

# Boating Guide Exmouth Marine Safety



August 2023

## SAFETY EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

	REGISTRABLE VESSELS <small>Including sailing vessels that are or can be propelled by mechanical power.</small>	
	PROTECTED WATERS <small>Includes rivers, lakes, estuaries, harbours and waters within 400 metres from the shore in unprotected waters but excludes Cambridge Gulf and Lake Argyle.</small>	UNPROTECTED WATERS <small>Beyond 400 metres from the shore.</small>
<b>Recreational Skipper's Ticket</b> <small>The skipper of a recreational vessel, powered by a motor greater than 6 horsepower must hold an RST.</small>	✓	✓
<b>Lifejacket Carriage</b> <small>A lifejacket, as indicated in the table opposite, must be carried for every person on board.</small>	<small>Vessels smaller than 4.8m</small> Minimum Level 100 <b>MUST BE CARRIED</b>	<small>Vessels 4.8m and larger</small> Minimum Level 100 <b>MUST BE CARRIED</b>
<b>Lifejacket Wearing</b> <small>As indicated in the table opposite.</small>	<small>Children older than one and younger than 12</small> Minimum Level 100 <b>MUST BE CARRIED</b>	<small>Personal Water Craft</small> Minimum Level 50S <b>MUST BE WORN</b>
<b>Distress Beacon (in-date)</b> <small>A GPS enabled 406 MHz EPIRB OR if worn by at least one person, a GPS enabled PLB. Distress beacons must be in-date and registered with AMSA.</small>	RECOMMENDED	✓
<b>Red and Orange Flares (in-date)</b> <small>At least two hand held red flares and two hand held orange flares must be carried.</small> OR <b>Electronic Visual Distress Signal</b> <small>An electronic signalling device may be carried in lieu of flares IF a GPS enabled EPIRB or PLB (must be worn) is also carried.</small>	RECOMMENDED	✓
<b>Marine Radio</b> <small>A HF or VHF marine radio on any Registrable Vessel when operating more than 4 nautical miles from shore in unprotected waters.</small>	RECOMMENDED	<b>REQUIRED</b> beyond 4 nautical miles <b>RECOMMENDED</b> within 4 nautical miles
<b>Recommended Additional Safety Equipment</b> <small>It is recommended an anchor and line, a fire extinguisher and a means of removing water be carried.</small>	RECOMMENDED	<b>RECOMMENDED</b>

SERM-QLM0722-1

### Contact details

Department of Transport  
Email: Ed.Boat@transport.wa.gov.au  
Website: www.transport.wa.gov.au/imarine  
Exmouth Office: 9216 8219  
Carnarvon Office: 9941 6800  
Marine Safety Hotline: 13 11 56

Police  
Emergency: 000  
Water Police: 9442 8600  
Exmouth Police: 9947 8700

Department of Fire and Emergency Services  
Marine Rescue Western Australia  
Emergency contact: VHF 16  
Marine Rescue Exmouth  
Marine Rescue Carnarvon  
Marine Rescue Coral Bay

Boating Weather Forecasts  
Boating weather: 1300 815 916  
Website: www.bom.gov.au

Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development  
Fishwatch: 1800 815 507  
Website: www.dpird.wa.gov.au

