate automation system number is 086 1800488 which should be stored in your phone contacts list.

To operate the lock the user hails the lock by sending a text message **exit marina** to the lock phone number to leave the marina and go into the Estuary or **enter marina** to go from the Estuary into the Marina. The lock will send a reply message saying **PREPARING LOCK ENTER ON GREEN** or **GATE IN USE TXT AGAIN 5MINS, AFTER VESSEL CLEARS LOCK** or **NO AUTOMATIC SERVICE, CONTACT LOCK OPERATOR**.

If a **GATE IN USE TXT AGAIN 5MINS, AFTER VESSEL CLEARS LOCK** message is received wait until 05 minutes after any ongoing lock operation and re-text your request.

When the message **PREPARING LOCK ENTER ON GREEN** is received the lock is under your control and will remain so for 05 minutes after the last gate movement. It then times out. **You are responsible for the safe operation of the lock during your time in control.** If the lock control “times out” it must be hailed again to continue operations.

The lock should only be entered **after** hailing the lock, (it is then under your control) **or** when clear communication has been established with another user who has control and invites you to enter. **This applies even if the lock is empty and the gates are open to you.**

A green light will indicate when it is safe to enter the lock chamber. **Do not enter on a red light or when the orange flashing beacon and siren are operating.**

Enter the lock chamber and make fast alongside the floating pontoon in the lock. Forward and aft breast lines are required and as water velocities of up to 4 knots may occur in the chamber spring lines are recommended. Multiple boats may use the lock together; all should raft securely with adequate spring lines and lines on to the floating pontoon. Alternatively additional boats may secure to the vertical steel ropes on the East side of the chamber, but it is very important that the boats warps are free to slip vertically along these during lock level changes and must be capable of being quickly released if required. Boats must secure at least 6m clear of the gates.

When the vessel is secured a crew member will operate the lock from the control console on the floating pontoon. When all boats indicate to the operator that they are ready the operator closes the gate behind the traffic and opens the gate in front, - the control operations are self-explanatory on the panel. The closing function requires that you keep the close button pressed for the duration of the operation. Releasing your finger at any time during the closing sequence will temporarily stop the programme. To recommence closing keep the close button pressed. When the gate shuts fully the green light on the open button will illuminate. This operation requires the control button to be pushed once. The control system then completes the gate operation and retains control of the rate of filling or emptying the lock.

After completing the lock cycle all vessels must immediately vacate the chamber as the lock may be “hailed” by another user

# Safety

During lock operation the operator **must continuously remain beside the Control Console** and monitor the safety of the operation and the security of all boats inside the lock chamber .

The gates can be closed by the operator at any stage in the cycle by pressing the “close” button. **The gates must never be closed whenever there is a risk that a vessel, person or floating object may get caught between the gate sectors.**

There is a red emergency stop button on the panel. When this is pressed it isolates all power from the lock operating mechanism. The gate positions do not move, the lock will continue to fill or empty, so **do not use the emergency stop function if the intention is to stop the water level changing.**

There are emergency stop wires on the leading edge of all gates in order to stop the gates closing if anything is caught between the gate sectors. These have the same effect as pressing the emergency stop.

To reset the emergency stop and restore power to the gates please contact Marina staff on 0659052072 (24hrs)

When not under control of an operator the lock gates can operate remotely **at any moment** when hailed by mobile phone or automatically in order to control marina water levels. **Therefore it is important to stay at least 25m clear of the gates at all times unless on passage through the lock.** A orange flashing light and siren will sound 30 seconds before a gate movement.

The four ladders on each corner of the lock chamber are for emergency egress only and are not to be used for any other purpose. Children should be supervised at all times and should remain on board the vessel, unless supervised by a responsible adult.

Immediately report any mis-functions, dangerous occurrences or any apparently unauthorised personnel in the vicinity of the gates to the marina management on 065 9052072 or VHF Ch 80.