

Boating Guide Busselton to Dunsborough Marine Safety



September 2025

Recreational Skipper's Ticket

A person in charge of a recreational vessel with a motor of **6 horsepower or less** is not required to hold a Recreational Skipper's Ticket (RST).

A person in charge of a recreational vessel with a motor **greater than 6 horsepower** is required to hold an RST and carry it when boating.

Age restrictions

You must be 14 years or older to apply for an RST.

RST holders over 14 but under 16 years of age are restricted to operating during daylight hours at a speed less than 8 knots.

Interstate skipper's tickets

If you hold a current interstate ticket, recognised by the Department, and are visiting or permanently relocating to WA, you have three months to have the qualification recognised.

You **must** hold an RST or equivalent to operate a vessel with a motor greater than 6 horsepower in WA, regardless of where your boat is registered.

Medical fitness

Skippers are required to alert the Department if they develop a medical condition that affects their ability to safely operate a recreational vessel. More information can be found on our website by searching Recreational Skipper's Ticket or call 13 11 56.






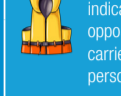




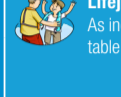














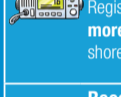









Obstruction of navigation aids, channels and leads

Cray pots, drop nets, fishing nets, marker buoys or other buoyed objects cannot be placed or remain in any channel or fairway in any port or harbour, or in any channel, fairway or passage in any navigable waters without the permission of the Department.

Also, you can't anchor or moor a vessel in any channel or fairway, unless the vessel is in distress.



SAFETY EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

REGISTRABLE VESSELS Including sailing vessels that are or can be propelled by mechanical power.		PROTECTED WATERS Includes rivers, lakes, estuaries, harbours and waters within 400 metres from the shore in unprotected waters but excludes Cambridge Gulf and Lake Argyle.		UNPROTECTED WATERS Beyond 400 metres from the shore.	
 Recreational Skipper's Ticket The skipper of a recreational vessel, powered by a motor greater than 6 horsepower must hold an RST.					
 Lifejacket Carriage A lifejacket, as indicated in the table opposite, must be carried for every person on board.	Vessels smaller than 4.8m				
	Vessels 4.8m and larger				
 Lifejacket Wearing As indicated in the table opposite.	Children older than one and younger than 12				
	Personal Water Craft				
 Distress Beacon (in-date) A GPS enabled 406 MHz EPIRB OR if worn by at least one person, a GPS enabled PLB. Distress beacons must be in-date and registered with AMSA.					
 Red and Orange Flares (in-date) At least two hand held red flares and two hand held orange flares must be carried. OR Electronic Visual Distress Signal (EVDS) An electronic signalling device may be carried in lieu of flares IF a GPS enabled EPIRB or PLB (must be worn) is also carried.					
 Marine Radio A VHF or HF marine radio on any Registrable Vessel when operating more than 4 nautical miles from shore in unprotected waters.					
 Recommended Additional Safety Equipment It is recommended an anchor and line, a fire extinguisher and a means of removing water be carried.					

17-09-03-01-0724

Contact details

Department of Transport and Major Infrastructure

Email: Ed.Boat@transport.wa.gov.au

Website: transport.wa.gov.au/Imarine

Marine Safety Hotline: 13 11 56

Police

Emergency: 000

Water Police: 9442 8600

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Marine Rescue Western Australia

Emergency contact: VHF 16

Marine Rescue Augusta, Bunbury,

Busselton, Cape Naturaliste (Quindalup)

and Margaret River.

Boating Weather Forecasts

Boating weather: 1300 815 916

Website: bom.gov.au

Department of Primary Industries and

Regional Development

Fishwatch: 1800 815 507

Website: dpird.wa.gov.au

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and

Attractions and Wildcare Helpline

Website: dbca.wa.gov.au



Boating in WA just got smarter.
Download the free Deckee app.

