

Boating Guide Kununurra Wyndham Marine Safety



August 2023

SAFETY EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

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

Contact details
Department of Transport
Email: Ed.Boat@transport.wa.gov.au
Website: www.transport.wa.gov.au/marine
Marine Safety Hotline: 13 11 56

Police
Emergency: 000
Water Police: 9442 8600

Department of Fire and Emergency Services
Marine Rescue Western Australia
Emergency contact: VHF 16
Marine Rescue East Kimberley

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

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
Website: www.dbca.wa.gov.au

DECKEE Boating in WA just got smarter. Download the free Deckee app.

DoT Direct anywhere, anytime! Save time and go online today

Join us at facebook.com/MarineSafetyWA

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

The information contained in this publication is provided in good faith and believed to be accurate at time of publication. The State shall in no way be liable for any loss sustained or incurred by anyone relying on the information. 16-14-02-SER-0523-WEB-S1

Kununurra
Not to be used for navigation. For recreational use only.

Lake Argyle
Not to be used for navigation. For recreational use only.

Jump Rock
Not to be used for navigation. For recreational use only.

LEGEND

- Commercial Mooring Area
- 5 Knot Speed Restricted Area
- 8 Knot Speed Restricted Area
- Water Ski Area
- Closed Waters - All Vessels
- Closed Waters - Motorised Vessels
- Swimming Prohibited
- Boat Ramp
- Water Ski Direction Arrow
- Port Spar Buoy / Starboard Spar Buoy
- Spar Buoy / Isolated Danger Bouy

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

The skipper in charge of a recreational vessel with a motor **greater than 6 horsepower** is required to hold an RST and carry it with them while 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.

Interstate skipper's tickets
If you hold a valid/current interstate ticket, recognised by DoT and you enter, as a visitor or with the intention of permanently residing in WA, you have three months to have the qualification recognised.

Water skiing

Water skiing involves being towed over water, at a speed of 8 knots or more, by a vessel, supported by a ski, or skis, an aquaplane, other apparatus or feet. This includes being towed on a wakeboard, kneeboard or inflatable device.

Water skiing is a high risk activity and as the skipper of a vessel towing a water skier, it's your responsibility to ensure the safety of your crew and the skier at all times.

To reduce the risks associated with water skiing it is important that skippers familiarise themselves with:

- the rules and regulations;
- the layout and boundaries of the ski area;
- the direction of skiing;
- the hours of operation;
- the location of the take-off and landing areas; and
- any shallow water areas or other hazards.

This information is available in local boating guides and charts available from DoT or on signage at boat ramps.

Before commencing skiing, it is recommended that skippers brief each participant on their roles and responsibilities, hand signals and the various procedures associated with water skiing, such as recovering and reboarding of a downed skier.

Care should also be taken to brief participants on the location and use of safety equipment on-board the vessel and measures to avoid propeller strike.

When underway:

- follow the required direction of travel and remain inside the ski area;
- be alert and maintain a good lookout for other vessels, objects and downed skiers; and
- be courteous of other users and keep clear of slower moving vessels, paddle craft and sail craft.

With a bit of planning, courtesy and attention to safety, all users of water ski areas will be able to enjoy their day out.



The ski boat crew

To go skiing there must be a minimum of two in the ski boat, the skipper and at least one observer. The observer faces towards the skier at all times and communicates to the skipper while the skipper faces forward to maintain a proper lookout and concentrates on the vessel's course within the ski area.

The skipper

To be the driver of a vessel, with a motor over 6 hp (4.5 kW), engaged in water skiing you:

- must hold an Recreational Skipper's Ticket (RST), or be supervised by an RST holder who is at least 18 years of age; and
- must be at least 17 years of age.

The observer

- To be the observer you:
- must be at least 14 years of age;
 - have the prime responsibility of observing the towed skiers and reporting all matters affecting them to the skipper;
 - alert the skipper about other vessels approaching from behind; and
 - should be familiar with the standard hand signals.

The skier

Skiers can be any age; however, it is recommended they wear an approved Level 50 or 50s lifejacket while skiing.

Areas for water skiing

You can only water ski in a gazetted ski area at the permitted times. Ski areas are marked by signs on the foreshore and at each public boat ramp adjacent to the ski area. Ski area boundaries may also be marked in the water by buoys. The signs also provide information on the direction (clockwise or anti-clockwise) you must follow, times when skiing is permitted and if/where the take-off and landing areas are located. Consult these signs before skiing.

Water skiing hand signals

Waiting to take-off with a skier
Driver's signal
When waiting for a safe opportunity to take-off with a skier, the skipper should signal to vessels dropping off a skier that they do not intend to move until it's clear. This is indicated by holding both hands in the air showing that they are not on the boat's controls.

Skier down
Observer's signal
The observer only should hold one arm straight up in the air to indicate to other vessels that the skier has fallen off and is in the water.

Vessels seeing this signal should keep a good lookout for the skier in the water.

Skier down and is OK
Skier's signal
A fallen skier who has sustained no injuries should indicate that they are OK by raising both arms into the air.

If the observer does not see this signal, they should inform the skipper to return to the skier as quickly and safely as possible.

Dropping off a skier
Driver's signal
When returning a skier to the shore the driver should indicate this by the raising and lowering of a hand above the head.

