

SHANNON FOYNES PORT COMPANY

NOTICE TO MARINERS

NOTICE NO. 31 OF 2025

SHANNON ESTUARY – CARRIGAHOLT BAY

Life Raft Drop Test – Monday 17th November

Mariners are advised that 2Excel Ireland will conduct a drop test of a life raft from an aircraft on Monday 17th November in Carrigaholt Bay.

2Excel Ireland operate a fixed wing aircraft from Shannon Airport that conducts both SAR and counter-pollution flights on behalf of the Coast Guard.

They are currently engaged in trials around the deployment of life rafts from the aircraft to assist in SAR missions.

The intention is to conduct a test drop of a life raft and a drift marker in Carrigaholt Bay. Exercise is scheduled for 1100hrs on Monday 17th November, with an expected duration of approx. 1 hour.

RNLI Unit Kilrush (or RNLI Unit Kilkee) will be on scene and will ensure there is a sufficient clear area for the drop to be safely conducted. The minimum clearance required is one (1) nautical mile. A second charter vessel will attend with observers from IRCG and IAA.

It is intended that a SECURITE message will be broadcast on VHF Ch 16 both 10 minutes and 5 minutes before the actual drop.

Drop test is subject to certain minimum regard to cloud cover and visibility and may be cancelled at short notice.

Mariners are requested to maintain a listening watch for the planned SECURITE message and to maintain a wide berth of the RNLI Unit.

Signed:

Michael Kennelly
Harbour Master
Shannon Foynes Port Company
14th November 2025