DoT Direct

anywhere, anytime!
Save time and go online today



Join us at
facebook.com/MarineSafetyWA



For further information go to
transport.wa.gov.au/boatingguides
or scan the QR code

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.
16-33-01-SER-0925-WEB



Paddle craft, kiteboarders and windsurfers

Paddle craft, kiteboarders and windsurfers operating more than 400 metres from shore are required to carry safety equipment.

For further information, please visit our website or call 13 11 56.



Navigation lights

All vessels underway during the hours of sunset to sunrise must display appropriate navigation lights for the size and type of craft.

For further information, please visit our website or call 13 11 56.



Marine alcohol and drug laws

WA Skippers navigating a vessel are subject to the same drug and alcohol limits and penalties as those in place on WA roads.



The laws apply to all types of recreational vessels including personal water craft, sailboats, dinghies and tenders.

Laws also apply to some types of motorised craft, such as electric hydrofoil boards.

A person operating any kind of vessel will be subject to alcohol and drug testing if they are suspected of being under the influence or involved in an incident.

Personal water craft

PWC – often called jet skis - must be registered with the Department and are subject to an annual registration fee.

PWCs are regarded as powerboats as far as the rules are concerned, meaning there are rules covering the age of skippers, safety equipment, speed and areas of operation.

You must hold an RST to operate a PWC.

Safety equipment

Every person on board a PWC must wear a lifejacket (minimum 50S) at all times.

When travelling beyond 400 metres from shore in unprotected waters you need:

- A GPS enabled EPIRB or PLB - worn
- Flares or electronic visual distress signal device (EVDS)
- Beyond 4 nautical miles from shore in unprotected waters a marine radio must also be carried.

Freestyleing, wake and wave jumping

Freestyleing is operating a PWC in a way that the skipper of another vessel is unable to predict your course or speed in order to avoid a collision with you.

Wave and wake jumping is driving a PWC over a wave or swell with the aim of becoming airborne.

Freestyleing and wake jumping is prohibited:

- within any speed restricted area;
- within 30 metres of another PWC;
- within 50 metres of another vessel or person in the water; and
- in all water ski take-off and landing areas.

Diving

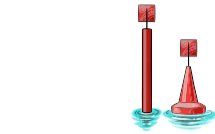
Any vessel with divers (not snorkellers) operating from it must always display signals by day or night to alert other boat users. The daytime signal for divers is an International Code Flag A. The flag must be at least 750 millimetres long and 600 millimetres wide.

Navigation buoys and markers

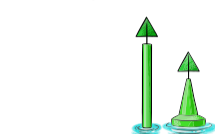
Lateral Marks

Used to indicate the port and starboard sides of a navigable channel.

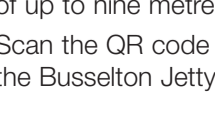
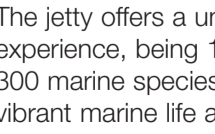
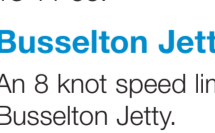
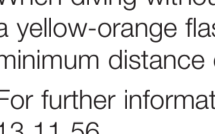
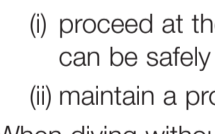
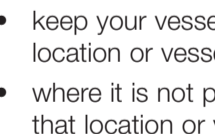
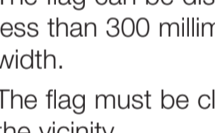
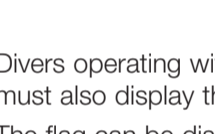
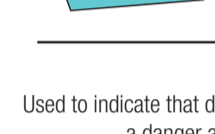
Port Marks
Light: Red, any rhythm



Starboard Marks
Light: Green, any rhythm



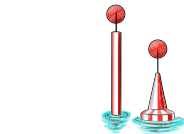
Upstream direction of flood tide
Red to green downstream
Keep to the right in a channel
Green to green upstream