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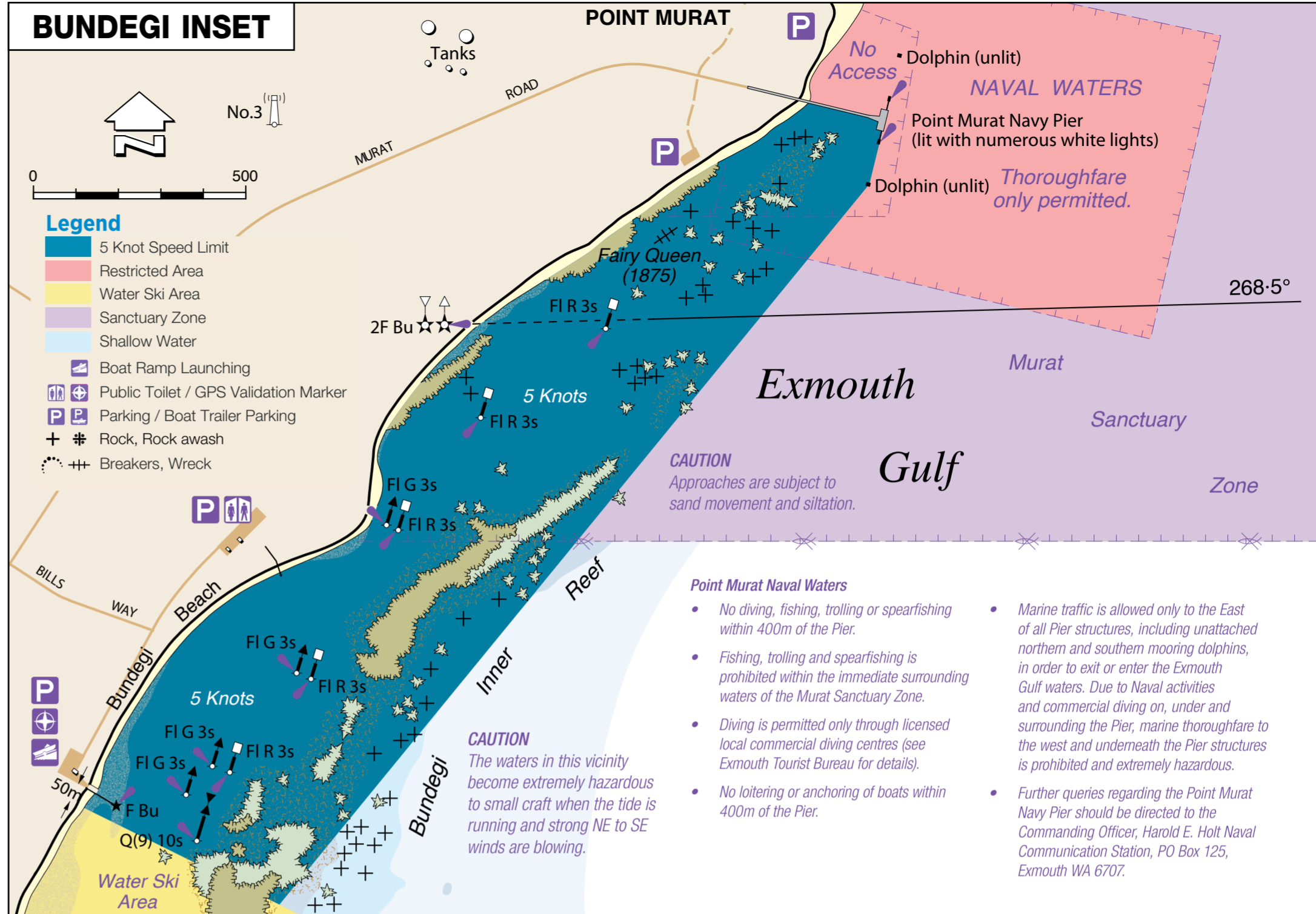
Join us at  
facebook.com/MarineSafetyWA

For further information go to  
www.transport.wa.gov.au/boatingguides  
or scan the QR Code

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## BUNDEGI INSET



### You are in a tropical cyclone region

The north west of Western Australia experiences more severe cyclones than any other part of the Australian coastline and is one of the most cyclone-prone coasts anywhere in the world. The cyclone season extends from November through to April, but most coastal impacts occur in the period from January to March.

Please refer to the Exmouth Tropical Cyclone Information Sheet that the Department of Transport (DoT) activates during cyclones which is available along with a range of other DoT cyclone plans on the web site at www.transport.wa.gov.au/imarine

### Boating tips and reminders

Boating is a great way to see and enjoy Ningaloo Marine Park. Your cooperation while boating will ensure the long term protection of the marine environment.

Please remember to:

- slow down when approaching coral areas;
- tilt the motor in shallow areas;
- never cut across coral formations because the water depth changes with the tides;
- anchor on sand, never coral and check that your anchor is not dragging;
- approach marine creatures carefully and contact the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions for details on interacting with marine animals such as whales, whale sharks, dugongs, turtles and dolphins;
- always be on the lookout for divers, snorkelers and swimmers;
- it is a good idea to show a dive flag even whilst snorkelling or spearfishing;
- avoid standing on or touching the coral while diving, swimming or snorkelling; and
- if boating in an unknown location consider gathering local information from the Marine Rescue group or fishing clubs. It is a good safety practise to go with more than one boat while in remote locations.

