**Boating Guide Exmouth Marine Safety**

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 are available along with a range of other DOT cyclone pages on the web site at www.transport.wa.gov.au/marine.

**Boating tips and reminders**

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

- slow down when approaching coral areas;
- tilt the motor in shallow areas;
- never get side on in the impact zone.

**Reef navigation**

Don’t get caught asleep. As soon as you see reef, they are suddenly confounded 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 accurately and objectively.

Going out:

- fish 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 through,ough it out. Make back out halway through.
- if a big wave comes up, get the boat’s bow up and tight the waves of an angle of about 10 degrees off and 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 rough waves as cavitation and loss of power may occur. If, back off 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 how 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 surf at all costs.
- never get side on in the impact zone.

**Disruption beacons**

All boats must carry a compliant Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) as it may be required by the department of Primary Industry and Regional Development.

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- 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.
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**General speed restrictions**

No legal, in any navigable waters, to drive a motor boat at a speed exceeding eight knots, water ski or parasail:

- through an arch of a bridge;
- in or through a mooring area;
- within 15 metres of a vessel underway;
- within 50 metres of—
  - a vessel;
  - a person in the water;
  - a ferry boat or freeboard 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, Bundgeg and Town Beaches.

**Age requirements and restrictions for skippers**

The person in charge of a recreational vessel, as a motor of 6hp (4.5 kilowatts) or less is not required to hold a Recreational Skipper’s Ticket (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 18 years of age are restricted to spending during daylight hours at a speed less than 8 knots.

**Radio communication**

Marine Rescue Exmouth operates a radio tower on weekends and public holidays from 8.00am – 6pm. Outside of these times 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.

**Contact details**

**Department of Transport**

Email: marine.safety@transport.wa.gov.au

Website: www.transport.wa.gov.au/marine

Exmouth Office: 9261 8393

Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) Marine Safety Hotline: 131 354

**Boating Weather Forecast**

Boating weather: 1300 815 916

**Contact details**

**Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC)**

Website: www.environment.wa.gov.au

**Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions**

Website: www.qld.gov.au/boating

**For further information go to:**
