

Boating Guide

Horizontal Falls

Marine Safety



August 2023



Lalang-garram
marine parks

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 water 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).*








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 must navigate the gaps at a time.
- Lifejackets are to 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.

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 unprotected 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	✓ Minimum Level 100 MUST BE CARRIED	✓ Minimum Level 100 MUST BE WORN
	Vessels 4.8m and larger	✓ Minimum Level 100 MUST BE CARRIED	✓ Minimum Level 100 MUST BE CARRIED
 Lifejacket Wearing As indicated in the table opposite.	Children older than one and younger than 12	✓ Minimum Level 100 MUST BE CARRIED	✓ Minimum Level 100 MUST BE WORN
	Personal Water Craft	✓ Minimum Level 50S MUST BE WORN	✓ Minimum Level 50S 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 Signals 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 unprotected 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/imarine
Broome: 9192 0200
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 Broome
Marine Rescue Derby

Boating Weather Forecasts

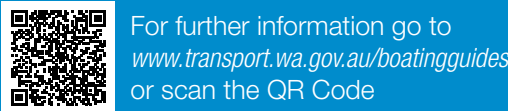
Boating weather: 1300 815 916
Website: www.bom.gov.au

Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development

Fishwatch: 1800 815 507
Website: www.dpird.wa.gov.au

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

Lalang-garram Camden Sound Marine Park
Website: www.dbca.wa.gov.au



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. 16-29-02-SER-0423-WEB-S1



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.”

Garaanngaddim Restricted Area No Anchoring

