



**JERSEY
COASTGUARD**



GUIDE TO PERSONAL WATERCRAFT USE IN JERSEY

1.0 BUYING A PWC

There are a number reputable brands available from local retailers here in Jersey.

If you buy a PWC, second hand, from a private individual, make sure it is in good mechanical condition before you make the purchase. Remember your life may depend upon it. You should check that there no loans outstanding against the craft, or you may become liable for that debt. Ensure the seller fills in a 'Change of Ownership Form' so that you can register the craft in your name.

2.0 REGISTERING A PWC

A personal watercraft must be registered and this must be done within two weeks of purchase. When registering, you must provide proof of insurance. If you are buying new the process is simple and the dealer will often be able to help you. If you are buying a second hand craft, both purchaser and seller must complete their sections of the registration form in order to transfer ownership (just like a road vehicle).

Your PWC will be assigned a local JY number. It is recognised that it is not always practical to affix this number to the body of such craft, and therefore you will be assigned an additional single digit number and letter that must be displayed at all times on the main body. This number will be linked to the main registration number in the data base.

Always remember to register your change of address.

A person who fails to register a PWC or update his required details is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of level 2 on the standard scale (£500)

3.0 INSURING A PWC

In Jersey the law requires all vessels, capable of speeds in excess 12 knots and / or that have a length of 3m or more, to be insured. This includes all designs of PWC. Flyboarding is not currently regulated in Jersey but it is an extreme sport that we would not encourage and any insurance must specifically cover this activity.

A person who fails to insure a PWC is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of level 3 on the standard scale (£2000)

4.0 VISITORS TO JERSEY

Visitors to Jersey are also required to follow the Law. Before use of a PWC in local waters, whether it is brought into the Island on a ferry, by trailer, or on the back of your yacht, then you must obtain a 'PWC Visitors Registration' from Jersey Marinas, Marine Leisure Centre, at New North Quay, St Helier. (Next to the Maritime Museum)

5.0 WHERE CAN I LAUNCH OR RECOVER MY PWC

You can launch your PWC from any of the designated public slipways around the island. You should first check with the local signage and relevant parish arrangements as to the parking restrictions in the area after you launch.

You may not launch or operate with 50m of any beach lifeguard designated swimming area.

After launching you must obey the 5 knot speed limits until you are well clear of the harbour area, restricted area, designated area or more than 200m from the water's edge

6.0 WHERE CAN I OPERATE MY PWC

You can operate it anywhere on the water provided you observe the speed limits and designated controlled areas. You should avoid the main approach channels to harbours unless you are following them inwards or outwards yourself. You may visit the outlying reefs provided you respect these ecological environments and keep to the designated speed limits. You should also be aware of the RAMSAR site on the south and east coast and the areas designated for aquaculture. Details of this can be found in General Direction No.5 published on our website.

7.0 DOES AND DONT'S OF OPERATING A PWC

7.1 *Basic Safety Tips*

Get some training before you embark.

Always wear protective clothing and a buoyancy aid.

Always use the kill-cord fitted.

Remember your PWC is a 'ship' within the meaning of Jersey Law and you are required at all times to observe the International Regulations For Preventing Collision at Sea 1972 as amended. These are more commonly known as the ColRegs, and of particular importance to PWC users are Rules 11 to 18 which govern the conduct of vessels in sight of one another.

You can be prosecuted for a breach of these Regulations

Always operate your PWC with due care and attention to other users of the sea.

Do not enter the precautionary area located at the entrance to St Helier harbour unless you intended to follow the designated approach channels. Always remember large vessels have right of way (ColRegs Rule 9) and may make sudden large alterations of course in this area, as they navigate in and out of the port approaches. This could catch you out.

