Boating Guide
Geraldton - Port Denison
Marine Safety

Safety Equipment

Boat ramp courtesy
A good skipper plans for a day on the water and organises equipment, motors and mooring lines before leaving the boat ramp. Remember to:
- use designated rigging and de-rigging areas to avoid impeding other people launching and recovering vessels;
- follow the directions on signage and painted on the roadway;
- use the correct lanes for launch and retrieval;
- move quickly to the end of the jetty allowing other people to launch and recover;
- have patience with other less experienced boaters; and
- read all information signs at boat ramps to familiarise yourself with the local area.

Volunteer marine rescue groups
Volunteer Marine Rescue Services operate at Port Denison and Geraldton.

Windsurfing and kitesurfing
With the onset of the sea breezes windsurfers and kitesurfers congregate at many popular locations. In certain conditions these small, fast moving sailing vessels may be difficult to see and people navigating the coastal waters need to maintain a proper lookout at all times and take appropriate action to avoid collisions.

Safety equipment
Kite and windsurfers operating more than 400 metres from shore are now required to carry safety equipment. To get a sticker about the rules visit, www.transport.wa.gov.au/kitesafe or call 13 11 56.

Paddle craft
Recreational canoes, kayaks, surf skis, inflatable or similar paddle craft must comply with WA marine laws including carriage of safety equipment. To get a sticker about the rules visit, www.transport.wa.gov.au/kitesafe or call 13 11 56.

Prevention of collision
Kite and windsurfing more than 400 metres from shore must carry safety equipment. To get a sticker and learn about the rules visit our website or call 13 11 56.

Volunteer in charge of a recreational vessel
The person in charge of a recreational vessel is responsible for the vessel’s safety and must ensure that all safety equipment carried by persons on board is in good working order and readily available to them.

Advisory
It is illegal to interfere with, remove or damage any beacon, buoy or other artificial aid to navigation.

GPS validation markers
Global positioning system (GPS) validation markers are unique visible marks placed at a selected locations along the coast. The markers are small, flat and yellow, similar to ‘bait’ road mile markers. For more information visit our website.

Coast Cameras
Coast Cameras provide boaters and other aquatic users with near live images of the current weather and conditions at selected locations along the coast.

The images are updated every minute and displayed on our website: www.transport.wa.gov.au/coast-camera

Contacts
Department of Transport
Email: marina@transport.wa.gov.au
Website: www.transport.wa.gov.au/marine

Marine Safety Hotline: 13 11 56

Police
Local Police: 131 444
Police Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000

Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development
Geraldton (VMR 670): 9982 1000

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
Geraldton Office: 9957 1140

Shore Rangers
Geraldton: 9956 6650

Local Government Authorities
Geraldton Regional Council: 9957 2222

Volunteer Marine Rescue Services
Geraldton (VMR 675, 9956 3514)

Port Denison (VMR 673, 9957 7070)

Yacht Clubs
Geraldton Yacht Club: 9956 1664

Boating Weather Forecast
Boating weather: 1900 969 902
Website: www.bom.gov.au/marine

For further information go to: www.transport.wa.gov.au/batavia-park

Batavia Coast Marina

The Department of Transport (DoT) manages the Batavia Coast Marina and users of the marina under the following:

- Small Lagoon: 5 metre buffer zone outside the marina;
- Anchoring or docking within the marina and marina entrance is prohibited;
- Windsurfers, kite surfers, stand up paddle boards, personal water craft (Jet-ski), kayaks or similar boating equipment are prohibited to operate within the marina;
- Cleaning fish, dumping fish refuse, or rubbish into the marina;
- Operating more than 5 miles from the mainland shore.

No other vessels, including kayaks, canoes or similar vessels are allowed to operate within one nautical mile of any channel or fairway of any navigable waters except where specially designated areas have been established by the Department of Transport.

Local knowledge

The Geraldton region is known for the strong southerly winds that prevail during the winter months. Skippers are advised to check the weather reports before heading out on the water. Winds can blow up quite suddenly and reach speeds of 30 knots, making the return journey hazardous to small vessels.

If unsure of weather conditions, please contact the Bureau of Meteorology for the latest weather reports and updates.

Windsurfing and kitesurfing

The person in charge of a recreational vessel...

National Parks

Lamington National Park (VMR 686): 9955 0663

Volunteer Marine Rescue Services
Geraldton (VMR 675, 9956 3514)

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Diving flag

Any boat with divers operating from it must always display a diving signal flag as soon as possible on or near the water's surface. The diving signal must be in accordance with the International Code Flag "A". The flag must be at least 750mm long and 600mm wide.

Divers not operating from a vessel or jetty can display the flag from a buoy. If displayed from a buoy, the flag must not be visible to any persons on or near the boat and must be clearly visible to all vessels operating in the vicinity.

Water skiing

Water skiing involves being towed over water at a speed of 5 knots or more by a motor boat. The activity is only permitted between the hours of sunrise to sunset, unless otherwise indicated.

A boat or water ski or skis, an aquaplane or other apparatus, or your feet.

It takes at least three people to go water skiing:

• at least 14 years of age. Observers must also wear a lifejacket.

• All personal watercraft (PWC) may operate when towing a water skier. When towing a skier

• use a rope with a minimum breaking strength of 300kg. The length of the rope must be such that the PWC can stop the skier or skis within 50 metres of another vessel or person in the water.

• do not operate at speeds greater than twice the speed of the PWC. The PWC must be a tender tied to the skier. The PWC must be clearly visible to all vessels operating in the vicinity.

• keep clear of divers or divers operating in the water. Divers not operating from a vessel or jetty can display the flag from a buoy. If displayed from a buoy, the flag must not be visible to any persons on or near the boat and must be clearly visible to all vessels operating in the vicinity.

• make a proper lookout for people in the water, whilst passing within 50 metres of the place or position indicating radio beacon (EPIRB).