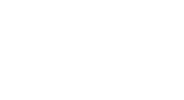
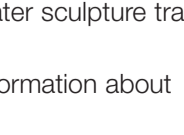
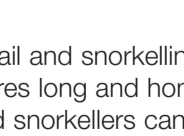
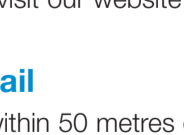
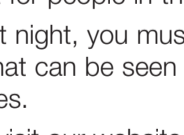
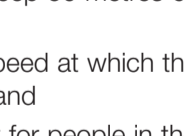
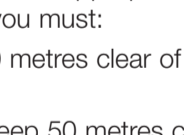
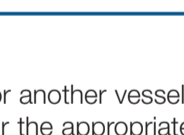
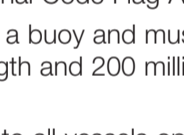
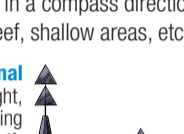
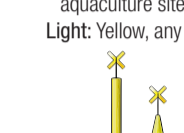
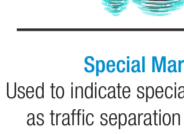
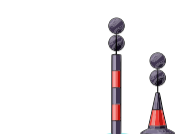
Safe Water Marks

Can be used as a landfall mark with safe water all round.

Light: White, occulting, isophase, 1 longflash every 10 seconds or Morse Code "A" (1 short + 1 long flash)

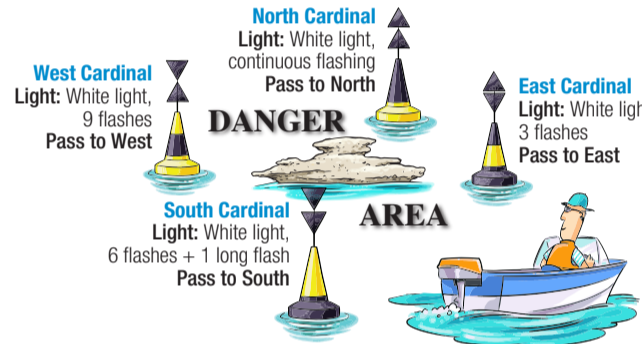


Isolated Danger Marks
Indicates an area of isolated danger
Light: White, group of 2 flashes



Cardinal marks

Used to indicate that deeper water lies in a compass direction away from a danger area such as a reef, shallow areas, etc.



Lookout

Keep 50 metres from divers and swimmers



Vessels to keep clear

When approaching a location or another vessel displaying the International Code Flag A or the appropriate signal during the hours of darkness, you must:

- keep your vessel at least 50 metres clear of that location or vessel; or
- where it is not possible to keep 50 metres clear of that location or vessel –
 - proceed at the slowest speed at which the vessel can be safely navigated; and
 - maintain a proper lookout for people in the water.

When diving without a vessel at night, you must display a yellow-orange flashing light that can be seen from a minimum distance of 200 metres.

For further information, please visit our website or call 13 11 56.

Busselton Jetty Dive Trail

An 8 knot speed limit applies within 50 metres of the Busselton Jetty.

The jetty offers a unique dive trail and snorkelling experience, being 1.84 kilometres long and home to over 300 marine species. Divers and snorkellers can explore the vibrant marine life and underwater sculpture trail at depths of up to nine metres.

Scan the QR code for more information about the Busselton Jetty.