Do not wake jump in confined areas. This practice often results in rider and PWC parting company following a particularly violent manoeuvre. There may be another vessel approaching that you may not be aware of. A person in the water is very difficult to see, particularly when not expected, and such actions can and do have disastrous consequences

7.2 *Weather Conditions*

Force	Speed(knots)	Conditions
1	1 - 3	Perfect for a long distance run
2	4 - 6	Fun conditions
3	7 - 10	Inexperienced jet-skiers will struggle
4	11 - 16	Experienced jet-skiers only
5	17 - 21	Top end of endurance. Only hardened experts should attempt. Staying on and controlling your jet-ski will become tiring and dangerous
6	22 - 27	You will damage your jet-ski in these conditions
7 - 12	28 - 71	Wait for weather to improve – watch TV instead

7.3 Towing another jet-ski

Use a bow line to tow. Tow at no more than a brisk walking pace as it is possible to force water into the other jet-skis' engine if you travel too fast. Reach a verbal agreement between the towing jet-ski and the jet-ski being towed to ensure you don't end up with a salvage claim against you.

7.4 Water Skiing behind a Jet Ski

Only attempt to do this if the craft is designed for it and has the required towing point fitted. In Jersey it is a requirement when towing a water skier or other device that an observer is on the craft facing the skier. It must also be able to carry the person or persons being towed.

Your craft must also be insured for this additional activity.

8.0 GETTING QUALIFIED

The Royal Yachting Association (RYA) has been teaching people how to get afloat safely for over 100 years. They offer a Personal Watercraft competency course designed to teach beginners and more experienced riders the essential of safe and confident water use.

For the more experienced PWC rider you might consider sharing your knowledge and skills by becoming an RYA Personal Watercraft Instructor. This is a three day course and details can be obtained from the RYA direct. Or visit the www.pwpuk.org website.

9.0 SAFETY EQUIPMENT

9.1 Personal Equipment

- Wet or Dry Suit
- Buoyancy Aid / Impact Vest (correctly fitted and a minimum of 50N)
- Goggles
- Kill cord (plus spare)
- Sun-block
- Foot protection
- Gloves
- Whistle (for attracting attention)

9.2 Personal Watercraft Safety Equipment

- Full tank of petrol and oil
- Fire Extinguisher
- Inshore flare pack (2 x red pin point & 2 x orange smoke flares)
- Knife
- Rope
- Anchor
- Torch
- Tool kit
- First Aid Kit

Always remember to tell someone you are going to sea, how long you will be out and what to do if you do not return on time.

10.0 THE LAW

The primary legislation governing the use of ships in Jersey waters is the Harbours (Inshore Safety) (Jersey) Regulations 2012.

Regulation 1 - Interpretations

A “ship” includes every description of water craft that is used or capable of being used, as a means of transportation on, or under water and includes a non-displacement craft, WIG craft and seaplane. This includes personal watercraft.

Regulation 2 - Delegation

This regulation allows the Minister to delegate certain functions or powers to the Harbour Master.

Regulation 3 – Control of activities in territorial waters

(1) Where an area of territorial waters is used for sporting or recreational purposes, the Minister may by direction designate, for safety or security reasons, the whole or any part of that area where a person –

- (a) may or may not undertake a specified activity;
- (b) may or may not undertake a specified activity at a specified time;
- (c) may or may not undertake a specified activity in specified circumstances; or
- (d) may not undertake an activity except in a specified manner or in accordance with specified conditions.

The Harbour Master has made a General Direction No.1 an extract of which is included below

3. No person shall use, or permit, any ship to be used for sporting or recreational activities to:

(a) proceed at speeds in excess of 5 knots at any time: in any Harbour, or closer than 200 metres of the water’s edge in any bay (see note), or in the vicinity of Les Écréhous and Les Dirouilles where the charted depth is less than 10 metres, or in the vicinity of Les Minquiers where the charted depth is less than 5 meters, except under the authority of a permit granted by the Harbour Master or other person under delegated powers and in accordance with any conditions attached thereto, or when engaged in SAR operations.

(b) be driven which is towing a person or persons engaged in any activity unless the driver of the ship is accompanied on the ship by another person experienced in that activity, whose function is to watch over the person or persons being towed. Such a person must face the person or persons being towed. Any craft towing a person or person must be able to carry the person being towed in addition to those already on board it.

