

# **SHANNON FOYNES PORT COMPANY**

## **NOTICE TO MARINERS**

### **NOTICE NO. 14 OF 2026**

#### **SHANNON ESTUARY – APPROACHES TO THE SHANNON ESTUARY**

#### **Trial drop of Life Saving Equipment 23/24 April 2026**

Mariners are advised that 2Excel Ireland will conduct a drop test of life saving equipment from an aircraft on either Thursday 23/04 or Friday 24/04 in an area to the south of Kilbaha 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 follow-on trials around the deployment of life saving equipment from the aircraft to assist in SAR missions.

The intention is to conduct a test drop of life saving equipment, including a Marine Location Marker that emits smoke and light, in an area to the south of Kilbaha Bay. Exercise is scheduled for either Thursday 23/04 or Friday 24/04, date/time subject to weather conditions and other restrictions. It is planned that test will be conducted between 1100 – 1300.

2Excel Ireland will have a boat on scene containing observers.

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 minima with 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 planned position.

Signed:

Michael Kennelly  
Harbour Master  
Shannon Foynes Port Company  
21<sup>st</sup> April 2026

## 1.1 Location, Date & Time

Shannon Estuary, inside a box defined by:

- a) N52° 34.20 / W009° 43.20;
- b) N52° 32.40 / W009° 57.00;
- c) N52° 26.40 / W009° 56.40; and
- d) N52° 30.60 / W009° 42.60.

This area offers sheltered water for a wide variety of wind directions.

The rough area is outlined below – the drop will centre on **N52° 31.80 / W009° 50.40**



The drop test shall be scheduled in the period **1100LT – 1300LT** on **April 23<sup>rd</sup>** or **April 24<sup>th</sup>** – this may be moved to accommodate support boat & life boat volunteer availability as well as weather, after consultation with the IAA.

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