Geographe Bay

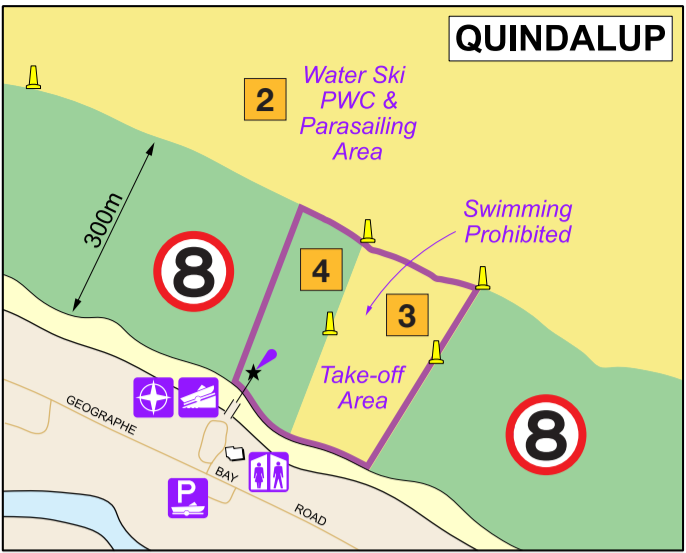
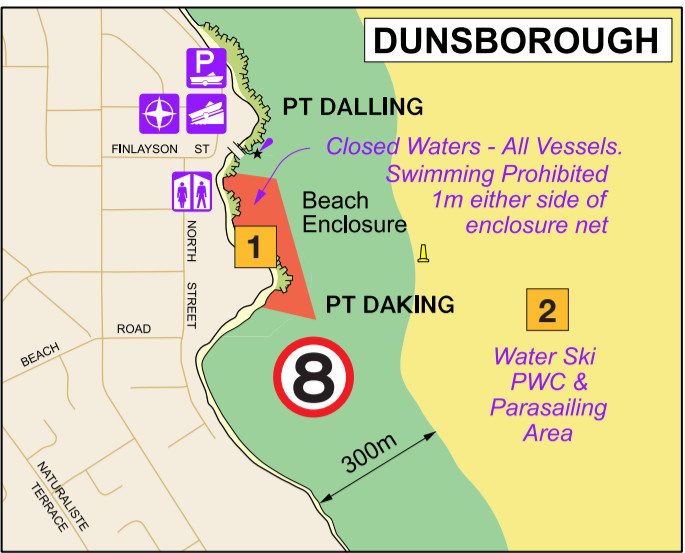
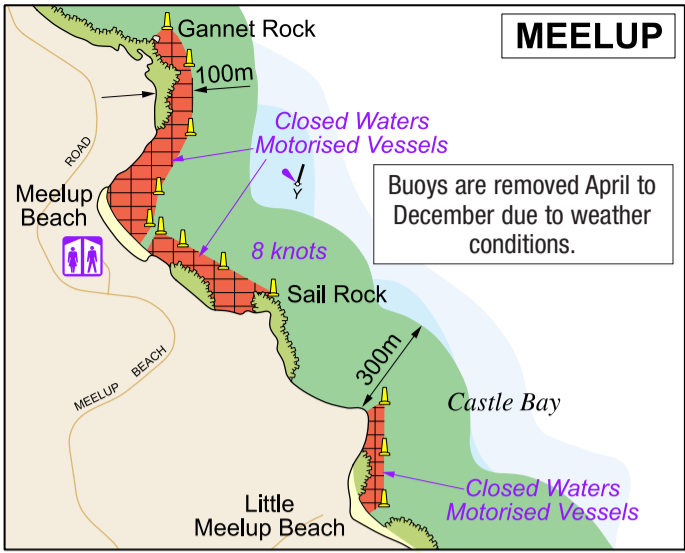
Not to be used for navigation
For more detailed information, refer to the Department of Transport and Major Infrastructure's nautical chart
Cape Naturaliste WA 966