(c) engage in towing of any description from a jet-ski or surf jet or any similar kind of craft unless that craft is designed by the manufacturer so to do. In such case the towing requirements of (b) also apply.

Note: All bays are subject to this speed restriction. However, for the purposes of this direction, the geographic limits of the following bays are defined as:

St. Aubin’s Bay - to the west of a line joining the south end of La Haule Slip, Platte Rock east cardinal beacon and Point de Bût;

Bouley Bay - to the south side of a line joining Vicard Point and La Tour de Rozel;

St. Brelade’s Bay - to the north of a line joining Grosse Tête and La Cotte Point.

4. Additionally, during the months and times that the beaches are patrolled by Beach Lifeguards, no motorised or surf riding craft, other than a small surf rider, shall operate closer than 200 meters from the shore line and 50m either side of the Lifeguard-patrolled swimming zone marked by red and yellow flags, which will be moved and positioned as necessary by the duty beach lifeguards, in St Ouen's Bay, St Brelade's Bay, Grève De Lecq and Grève au Lancon (Plémont Bay).

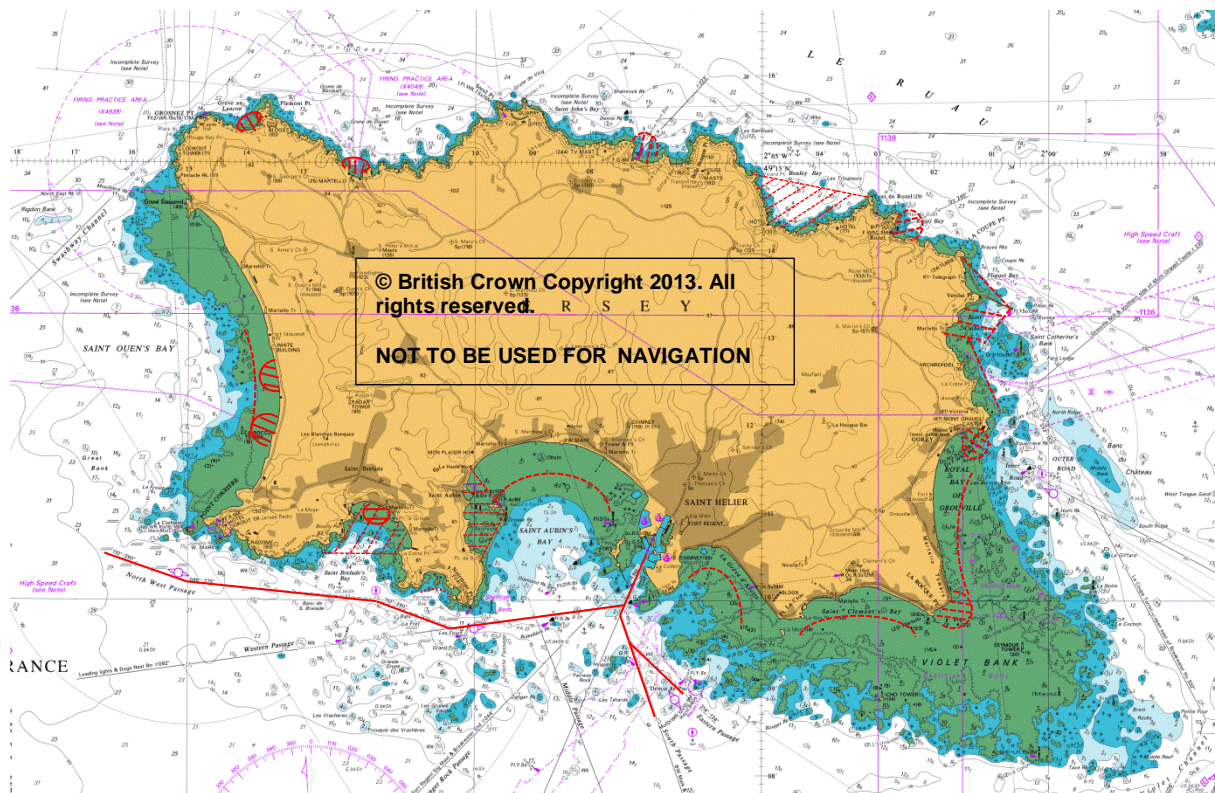
11.0 WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO THE PWC USER?