### Reef navigation

Don't be caught. As swells or waves move in from the sea along Ningaloo Reef, they are suddenly confronted by a rapidly rising seabed, causing them to break. These waves create a potentially dangerous situation for any vessel crossing them.

An important consideration lies in the skipper's ability to understand and interpret the conditions sensibly and objectively.

#### Going out:

- Inch your way out to the action. Hold station as it takes time to get your bearings and pick up the rhythm of the waves. When you see that opening - don't hang around. Once committed though, tough it out. Never back out halfway through.
- If a big wave does rear up, get the boat's bow up fast and hit the wave at an angle of about 10 degrees off head on with plenty of throttle. Back off the throttle when through and work out your approach to the next wave.
- Look for the lowest point of the wave and be prepared. Remember the correct angle of approach.
- Be careful when applying power in frothy waves as cavitation and loss of power may occur. If so, back off throttle until cavitation stops and reapply power gradually.

#### Coming in:

- Know what stage the tide is at.
- Observe the reef for a while from a safe vantage point, to get your bearings.
- Study the waves and the way they are breaking.
- Ensure your boat is trimmed to run bow up and be as ready to slow down as you are to accelerate.
- All people on board should be seated low in the boat, wearing lifejackets and holding on.
- Always concentrate on keeping your boat on the back of the wave.
- Avoid surfing at all costs.
- Never get side on in the impact zone.

### Distress beacons

EPIRB (AS/NZS 4280.1) or PLB (AS/NZS 4280.2)

Distress beacons must be in-date and registered with Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA).

When operating more than 400 metres from shore in unprotected waters you must carry a GPS enabled EPIRB or PLB worn by a person on board. For further information visit our website or call 13 11 56.

### Obstruction of channels and leads

Cray pots, lines and floats, drop nets, fishing nets, marker buoys or other buoyed objects can not be placed or allowed to remain in any channel or fairway in any port or harbour, or in any channel, fairway or passage in any navigable waters except by permission of DoT.

You also can't anchor or moor a vessel in any channel or fairway, unless the vessel is in distress.

### General speed restrictions

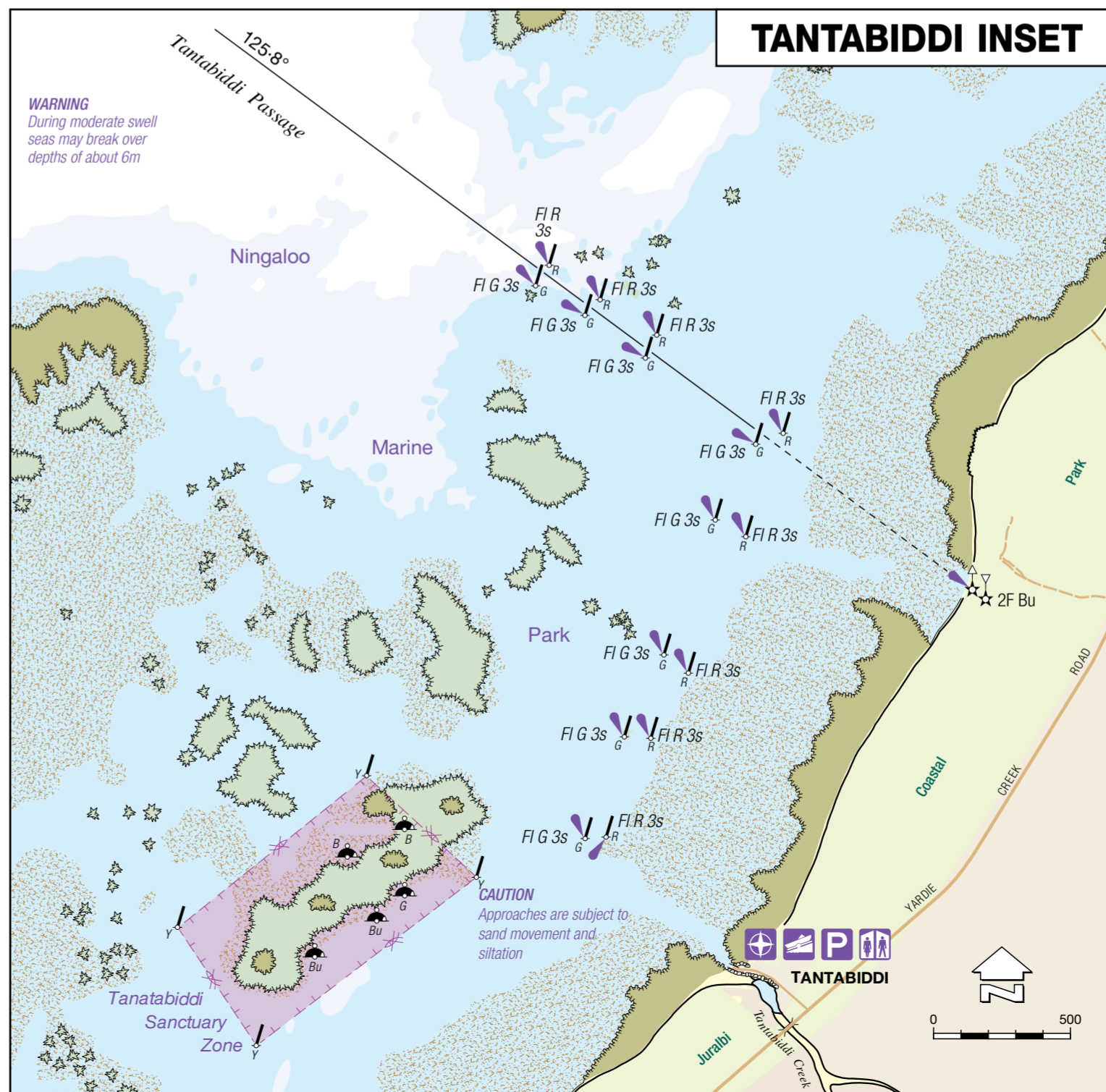
It is illegal, in any navigable waters, to drive a motor boat at a speed exceeding eight knots, water ski or para-sail:

