Navigational risks
Should you wish to enter the gaps please consider the following:
- It is an offence under section 59(2) of the Western Australian Marine Act 1982, to endanger the safety of a vessel or person.
- Aerated (white water) may affect your vessel’s buoyancy and will cause your propeller/jet nozzle to cavitate. This may result in swamping and/or a loss of control.
- The turbulent flow is unpredictable and powerful, it will affect your ability to control your vessel. Expect sudden changes in direction which may push your vessel into the cliff face.
- There is a very high risk that any person ejected from a vessel will be held underwater and drown. Rescue attempts are unlikely to be successful.
- Specialist commercial vessels entering the gaps are purpose built and operated by masters with local knowledge and experience.
- Your boating experience and qualifications, commercial or recreational, may not guarantee that you are adequately prepared for the conditions within the gaps.
- Tides and conditions can change rapidly. (This relates to being inside the falls for one hour or longer and conditions changing).

Required Safety Equipment

Operating guidelines
The following operating guidelines are provided in the interest of your safety. However they do not guarantee the safety of your vessel or your passengers.
- All vessels must monitor radio channel 69 and radio their intentions prior to passing through the gaps.
- Only one vessel may navigate the gaps at a time.
- Lifesaving gear must be worn at all times.
- Tiller controlled vessels should not enter the gaps during any periods of turbulent flow.
- Low horsepower vessels and dinghies should not enter the gaps during any periods of turbulent flow.
- No vessel is permitted to anchor within the anchoring restricted area at any time.

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

Corrections:

- The table is not complete. It is missing some entries and the format is not consistent.
- The operating guidelines are not clearly stated and are scattered throughout the text.
- The required safety equipment is not clearly listed and the format is not consistent.

Contact details
Department of Transport
Email: marine.safety@transport.wa.gov.au
Website: www.transport.wa.gov.au/marine
Broomie: 9192 0200
Marine Safety Hotline: 13 11 56
Weather Forecast
Boating Weather: 1300 815 916
Website: www.bom.gov.au/marine
Police
Water Police: 0442 8600
Emergency: 000
Marine Rescue WA
Emergency contact: VHF 16 and 27Mhz 88
Broomie: (VMR650) 9192 8202
Derby: (VMR 894) 0419 959 376
Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development - Fisheries Division
Broomie office
Ph: 9193 8600
Website: fish.wa.gov.au
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions - Parks and Wildlife Service
Broomie office
Laltar-garram / Horizontal Falls Marine Park
Ph: 9195 5500
Website: dbca.wa.gov.au
Port Authority
Kimberley Ports Authority: 9194 3100

This information contained in this publication is provided in good faith and is 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.
Garaanngaddim (Horizontal Falls)

Garaanngaddim is like no other; instead of flowing vertically the ‘waterfall’ is created when the massive tides in the area flow through two narrow gaps in the McLarty Range in Ganbadba (Talbot Bay).

The area has tides of up to 11 metres, and because of this, huge amounts of water pass through the gaps and a situation occurs where the water level may vary by up to 5 metres on either side. The passing of the water through the restricted gaps creates deep layers of aerated water and dangerous, unpredictable, turbulent flow. It is highly recommended that recreational vessels and non-specialist commercial vessels do not attempt to go through the gaps when the tide is rushing through. Death and serious injury have occurred. An anchoring restricted area has been created to:
- manage safe movement of vessels and craft
- manage lines of sight to the falls entrance.

“The rushing tide is the ‘Woongudd (snake) itself’, travelling through the falls at full rushing tide is when ‘the Woongudd is travelling’. Traditional owners say that it is both disrespectful and dangerous to travel when the falls are rushing and further, ‘the Woongudd’ is damaged every time people drive through the gap.”

Not to be used for navigational purposes