DECKEE



- Closed waters - all vessels**
- 1 Dunsborough** – All waters within 120 metres of the foreshore at Dunsborough between the northern boundaries of Finlayson Street and Beach Road. Swimming is prohibited within 1 metre either side of shark net enclosure.
- Water ski and parasailing area**
- 2 Castle Rock and Wonnerup Inlet** – All the waters of Geographe Bay between Castle Rock and Wonnerup Inlet except the following: That area of water from a point on the foreshore 100 metres west of the boat launching ramp at the foot of Dolphin Road to a point on the foreshore 100 metres west of the foot of Carey Street and for a distance of 2,000 metres to seaward. All waters within 300 metres offshore except the waterski take-off areas labled 4 to 8, which may be used as take-off and set-down points.
- Swimming prohibited area**
- 3 Quindalup** – Swimming is prohibited from 10 metres west of the boat ramp for 300 metres east along the foreshore and extending 300 metres seaward in a north-north-easterly direction.
- Water ski take-off areas (PWC freestyling prohibited)**
- 4 Quindalup** – All waters within an area commencing 100 metres east of the boat ramp continuing for a distance of 190 metres eastward along the foreshore and extending 300 metres seaward in a north-north-easterly direction.
- 5 Siesta Park** – All waters within an area commencing at the Siesta Park Groyne for a distance of 300 metres east along the foreshore and extending 300 metres to seaward.
- 6 Abbey** – All waters contained within an area commencing 100 metres west of the boat launching ramp at Newton Beach for a distance of 400 metres west along the foreshore and extending 300 metres to seaward.
- 7 West Busselton** – All waters contained within an area commencing 100 metres west of the boat launching ramp at the foot of Dolphin Road for a distance of 450 metres west along the foreshore and extending 300 metres to seaward.
- 8 East Busselton** – All waters extending 300 metres to seaward from the foreshore between a point 100 metres west of the foot of Carey Street and a point 100 metres west of the foot of Georgette Street.