- through an arch of a bridge;
- in or through a mooring area;
- within 15 metres of a vessel underway;
- within 50 metres of -
  - a moored vessel;
  - a person in the water;
  - a jetty or wharf;
  - a river bank or low water mark.

### GPS validation markers

Global Positioning System (GPS) validation markers are unique visible marks placed at a number of public boat ramps and jetties where mariners and owners of portable GPS units can validate their position and map datum settings.

The markers are available at Tantabiddi, Bundegi and Town Beach and are small, flat and yellow, similar to 'cats eye' road lane markers.



### Age requirements and restrictions for skippers

The person in charge of a recreational vessel with a motor of **6hp (4.5 kilowatts) or less** is not required to hold a Recreational Skipper's Ticket (RST).

A person in charge of a recreational vessel with a motor **greater than 6hp (4.5 kilowatts)** is required to hold an RST.

You are required to carry your RST card when boating.

#### Age restrictions

A person under 10 years may not drive a motor boat.

RST holders over 14 but under 16 years of age are restricted to operating during daylight hours at a speed less than 8 knots.

### Radio communication

VHF	Channel	16/67
	Repeater Channels	21 and 22
HF	Channel	4125

Marine Rescue Exmouth operates a radio tower on weekends and public holidays from 8.00am - 6pm.

Outside of these hours you need to inform someone of your plans on the water. Details should include:

- Departure and return times
- How many people onboard
- Boat registration number and name
- What ramp you are using
- Where you intend to operate
- A contact phone number.

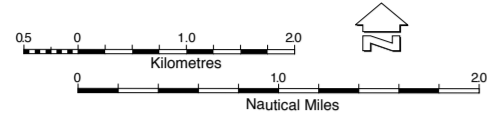
You can inform anyone (a family member, neighbour, accommodation reception) but remember to log off when you are finished for the day.



# EXMOUTH

## NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION

For more detailed information, refer to Department of Transport's Nautical Chart  
**Exmouth WA 900**  
**CORAL BAY WA 1108**



### Legend

- 5 Knot Speed Limit
- 8 Knot Speed Limit
- Closed Waters – Motorised Vessels
- Water Ski Area
- Swimming Prohibited
- Restricted Area
- Sanctuary Zone
- Shallow Water
- Beach / Ramp Boat Launching
- Public Toilet / GPS Validation Marker
- Parking / Boat Trailer Parking
- Fuel Outlet
- Rock, Rock awash
- Breakers, Wreck

### Diving

Any boat with divers (not snorkellers) operating from it must always display signals by day or night to alert other boat users. The daytime signal for divers is an International Code Flag "A". The flag must be at least 750 millimetres long and 600 millimetres wide.

