Safe Boating
Marine Safety
The Department of Transport (DoT) is challenging skippers throughout WA to take responsibility for their actions on the water.

To ensure the safety of all boaters, skippers need to be familiar with the rules and regulations that apply within WA waters. Duty of care is an important part of a skipper’s job.

As skipper remember you:

- are responsible for the safety of your vessel, crew and passengers;
- must not endanger any other vessel; and
- must be ready to assist others who need help.

For more information scan the QR code or use the link below.
Don’t have the app? Search for ‘QR Code Reader’ in your app store.

A marine band radio is required to go more than five nautical miles from the mainland shore.

The choice of radio is up to you, it can be 27mHz, VHF or HF.

When at sea, you must have your radio turned on and tuned to the distress frequency:

- for 27mHz, this frequency is 27.88; and
- for VHF, this frequency is channel 16.

All Volunteer Marine Rescue (VMR) Groups monitor Channel 88 and VHF Channel 16.

Operators of 27 MHz marine radios do not need to be licensed.

Operators of VHF and MF/HF marine radios must hold a Marine Radio Operator’s Certificate of Proficiency.

For more information scan the QR code or use the link below.
Don’t have the app? Search for ‘QR Code Reader’ in your app store.

Lifejackets are proven lifesavers. Modern lifejackets cater for just about every boating situation; from paddling or kite surfing to offshore fishing. So be safe and wear yours.

Vessels operating in unprotected waters (outside the waters contained by any breakwater or in any lake, river or estuary other than the waters of Cambridge Gulf or Lake Argyle) must carry an approved lifejacket for each person on board.

Each lifejacket must suit the weight of the person it is intended for, be maintained in good condition and kept in an easily accessible place.

Tip: Check the condition of your lifejacket regularly.

For more information scan the QR code or use the link below.
Don’t have the app? Search for ‘QR Code Reader’ in your app store.
Although operators of paddle craft without an engine are not required to hold a Recreational Skipper’s Ticket (RST), they are still considered to be a vessel skipper.

As with all vessel skippers, they are deemed by law to be responsible for the safety of their vessel and any crew or passengers, this includes obeying the collision regulations and in some cases carrying safety equipment.
The Recreational Skipper’s Ticket (RST) is a nationally recognised marine qualification. It is the minimum qualification needed to operate a powerboat in WA. An RST is required to be in charge of a recreational vessel powered by an engine with more than 6 hp. Skippers need to carry their RST when boating. In excess of 200,000 RSTs have been issued since the program began in 2006.
Every recreational boat that has a motor, or can be fitted with one, must be registered with the DoT.

Boat registration fees support the delivery of boating related safety programs and infrastructure projects including:

- boating safety education campaigns;
- navigation aids;
- signage;
- compliance;
- investigations; and
- grant programs for boat ramps and other public boating facilities.

For more information scan the QR code or use the link below. Don’t have the app? Search for ‘QR Code Reader’ in your app store.

Night navigation requires extra care and attention because there are many unlit navigation aids and other objects. It is important that all navigation lights be checked in the required configurations prior to embarking on journeys where navigation lights may be required. Spare globes and fuses should be carried.

Night vision is that allows for night vision) is extremely sensitive to light. Rhodopsin (the molecule found in the rods in our eyes) is very sensitive to dim white light and night vision will be lost. It takes 15 minutes to adapt to the dark if viewing a bright white light and night vision will be lost. It takes 30-45 minutes for 80 per cent - the rest may take longer to adapt at greater light intensity level than under a dimmed white light without disrupting your night vision.

Respect other people's night vision by only using spotlights for instance) for communication with other vessels or skippers.

Contact details
Department of Transport
Marine safety hotline: 1300 863 308
Website: www.transport.wa.gov.au/imarine

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<th>Region</th>
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Points to note with specific types of lights
- For commercial purposes or for recreational boating, must comply with the regulations concerning lighting.
- Vessels that operate from sunset to sunrise, whether at anchor or under way, must carry and exhibit the correct lights.
- Navigation lights must also be displayed during daylight hours in periods of restricted visibility.
- Tip: Check your navigation lights before leaving on a trip where you may need them.

For more information scan the QR code or use the link below.
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www.transport.wa.gov.au/lights
All boats under 3.75 metres (12 feet) in length, and this includes personal water craft (PWC) must stay within five nautical miles of the mainland, unless they are within the limits of a port or within one nautical mile of an island.

A Recreational Skipper’s Ticket is required to be in charge of a PWC.

Freestyle driving is driving a PWC in a manner that the driver of another vessel would be unable to predict your course and speed in order to avoid a collision.

Freestyling is prohibited:
- within 30 metres of another PWC;
- within 50 metres of another vessel or person in the water; and
- in the Swan Canning Riverpark except in the gazetted freestyle areas.