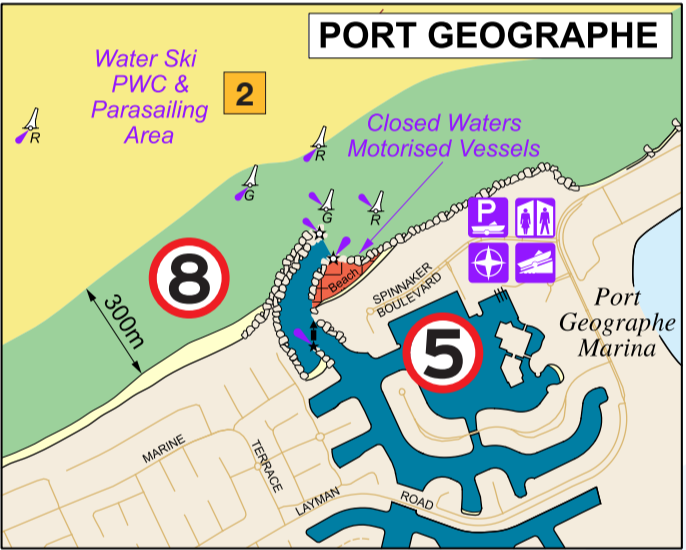
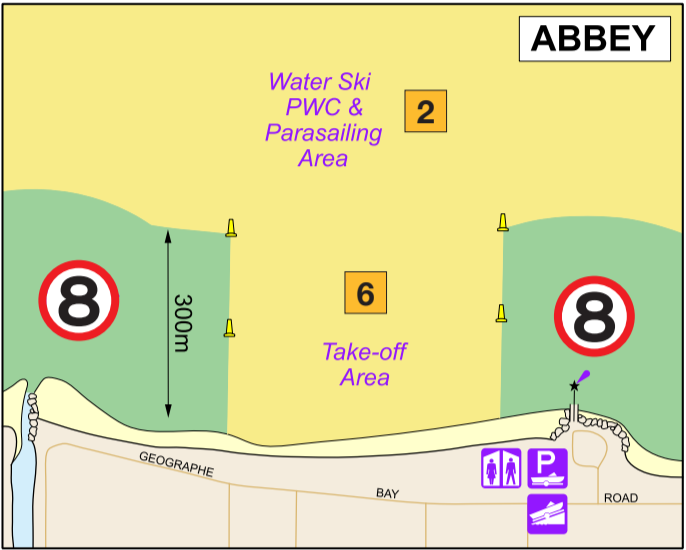
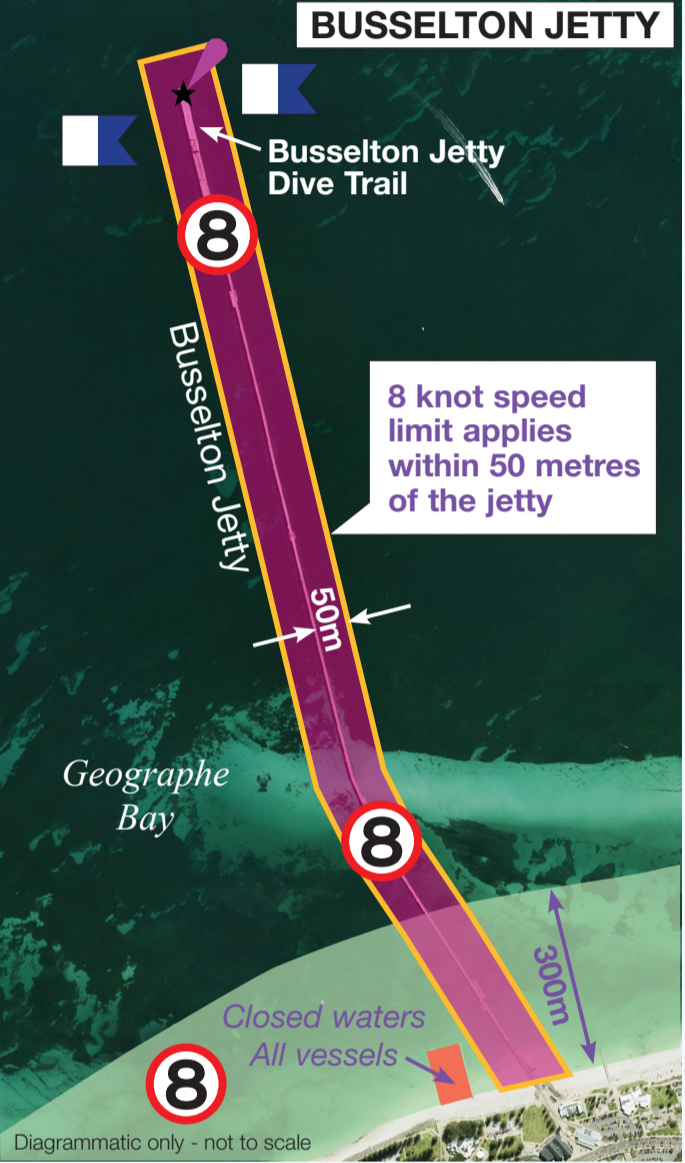


Distress beacons, EVDS and flares must be in-date

Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs) and Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs). When operating more than 400 metres from shore in unprotected waters you must carry:

- a GPS enabled EPIRB or PLB worn by a person on board.
- flares or electronic visual distress signal device (EVDS).

Distress beacons must be in-date and registered with Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA). For further information, please visit our website or call 13 11 56.



8 knots

An 8 knot speed restricted area exists to 300 metres offshore from the mouth of the Wonnerup Inlet to Cape Naturaliste except within the designated water ski take-off and landing areas.

General speed restrictions

It is illegal, in any navigable waters, to drive a motor boat at a speed exceeding eight knots, water ski or para-sail:

- through an arch of a bridge;
- in or through a mooring area;
- within 15 metres of a vessel underway;
- within 50 metres of –
 - (i) a moored vessel;
 - (ii) a person in the water;
 - (iii) a jetty or wharf;
 - (iv) a river bank or low water mark.

Notices to Mariners

Before undertaking any boating activities please check the Department chart updates and Temporary Notices to Mariners list on the website transport.wa.gov.au/tntm

Marine sanctuary zones and wildlife enquiries

WA sanctuary zones may be defined with floating yellow lit marker buoys. Refer to Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions publications for further information.

