**Personal water craft**

A personal water craft (PWC) — often called a jet ski — is a craft propelled by an inboard motor powering a water jet pump. The operator sits, stands or kneels and uses handlebars to steer it.

A person must be at least 16 years of age and hold a Recreational Skipper’s Ticket (RST) to operate a PWC at a speed in excess of 8 knots.

People aged 14 to 16 and holding an RST may operate any recreational vessel during daylight hours under a speed of 8 knots.

PWCs and similar craft are powered as far as the rules are concerned. This means there are rules on the age of drivers, the distance offshore they can operate, safety equipment to be carried, speed limits and so on. There is, however, a very few extra rules and a few concessions which bear in mind the PWC’s limitations.

**Safety equipment**

Every person on board a PWC must wear a life jacket at all times:

- within 400 metres of the shore it can be a Level 150, 100, 50, 50%.
- between 400 metres and 2 nautical miles from shore in unprotected waters a Level 150 or 100 must be worn. An infant, inshore distress flare kit, must be carried.
- between 2 and 5 nautical miles, a Level 150 or 100 must be worn. An infant, inshore distress flare kit and EPIRB, must also be carried, and vessels under 3.75 metres are not permitted more than 5 nautical miles offshore.

**Diving regulations**

**Diving flag**

A vessel with divers working from it must carry the appropriate day or night signals. The daytime signal for divers is an International Code Flag “A”. The flag must be at least 750mm long and 600mm wide. Divers operating without a vessel, for example from a jetty, must also display the International Code Flag “A” of the same minimum size.

The flag can be shown from a buoy, in which case the minimum size must be 300mm in length and 200mm in width. This flag must be clearly visible to all vessels operating in the vicinity.

At night the diver’s vessel, as well as appropriate lights must be displayed.

- within any speed restricted area;
- within 50 metres of another vessel or person in the water.

**Vessels to keep clear of diving signals**

All vessels must keep at least 50 metres clear of boats, from which the divers are operating diving signals.

Where it is not possible to keep 50 metres clear, the approaching vessel should travel at the slowest possible speed and keep a good look-out for people in the water.
Dampier Archipelago

For more detailed information, refer to the Australian Hydrographic Nautical Charts

A3 59 - Approaches to Port Dampier
A3 58 - Port of Dampier
A3 57 - Dampier Archipelago
A3 56 - Port of Dampier
A3 55 - Plans in Port Dampier, Withnell Bay to King Bay, Dampier Wharves

Approximately 5 NM from mainland shore

Before undertaking any boating activities please check the

Immediately report all crocodile sightings to DPaW on (08) 9182 2000
Crocodiles inhabit Pilbara coastal waterways so please exercise caution
(camping permitted only up to 100m inland of the high-water mark)

Conservation Zone - Day access only

Launching Ramps

Mangroves

Fishing Restrictions -

Port Security Zones - No Access

Obstruction of navigation aids, channels and leads
Grab nets, fishing nets, marker buoys, or any other buoyed objects, are not allowed in any channel, fairway or passage without the permission of the Department of Transport. Anchoring or mooring is also not permitted these unless you are in distress.

Vessels must not be secured to a beacon or other navigation aid.

Accident/incident reporting
When an accident results in serious injury or death, or the vessel has been damaged enough to make it unserviceable or unsafe, the owner or skipper must report full particulars of the incident to the Department within seven days. Pick up a special form from the Department's offices, download it from the website: www.transport.wa.gov.au/marine?1282.asp or phone 13 11 56 for one to be sent out.

Port security
Under State Port Authority legislation a continuous 50 metres restricted area exists around all port facilities and jetties within the ports of Dampier and Waikcott, 700 metres around Woodside’s Withnell Bay facility and 100 metres around the Woodside BHP Caltech facility in Withnell Bay. Unauthorised vessels may not enter these areas. Penalty $5,000

Age requirements and restrictions for skippers
A person in charge of a recreational vessel with a motor of 6 horsepower (4.5 kilowatts) or less is not required to hold a Recreational Skippers Ticket (RST).
A person in charge of a recreational vessel with a motor greater than 6 horsepower (4.5 kilowatts) is required to hold a RST.
Over 14 and under 16 years restricted to operating during daylight hours only and at a speed of less than 6 knots.

Placement of registration numbers and sticker
Numbers must be fixed as follows:
Powerboats – Markings on both sides of the hull where they are clearly visible – not under the flare of the bow and 150mm in size.
Fishing – On the side of the hull immediately forward of the transom and 55mm in size.
Inflatable boats – As for a powerboat or on boards hung over either side and 150mm in size.
Tender – Must have its parent vessel’s number displayed on each side of the boat forward of the transom.
On all vessels, the registration sticker must be fixed on the port side, adjacent to the registration number.

Obstructed Light Marks
1. White light
2. Green light
3. Yellow light

Legend
- Port Security Zones - No Access
- Fishing Restrictions - Contact Department of Fisheries
- Shallow Water [<3 metres at low tide]
- Interidal Areas - Dry at low tide
- Saline Flats
- Mangroves
- Closed Waters - Motors/Inflatable Vessels
- Reef
- Offshore Rocks
- Mooring Areas
- Launching Ramps

Approximately 1 NM from mainland shore

Access Zoning for Island Reserves - Department of Parks and Wildlife
- Special Conservation Zone - No access at any time
- Conservation Zone - Day access only
- Recreation Zone - Day trip and camping areas
- (Camping permitted only up to 100m inland of the high-water mark)
- Conservation & Recreation Reserves - Day trip and camping areas.

WARNING — Crocodiles
Crocodiles inhabit Pilbara coastal waterways so please exercise caution when launching boats and do not skimmer at the water’s edge. Immediately report all crocodile sightings to DPFW on (08) 9182 2080

WARNING — Tides
There is a 5m tidal range. Consultation to tidal movements should be given when planning a cruising trip in the area.

Notice to Mariners

- Head Overtaking Marker
- Power Vessels Meeting Head on
- Power Vessels Meeting
- Power Vessels Tailing Head
- Ships in Channels

Basic rules of the waterways
Every vessel must give way to another vessel on its starboard side or in front of it
Every vessel must give way to another vessel on its port side or astern of it
The vessel that is meeting must give way to another vessel that is meeting it
A vessel overtaking another vessel must keep clear of it
Vessel in a large group must give way to smaller vessels
Vessel in a small group must give way to larger vessels
Vessel meeting a head on
Vessel meeting astern
When meeting head on
When meeting astern

- Navigate with caution
- Mooring Area