Local knowledge

Navigation of the sand bar at the Kalbarri river mouth can be dangerous and skippers are advised to consider the safety tips included on the chart in this guide.

The Mid West is known for the strong southerly winds that prevail during the summer 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.

Aids to navigation

It is illegal to interfere with, remove or damage any beacon, buoy or other artificial aid to navigation. Without permission in writing from DoT, it is illegal to secure any vessel to any beacon, buoy, seamark or other aid to navigation.

Obstruction of navigation aids, channels and leads

Deep nets, fishing nets, marker buoys or other buoys or objects cannot be placed or allowed to remain in any channel or fairway in any port or harbour, or in any channel, fairway or passage in any navigable waters without the permission of DoT.

Also, you can’t anchor or moor a vessel in any channel or fairway unless the vessel is in distress.

Reduce wash

Vessel wash can cause damage to other vessels, retarding wake and shoals. Good boating practice requires you to make sure that your wash is not creating too much wash. If your wash is affecting other boats or property, slow down.

Vessels less than 3.75 metres

Vessels less than 3.75 metres in length can’t be taken greater than five nautical miles from the mainland shore.

Volunteer Marine Rescue Services

Please remember to log on before heading out to sea and supply them with:

- the vessel’s name, registration number or call sign;
- the departure point and time;
- the destination;
- the trip intentions;
- the number of people on board;
- the amount of fuel carried; and
- the estimated time of return.

This basic information can make a big difference in a response to an emergency situation. It is also important to remember to log off to avoid a search being initiated.

Paddle craft

Recreational canoes, kayaks, surf skis, inflatable or similar paddle craft that are propelled by a person using a paddle must comply with WA marine laws.

To get a brochure and sticker about the rules call 13 11 56 or visit our website.

Kite and windsurfing

With the onset of the sea breeze windsurfers and kitesurfers congregate at many popular coastal locations. 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 to avoid collisions.

Vessels and kitesurfers operating more than 400 metres from shore are now required to carry safety equipment.

To get a sticker and learn about the rules visit our website or call 13 11 56.
Boating Guide Kalbarri - Port Gregory

Safety Equipment

- A lifejacket bearing the label Level 1 must be carried for every person onboard.
- An efficient anchor and line must be carried.
- A 406 MHz EPIRB registered with the Search and Rescue Coordination Centre must be carried.
- Red flares and a smoke canister may be carried in lieu of the two hand held flares.
- Fire extinguishers in date.
- An efficient fire extinguisher must be carried for vessels over 8 metres.
- Coolers in date.
- Insulated ice bags must be carried for vessels over 8 metres.
- First aid kit in date.
- A workboat safety kit must be carried for vessels using winches or hoists.
- A bailer in lieu of a bilge pump.
- Safety equipment must be easily accessible.

Contact details

- Kalbarri: (VMR673) 9937 2112
- Geraldton: 9920 8400
- Website: www.fish.wa.gov.au
- Kalbarri: 9937 1140
- Geraldton: 9956 0111
- Website: www.transport.wa.gov.au/imarine
- Email: marine.safety@transport.wa.gov.au

- Police
- Victoria Police: 9920 8400
- Kalbarri: 9936 3000
- Website: www.police.wa.gov.au

- Transport
- Department of Transport
- Geraldton: 9956 0454
- Kalbarri: 9937 3030
- Website: www.transport.wa.gov.au

- Boating Weather
- 1900 955 350

- Emergency contact: VHF 16/80 and 27Mhz 88/90

Safety Information

- A list of local marine radio call signs is available from any VMR group.
- GPS receivers are recommended where possible.
- VHF radio is the primary means of communication. A radio call sign will be assigned on launch.
- The preferred frequency to use in daylight hours is 16 MHz. A VHF Marine Radio call sign is necessary for registration.
- Boat names must be registered with the Transport Department.
- A list of local marine radio call signs is available from any VMR group.

Marine Weather

- Boating Weather: 1900 955 350
- Boating Weather boating weather.hotels.com.au

Safety Information

- A list of local marine radio call signs is available from any VMR group.
- GPS receivers are recommended where possible.
- VHF radio is the primary means of communication. A radio call sign is necessary for registration.
- Boat names must be registered with the Transport Department.
- A list of local marine radio call signs is available from any VMR group.

Skills and seamanship

- All vessels are required to have a person on board who is knowledgeable about boating conditions and the environment around them.
- A person must be on board who is familiar with the vessel and its safety equipment.
- The vessel must be able to provide assistance to other vessels in distress.
- Every vessel must be equipped with a working radio.
- A radio call sign must be carried for registration purposes.

Rules of the Waterways

- Vessel Overtaking Another
- Power Vessels Meeting Head On
- Power Vessels Meeting
- Power Meeting Traffic
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Local Knowledge

- The mid-west is known for the strong southerly winds that can cause sudden changes in weather conditions.
- Local knowledge is essential for safe boating conditions.
- The sand bar at the Kalbarri river mouth can be navigated with care.
- The entrance to the river is narrow and can be shallow at low tide.
- WInds can blow up quite suddenly and reach high speeds.
- The entrance to the river is narrow and can be shallow at low tide.
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- The entrance to the river is narrow and can be shallow at low tide.

Obstruction of Navigation Aids

- Aids to navigation 
- Drop nets, fishing nets, marker buoys or other buoyed objects cannot be placed or allowed to remain in any navigable water.
- Objects affecting other boats or property, slow down.
- Walls and.
- 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.
**Personal water craft (PWC)**

To operate a personal water craft (PWC), at a speed greater than 8 knots you must be at least 16 years of age and hold an RST.

- **EPIRBs must be in date?**
- **Flares must be in date?**
- **LOG ON!**
- **Every trip**
- **Remember to**

**Cross the bar safely**

**Follow these important safety tips:**

- Seek local knowledge about the bar.
- Check the weather, tide and/or conditions for winds and swells.
- Check your engines and controls.
- Secure all hatches and bollard down the anchor.
- Use a sounder to chart your passage.
- Make sure mechanics on board are familiar with emergency procedures.
- Safety of your passengers.
- Log in/off.
- Tie the bar and draw down wave conditions.
- Approach the bar with caution.
- Be aware of large waves if close and do not proceed.
- Keep a vigilant lookout at all times.

**Naval Chart**

- **Every overtaking vessel**
- **Power meeting – sailing vessel**
- **Power meeting – power vessels**
- **Power meeting – sailing vessels**
- **Power meeting – sailing vessels**

**Beach**

- **Bay**
- **Gantheaume**
- **Water Ski Area**

**Vessel Overtaking**

- **Power gives way to power**
- **Power gives way to power**

**Lateral marks**

- **Indicate the port and starboard side of navigable channels**

**Starboard marks**

- **Correct course**
- **Any other lights**

**Port marks**

- **Correct course**
- **Any other lights**

- **Personal water craft (PWC)**

- **Age restrictions**
  - A person under 10 years may not drive a motor boat.
  - An RST holder over 14 but under 16 years is restricted to operating during daylight hours at a speed less than 8 knots.

- **Navigation lights**
  - All vessels under way during the hours of sunset and sunrise must display navigation lights appropriate to the particular size and type of vessel. For further information, refer to the WA Department of Transport website or call 13 11 56.

- **Emergency position indicating radio beacon (EPIRB)**
  - A person in charge of a recreational vessel is required to hold an RST.
  - A person in charge of a PWC is required to hold an RST.

- **Fluorescent day-glo lifejackets**
  - Between 2 and 5 nm – lifejacket Level 100, 150 or 275.
  - Between 500 and 2000 metres from shore – lifejacket Level 150, 100 or 50/50.