Vessels less than 3.75 metres in length can’t be taken greater than 1km from the mainland shore. However, you can operate the vessel within 1km of an isolated location more than 5km from the mainland shore.

**Personal water craft (PWC)**

To operate a PWC you must hold an RST. If you are under 16 years of age, you must also hold a Lifejacket. All RST holders over 14 but under 16 years of age are restricted to:

- Within 30 metres of another PWC;
- Between 400 metres and 2 nm from shore – level 100 or 150 only and carry an in date inshore distress flare kit and Emergency Position Indication Radio Beacon (EPIRB);
- Within 400 metres of the shore – either level 150, 100 or 50 only and carry an in date inshore distress flare kit, A 406 MHz EPIRB registered with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority and a Hand-held EPIRB, and at times carry safety equipment. For more information call 13 11 11.

**Recreational canoes, kayaks, surf skis, wave skis, inflatables or boards**

- To operate a PWC, you must hold an RST. If you are under 16 years of age, you must also hold a Lifejacket. All RST holders over 14 but under 16 years of age are restricted to:
- Within 30 metres of another PWC;
- Between 400 metres and 2 nm from shore – level 100 or 150 only and carry an in date inshore distress flare kit and Emergency Position Indication Radio Beacon (EPIRB);
- Within 400 metres of the shore – either level 150, 100 or 50 only and carry an in date inshore distress flare kit. The skipper of a recreational vessel, or a person on board, must correct their position and map datum settings. The markers visible marks placed at a number of public boat ramps and Global Positioning System (GPS) validation markers are unique from shore must carry safety equipment. For more information call 13 11 11.

**Fire Extinguisher**

A fire extinguisher is required on all vessels over 9 metres in length.

**Anchorage**

An efficient anchor and line must be carried on all vessels over 9 metres in length 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 presented.

**Rules at a glance**

Vessels are required to carry certain items of safety equipment. This quantity and type of equipment varies depending on how far offshore you travel, and it is important to understand that these are minimum requirements.

**Recreational Skipper’s Ticket (RST)**

The holder in charge of a recreational vessel must have a valid Certificate of Qualification (COQ) and a current Commercial Recreational Vessels Licence (CRVL).

**Age restrictions**

A person under 10 years may not drive a motor boat. RST holders under 14 but under 16 years of age are restricted to operating during daylight hours at a speed less than 8 knots.

**General speed limit restrictions**

- A vessel is considered to be stationary when it is at rest and an anchor is on the bottom.
- A vessel is considered to be moving when it is in motion and an anchor is not on the bottom.
- A vessel is considered to be moving while anchored when it is moving with the anchor on the bottom.
- A vessel is considered to be stationary while anchored when it is not moving with the anchor on the bottom.

**Vessels less than 3.75 metres**

- A vessel is considered to be stationary when it is at rest and an anchor is on the bottom.
- A vessel is considered to be moving when it is in motion and an anchor is not on the bottom.
- A vessel is considered to be moving while anchored when it is moving with the anchor on the bottom.
- A vessel is considered to be stationary while anchored when it is not moving with the anchor on the bottom.

**Boat ramp courtesy**

- A skipper should plan for a day on the water and organise equipment, refuel and check the boat before leaving the boat ramp.
- Remember to:
- use designated parking and loading areas to avoid impeding other people launching and retrieving vessels;
- follow the directions indicated by signage and or painted on the roadway;
- use the correct lanes for launch and retrieval;
- remain at the rear of the jetty prior to allowing other people to launch and recover;
- when patience with other less experienced boaters; and
- read all information signs at boat ramps to familiarise yourself with the local area.

**GPS validation markers**

Global Positioning System (GPS) validation markers are unique visible marks placed at a number of public boat ramps and Global Positioning System (GPS) validation markers are unique from shore must carry safety equipment. For more information call 13 11 11.

**Kitesurfing and windsurfing**

With the onset of the sea breezes windsurfers and kitesurfers congregate at many popular locations such as the Leeuwin. In certain conditions these small, fast moving sailing vessels may be difficult to see and skippers need to maintain a proper lookout at all times and take appropriate action. All windsurfers and kitesurfers have a duty of care to ensure their activities are conducted with regard to the prevailing conditions and circumstances and take appropriate action to avoid collisions. Kitesurfers and windsurfers operating more than 400 metres from shore must carry safety equipment. For more information call 13 11 11 or visit our website.

**Paddle Craft**

Recreational canoes, kayaks, surf skis, wave skis, inflatables or similar paddle craft must comply with SMA marine laws including carriage of safety equipment. For more information call 13 11 11 or visit our website.

**Reduce wash**

Vessel wash can cause damage to other vessels, retainting walls, retaining walls and floating pontoon jetty. Look behind you occasionally to make sure that your boat is not creating too much wash. If your wash is affecting other boats or property, slow down.

**Ocean entrances**

Stationary problems at ocean entrances can cause dangerous conditions for boaters as sandbars form. Don’t run aground. If you have local knowledge, experience and the right kind of boat, wear a lifejacket while crossing a bar in any boat at any time.

**Logging on and off**

Skippers are advised to log on and off at the nearest radio station every three hours in two trips. Tautbaie Marine Radio on 6050 kHz, Australian Maritime Safety Authority Marine Radio Station 6263 kHz VHF or Water Police. The idea being that you log on with a radio station and let them know where you are, where you are going, when you will arrive back and log off on your return.