11.1 Speed limits

No vessel can be operated at more than 5 knots in any harbour or within 200m of the water's edge in any bay. This includes Les Écréhous and Les Dirouilles where depths are less than 10m and Les Minquiers where the depth is less than 5m. In addition there are certain defined limits in certain bays that extend beyond the 200m line. These additional areas are defined as St Aubin's Bay, Bouley Bay and St Brelade's Bay and are illustrated in the chartlet below.

11.2 Restrictions

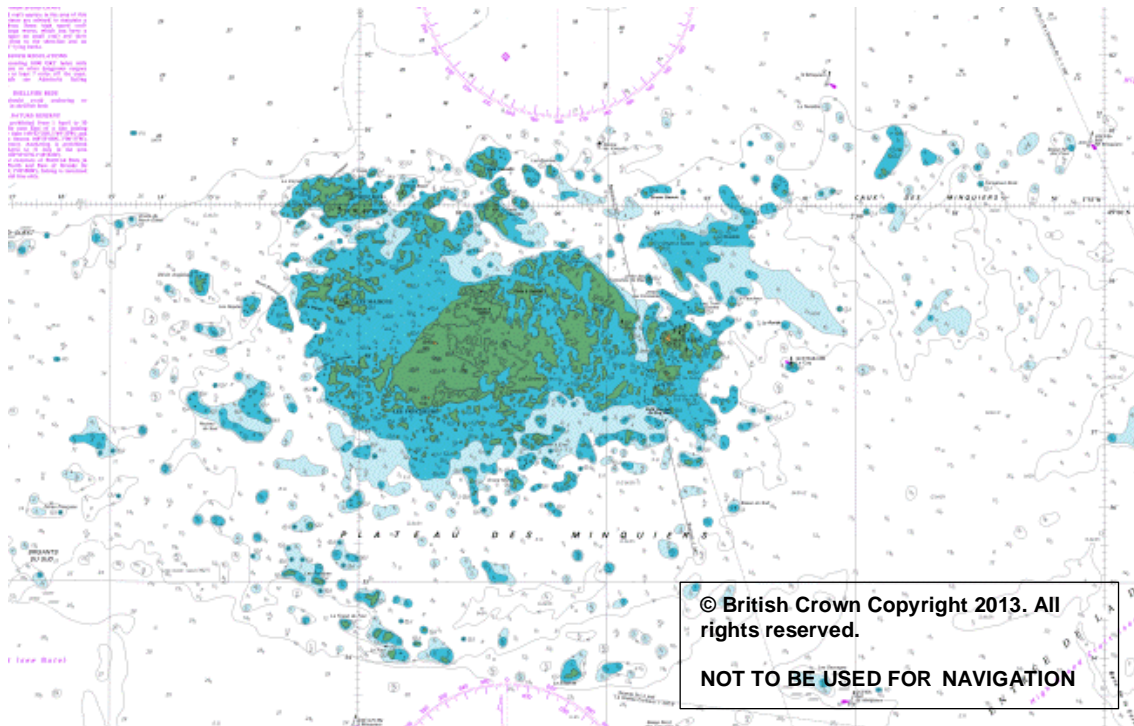
Launching or operating within the flagged areas designated by beach lifeguards is prohibited