Divers operating without a vessel, for example from a jetty, must also display the International Code Flag "A".

The flag can be displayed from a buoy and must not be less than 300 millimetres in length and 200 millimetres in width.

The flag must be clearly visible to all vessels operating in the vicinity.

### Vessels to keep clear

When approaching a place or another vessel displaying the International Code Flag "A" or the appropriate signal during the hours of darkness, you must —

- (a) keep your vessel at least 50 metres clear of that place or vessel; or
- (b) where it is not possible to keep 50 metres clear of that place or vessel —
  - (i) proceed at the slowest speed at which the vessel can be safely navigated; and
  - (ii) maintain a proper lookout for people in the water.

For further information visit our website or call 13 11 56.

**Diver Below**  
 Keep Clear 50 Metres



### Kiteboarding and windsurfing

When travelling beyond 400 metres from shore in unprotected waters you need:

- lifejackets (minimum 50S) (must be worn);
- a GPS enabled EPIRB or PLB (must be worn);
- flares.

For further information visit our website or call 13 11 56.



### Navigation lights

All vessels underway during the hours of sunset to sunrise must display navigation lights appropriate to the particular size and type of vessel. For further information please visit our website.

**WARNING**  
 During moderate to heavy swells with an outgoing tide, the area between North West Reef and North West Cape can become extremely hazardous.

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**Diver Below**  
 Keep Clear 50 Metres



### Water skiing

PWC may operate when towing a water skier. When towing a water skier all vessels are required to carry an observer of at least 14 years of age. Observers must also wear a lifejacket.

PWC not engaged in water skiing must at all times remain well clear of the take off and landing area and any vessels engaged in water skiing.

Water skiing involves being towed over water at a speed of 8 knots or more by a motor boat.

It takes at least three people to go water skiing:

1. A driver of at least 17 years of age with a Recreational Skipper's Ticket.
2. An observer of at least 14 years of age.
3. A person being towed.

Vessels taking off with skiers always give way to vessels landing a skier.

Beach take-off and landings are only permitted in the designated take-off and landing areas.

Skiing is only permitted between the hours of sunrise to sunset, unless otherwise indicated.

For further information visit our website or call 13 11 56.



**Remember to LOG ON, LOG OFF! every trip**  
 with the local Marine Rescue group

### Navigation Marks

- Lighthouse, major, minor light
- Beacon, port, starboard
- Safe water, isolated danger
- Spar buoy, port, starboard
- Pillar buoy, port, starboard
- Mooring buoy, yachting buoy
- Lead, front, rear

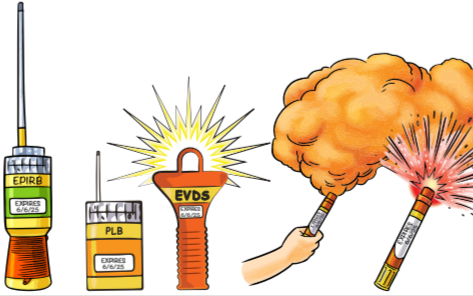
### Cardinal Marks

- Indicates safe water to the North
- Indicates safe water to the South
- Indicates safe water to the East
- Indicates safe water to the West

### Light Characteristics

- Colour of light is white unless otherwise stated
- F = Fixed
  - Fl = Flashing
  - F( ) = Group-flash
  - Q = Quick-flash
  - LFl = Long-flash
  - Oc = Occulting
  - Iso = Isophase
  - s = Period in seconds
  - m = Focal plane height above MHHW
  - M = Luminous range in nautical miles

### Distress beacons, EVDS and flares must be in-date



### Basic rules of the waterways

- Vessel Overtaking Another**  
 Every overtaking vessel gives way (this includes sailing vessels)
- Power Vessels Meeting Head On**  
 Each vessel alters course to starboard (right)
- Power Vessels Meeting**  
 Give way to vessels on your starboard (right)
- Power Meeting Sailing Vessel**  
 Power gives way to sail except when sailing vessel is overtaking
- Ships in Channels**  
 All vessels must keep clear of ships using or approaching the marked navigation channel ships.

