NOTICE TO MARINERS

GIPPSLAND PORTS

The following navigation warning is published for general information

AUSTRALIA - VICTORIA

NO.212 OF 2020

PORT OF MALLACOOTA INLET

GENOA RIVER & WALLAGARAUGH RIVER & MALLACOOTA LAKES

FLOODWATER HAZARD WARNING

MALLACOOTA INLET ARTIFICIAL ENTRANCE OPENING.

DATE: Friday 17th July 2020 - effective immediately

PREVIOUS NOTICE: Local Navigation Warning No.7(P) of 2020 is referred

DETAILS: Genoa River & Wallagaraugh River flood water generated from the recent rain event have caused local flooding in the Mallacoota Inlet river and lake systems. The East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (EGCMA) and Parks Victoria shall be carrying out an artificial opening of the Inlet entrance to the sea commencing on or around Monday 20th July 2020. Local Navigation Notice N0.7(P) of 2020 refers.

Gippsland Ports has received reports that flood water debris has been observed in the Mallacoota Inlet river and lake systems, upstream from the Mallacoota town boat ramp.

Mariners are advised that debris caused by flood water including large trees and timbers may find its way downstream and create hazards to the safe navigation of vessels within the river and lake systems. The opening of the Inlet Entrance to the sea will increase the flow of debris from the rivers towards the entrance. Mariners are advised to avoid navigating within 500 metres of the new entrance once it has been opened.

Flood debris may also be washed out through the new ocean entrance and over the Mallacoota bar producing hazards to navigation offshore.

Mariners are advised to navigate with extra precaution within the river and lake systems or offshore during flood events and avoid

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navigating at night. Vessel owners are advised to secure any vessels that are moored or berthed in the Mallacoota Inlet and Genoa River area.

The artificial opening of the Mallacoota Inlet entrance will cause a sand Bar to form offshore of the opening. Mariners are advised not to attempt bar crossings to gain ocean access as depths will be unknown and there are no aids to navigation to guide vessel operators over the Bar safely. Ocean Access from Mallacoota Inlet should be achieved through the Bastion Point Boat Ramp facility.

Safety Warning
CROSSING OCEAN ACCESS BARS IS A HIGH RISK ACTIVITY

Bar Crossings are regarded as extremely dangerous and can cause serious personal injury or death when unfavorable environment and safety conditions exist.

CHART AFFECTED:	Chart Aus. 805
PUBLICATIONS AFFECTED:	Gippsland Ports Waterways Online web map available at; https://www.gippslandports.vic.gov.au/boating/waterways-online/
FURTHER NOTICE:	A further Notice will be issued.

CAPT. BEVIS HAYWARD
HARBOUR MASTER