



Safety Guidelines

Paddle Safe

Marine Safety



Paddle Craft Safety Equipment

		Protected waters lakes, rivers, inlets and estuaries except Lake Argyle and Cambridge Gulf	Unprotected waters			
			0-400 metres from the shore	400 metres - 2 Nautical Miles from the shore	2-5 Nautical Miles from the shore	Over 5 Nautical Miles from the shore
	Bilge Pump/Bailer Must be carried if the craft is not self-draining.	—	—	✓	✓	✓
	Lifejacket A lifejacket bearing the label Level 50S (or higher) must be carried for every person on the paddle craft.	R	R	✓	✓	✓
	Red and Orange Flares (in date) At least two hand held red flares and two hand held orange smoke flares must be carried. Two parachute rocket flares may be carried in lieu of the two hand held red flares and a smoke canister may be carried in lieu of the orange smoke flares.	—	—	✓	R	✓
	EPIRB/PLB (in date) A 406 MHz EPIRB or PLB registered with AMSA bearing the standard AS/NZS 4280.1 or AS/NZS 4280.2.	—	—	✓	✓	✓
	Parachute Flares (in date) A minimum of two (in date) parachute flares plus 2 orange smoke flares or cannister must be carried if operating more than 5 miles from the mainland shore or more than 1 mile from an island located more than 5 miles from the mainland shore.	—	—	—	—	✓
	Marine Radio A marine radio must be carried if operating more than 5 miles from the mainland shore or more than 1 mile from an island located more than 5 miles from the mainland shore. The radio can be 27 MHz, VHF or HF.	—	—	—	—	✓

Note 1Nm = 1.85 kilometres R = Recommended ✓ = Must be carried

RSE-0216

Definitions

When determining what equipment is required, the following definitions are important.

Protected waters

Waters contained within any lake, river or estuary, or by any breakwater, but does not include the waters of Cambridge Gulf or Lake Argyle.

Unprotected waters

All other waters not deemed to be protected waters.

Shore

Any shoreline of the mainland or island and includes a wharf, jetty or similar rigid structure attached to land.

The minimum equipment requirements for a motorised paddle craft are the same as all other power vessels.

Contact details

Department of Transport

Email: marine.safety@transport.wa.gov.au

Website: www.transport.wa.gov.au/imarine

Marine Safety Hotline: 13 11 56

Boating Weather Forecast

Boating Weather: 1900 955 350

Website: www.bom.gov.au/marine

Information and safety practices for paddling in WA is also available at www.wa.canoe.org.au



Join us at
facebook.com/MarineSafetyWA

The information contained in this publication is provided in good faith and believed to be accurate at time of publication. The State shall in no way be liable for any loss sustained or incurred by anyone relying on the information.

What is a paddle craft?

Recreational canoes, kayaks, surf skis, inflatables or similar paddle craft that are propelled by a person using a paddle who is on or in the craft must comply with WA marine laws*. This brochure promotes safe paddling rules and guidelines that apply to these craft and will assist you being safer on the water.

* WA marine laws do not apply to surfboards and stand up paddle boards.

You're the skipper, you're responsible

Although operators of paddle craft without an engine are not required to hold a Recreational Skipper's Ticket, they are still considered to be a vessel master.

As with all vessel masters, 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 that apply to all vessels.

Safety equipment and tips

Like other vessels, paddle craft are required to carry safety equipment in accordance with the WA marine laws.

When paddling:

- within protected waters or within 400 metres of the shore in unprotected waters it is strongly recommended a lifejacket type 50S (or higher) be worn;
- between 400metres and 2 n miles from shore in unprotected waters a lifejacket 50S (or higher) must be carried. You must also carry a bilge pump/bailer (if not self-draining), an in date inshore distress flare kit or a registered emergency position indicating radio beacon (EPIRB) or personal locator beacon (PLB);
- between 2 and 5 n miles a lifejacket 50S (or higher), a bilge pump/bailer (if not self-draining), an in date registered EPIRB/PLB must be carried;

- more than 5 n miles a lifejacket 50S (or higher), a bilge pump/bailer (if not self-draining), an in date offshore distress flare kit, in date registered EPIRB/PLB and a marine radio must be carried.

If using inflatable lifejackets, it is recommended that they be maintained and serviced regularly in accordance with manufacturers' instructions.

Always tell someone where you are going and when you intend to return.

Prior to departing:

- Check the latest weather update and tide information and plan your trip accordingly
- Ensure safety equipment is in good working condition and is easily accessible
- Familiarise yourself and others on board with the location and operation of safety equipment
- Check you have the required safety equipment, it's in date and in working order
- Check your craft is seaworthy and in working order
- Check all equipment is correctly stored to assist stability.

For extended offshore voyages, consider travelling with another paddle craft or support craft and logging on and off with the local volunteer marine rescue group.

When you are not near or in surf conditions, secure your paddle to your craft with a paddle leash so you do not lose it.

Identify safety equipment that have an expiry date and record them on a Department of Transport (DoT) Don't Expire sticker. Safety gear with an expiry and/or servicing date include flares, distress beacons and inflatable lifejackets.

If carrying a PLB this must be attached to the paddler.

Familiarise yourself with the area you intend to paddle prior to commencing a voyage. This may include reviewing one of DoT's free boating guides and charts.

Visibility

It is important to be clearly visible while on the water. Paddle craft are generally smaller than other vessels and sit lower in the water, making them difficult to see.

Visibility tips:

- Dress brightly
- Paddle in tight formation when travelling with other paddlers
- Keep a proper lookout
- Stay close to shore
- Keep to the starboard (right hand) side of a channel.

Navigation lights

During the hours of sunset and sunrise, paddle craft operating on navigable waters must carry a torch or lantern capable of showing white light. This item must be ready for use and shall be shown in sufficient time to prevent a collision.

However, for added safety it is recommended that an all-round white light is displayed at all times when operating during these hours.

Registration of paddle craft

Any paddle craft that has a motor including an electric motor, or is fitted for one, must be registered regardless of the size of the motor.