For more information scan the QR code or use the link below.

Don’t have the app?
Search for ‘QR Code Reader’ in your app store.

www.transport.wa.gov.au/pwc
EPIRBs

An emergency position indicating radio beacon (EPIRB) is a life saving device that transmits radio signals, which alert search and rescue authorities.

In WA, all recreational vessels operating more than two nautical miles from the mainland shore or more than 400 metres from an island located more than two nautical miles from shore are required by law to carry an EPIRB.

EPIRBs must be kept within their servicable battery expiry date and must be registered with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority. Registration is Free.

For more details visit: www.beacons.amsa.gov.au

For more information scan the QR code or use the link below.
Don’t have the app?
Search for ‘QR Code Reader’ in your app store.
www.transport.wa.gov.au/epirbs
Boating Guides

If you’re going to an unfamiliar area you’ll need some local knowledge.

DoT has developed a series of boating guides for popular WA boating locations. The free guides contain local marine safety information about boating hazards, facilities, speed restricted areas, water-ski, PWC closed water areas.

For more information scan the QR code or use the link below.
Don’t have the app?
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www.transport.wa.gov.au/boatingguides
Rules and regulations

All the rules and regulations that apply to power boats also apply to boats that are towing skiers. The prevention of collision rules still apply in ski areas, this means a ski boat has no priority over a boat that is passing through the area.

Distance behind a skier

You must not drive any closer than 45 metres directly behind a skier or any other boat.

Distance from shore

Stay at least 45 metres (or as gazetted) when landing or taking off in a gazetted take-off and landing area.

Towing skiers near landing or take-off areas

You must not drive a power boat towing water skiers within 30 metres of the shore or any landing or take-off area.

Right of way when landing a water skier

except for when you are landing or taking off.

The skipper of a boat about to take-off a skier must give way to a ski boat approaching to land a skier.

A skipper landing a skier must not approach within 25 metres.

Retrieving a skier

When a skier goes down, do not immediately complete a back, complete a slow turn and then accelerate back to full power turn back in the direction of the skier. Throttle the downed skier.

Water skis to be retrieved

Immediately after losing or intentionally discarding a ski, the skier should ensure it is retrieved.

least 60 metres from the point of dropping the skier, stop

After landing a water skier, skippers should continue to at

Ski line to be retrieved

and have the ski line retrieved. If coming to shore the skipper must reduce boat speed to less than 8 knots and not interfere with, or obstruct, any other boat towing a water skier.

Ski ropes

A skipper must not permit a ski rope to trail within 30 metres of the shore of any area set aside for water skiing, unless the rope handles are held by a skier.

Slalom skiing or ski-jumping

Navigable waters should not be used for the purpose of:

• a slalom course or ski-jump unless there is prior approval
• a slalom course or ski-jump unless a safety zone
• slalom skiing unless the person is wearing a PFD Type 2
• slalom skiing or ski-jumping unless the person is permitted in writing from DoT;

or PFD Type 3; and

or use the link below.

For more information scan the QR code or use the link below.

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www.transport.wa.gov.au/waterski
Skippers are encouraged to check the expiry date on safety equipment before heading out on the water.

Safety gear that has an expiry date or maintenance expiry date includes flares, EPIRBs and inflatable lifejackets.

EPIRBs are an item in the safety equipment list that have two expiry dates; battery and registration.
Regulations are in place to ensure the safety of divers.

A boat with divers must carry the appropriate day or night signals.

All vessels must keep at least 50 metres clear of boats, buoys or areas showing diving signals.

Where it is not possible to keep 50 metres clear or when in the vicinity of a diving signal, all vessels must proceed at safe speed with due caution until well clear and keep a good lookout for divers in the water.

Boat propellers pose a risk that can be easily ignored or forgotten because they are under the water, ‘out of sight and out of mind’. A strike from a spinning propeller can cause serious injury or even death.

For more information scan the QR code or use the link below.

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There is nothing more important to boating safety than keeping a lookout for possible danger.

When boating, danger can come from different directions, so maintaining a proper lookout is crucial.

In fact, maintaining a proper lookout is one of the navigation rules. Skippers who fail to keep a proper lookout not only endanger their own lives and those of their passengers, they also jeopardise the safety of other water users.

Tip: Always keep a good lookout when on the water.

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Contacts

Department of Transport
Marine safety hotline: 1300 863 308
Email: marine.safety@transport.wa.gov.au
Website: www.transport.wa.gov.au/imarine

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Geraldton: (08) 9956 0111
Bunbury: (08) 9792 6666
Albany: (08) 9892 7333
Kalgoorlie: (08) 9022 5999
Esperance: (08) 9076 2100

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