Personal water craft (PWC) – often called jet ski – are craft propelled by an inboard motor providing a water jet. Therefore, the operator sits, stands or kneels on the water. PWCs and similar crafts are prohibited as far as the rules are concerned. This means there are rules for the age of skippers, safety equipment, areas they can operate and the distances offshore they can speed.

Requirements for skippers of PWCs

Every skipper of a PWC must hold a Recreational Skipper’s Ticket (RST). A skipper who is older than 14 but under 16 years must also carry, in addition to the above, a lifejacket Level 100 or greater than 6hp must have one in the boat. A person under 10 years may not drive a motor boat.

Personal Water Craft (PWC) and Personal Water Skiing

You are required to carry your RST card when boating. 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 boating to keep our rivers healthy
• between 400 metres and 2 nautical miles from shore in boating to keep our rivers healthy
• between 2 and 5 nautical miles a lifejacket Level 100 or greater than 6hp must be worn;
• within any speed restricted area.

Water skiing

Water skiing rules and regulations

Water skiers being towed over water at a speed of 8 knots or more by a motor boat supported on the surface by a ski or a tandem are sometimes referred to as skiers. In the Swan and Canning riv...