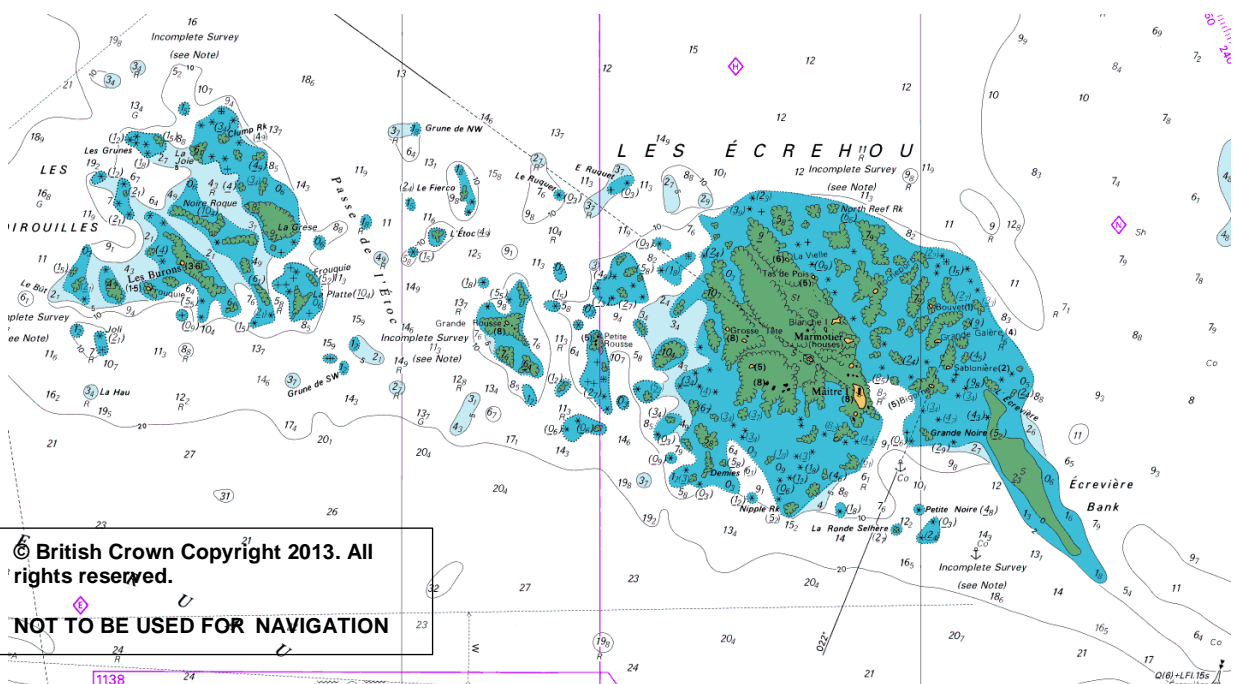
Prohibited Areas - The Beach Lifeguard flagged areas are shown in solid hatched areas, located at St Brelade's Le Braye (St Ouen) and sometimes Between El Tico and Water Splash (St Ouen and Plemont).

Restricted areas where 5 knot speed limits are in place – All beaches bays and harbours illustrated by the pecked hatched areas

Cautionary areas – shown by single solid lines show the areas where large commercial vessels operate.



At Les Minquiers the areas shown in light blue, dark blue and green illustrate the areas where the 5 knot speed limit applies. This means that you can approach at speed but once inside the 5m line you must observe the five knot speed limits to protect the fragile wildlife and eco system existing in this area.



At Les Dirouilles and Les Écrehous, the 10m contour line lies outside the pale blue dark blue and green coloured areas and covers quite an extensive area of these two reefs. The same five knot speed limit applies within this area to protect the wildlife and eco systems.

12.0 PENALTIES FOR BREAKING THE LAW

12.1 *Controlled or prohibited areas*

A person who fails to observe the areas controlled by Regulation or Directive is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of level 2 on the standard scale (£500)

12.2 *Following Harbour Master's Directions*

A person who fails to adhere to a Harbour Master Direction is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of level 2 on the standard scale (£500)

12.3 *Failure to Register*

A person who fails to register their craft is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of level 2 on the standard scale (£500)

12.4 *Failure to Insure*

A person who fails to insure their craft is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of level 3 on the standard scale (£2,000)