Personal water craft (PWC) – often called jet skis – are craft propelled by an inboard motor powering a water jet pump. The operator sits, stands or kneels on the vessel. PWCs and similar craft are permitted as far as the rules are concerned. This means these are rules for the age of skippers, safety equipment, areas they can operate in and the distance off-shore they can speed.

Recreational Skippers Ticket (RST)
Every skipper of a PWC must hold a Recreational Skipper’s Ticket (RST). A skipper who is older than 14 but under 16 years of age with an RST may operate a PWC but only during daylight hours and at a maximum speed of 8 knots.

Safety equipment
Every person on board a PWC must wear a lifejacket at all times: within protected waters or within 400 metres of the shore in unprotected waters. A Recreational Skippers Ticket (RST) holder over 14 but under 16 years of age is restricted to protected waters unless they have completed a boating competency course which may entitle them to a Recreational Skippers Ticket (RST).

A person in charge of a recreational vessel with a motor of 5.0 knots or less must carry a PWC Area Certificate issued by the Department of Transport (DoT).

A person in charge of a recreational vessel with a motor of greater than 5.0 knots must carry a Marine Safety Certificate issued by the Department of Transport (DoT).

A person in charge of a recreational vessel of 2.5 metres or more must carry a Comprehensive Certificate issued by the Department of Transport (DoT).

Age restrictions
A person under 10 years may not drive a motor boat.

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