

Safety Guidelines for Jet Skis...

SAFETY ON THE WATER

NOTICE TO USERS OF PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (JET SKIS) AND OTHER FAST RECREATIONAL POWER BOATS

**DEPARTMENT OF THE MARINE
AND NATURAL RESOURCES
MARINE SAFETY WORKING GROUP
BEFORE USING A PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (JET SKI)
OR OTHER FAST RECREATIONAL POWER BOATS**

DO

- KEEP** a safe distance from other water users and do not endanger their lives
- LEARN** how to operate your machine
- KNOW** your own and your machine's capabilities and limitations
- WEAR** an approved and suitable lifejacket or buoyancy aid
- CHECK** weather forecast and tides
- HAVE** a suitable means of attracting attention in an emergency
- ADVISE** a person ashore of your expected departure and return times

DON'T

- OPERATE** your machine in the vicinity of other water users e.g. swimmers, divers, craft such as angling boats, canoes, sailing boats, etc.
- CAUSE** a safety hazard by high speed use
- CREATE** unnecessary noise and disturbance to other people or wildlife
- DRINK** and drive

For further information please read the Marine Safety Working Group Guideline Booklets available free of charge from the Department of the Marine and Natural Resources
Tel: (01) 6785444

Remember users have a responsibility for their own and other water users safety

WHO WE ARE:

**Department of the Marine
and Natural Resources**
Leeson Lane
Dublin 2
Tel: (01) 6785444

MARINE SURVEY OFFICE

26-27 Eden Quay
Dublin 1
Tel: (01) 6744900

IRISH COAST GUARD

Leeson Lane
Dublin 2
Tel: (01) 6785444
Emergency Tel: Ring 999/112
and ask for Marine Emergency.

IRISH WATER SAFETY

The Long Walk
Galway
Republic of Ireland
Tel: (091) 564400

ISA

Irish Sailing Association
3 Park Road
Dun Laoghaire
Co. Dublin
Tel: (01) 2800239

RNLJ

Royal National Lifeboat
Institution
15 Windsor Terrace
Dun Laoghaire
Co. Dublin
Tel: (01) 2845050
Registered Charity
No. CHY 2678

BIM

PO Box 12
Crofton Road
Dun Laoghaire
Co. Dublin
Tel: (01) 2841544

WHAT WE DO:

We are the Government Department responsible for the safety of life at sea and the prevention of pollution from ships.

We are the Division of the Department of the Marine and Natural Resources responsible for the enforcement of National and International legislation relating to all aspects of Marine Safety and pollution prevention. This includes all approvals, surveys and inspections of ships and certification of crews.

We are the Division/Service of the Department of the Marine responsible for search and rescue, intervention in shipwreck and casualty and response to pollution at sea. We provide commercial marine communications and maintain 50 coastal rescue stations manned by volunteers available to respond to marine emergencies.

We as a statutory body have a responsibility to promote through education a nationwide water safety awareness.

We are the governing body representing sailing, windsurfing, powerboating and personal watercraft in Ireland. We can advise on all aspects of boating safety. We have a network of clubs and recognised teaching establishments that operate training courses for all types of leisure craft.

We exist to preserve life from disaster at sea. This is achieved by providing a fleet of lifeboats, with 24 hour cover, and crewed by well-trained volunteers. In addition, we work with other national organisations to promote sea safety. We are funded entirely by voluntary contributions.

We are the principal development agency for the seafood industry and promote safe working practices for the industry which involves Fisheries Training for both new entrants and practitioners, developing codes of practice, production of training materials and trials of preventative measures against risk on board fishing vessels.

SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (JET SKIS) AND OTHER FAST RECREATIONAL POWER BOATS



SAFETY ON THE WATER



BE SAFE AFLOAT



- Drinking alcohol will impair both your judgement and ability to control your craft - **Drinking Wrecks Lives!**
- Ensure the engine shut off lanyard, if fitted, is connected to both the craft and yourself. Always carry a spare.
- Check any information notices at access points and observe any local byelaws.
- Where applicable, use buoyed channels and designated zones.
- Observe local speed limits.
- Observe the 'Rules of the Road' - your life may depend on it!
- Keep a look out for other craft and keep clear of any other restricted areas ie bathers, waterskiers, boardsailors etc.
- If you are waterski-ing or towing an aquatic toy, remember to take an observer. This should only be done on craft with a carrying capacity of 3 or more persons.

Safety Checklist

- Make a **visual** check to ensure that there is sufficient fuel for the trip allowing extra for contingencies.
- Carry a basic toolkit, spare spark plugs and the operators manual in a waterproof container.
- Carry an in-date fire extinguisher.
- Carry a supply of in-date hand-held flares. Instructions for their safe use are printed on the side, read these and understand them.
- The Irish Sailing Association (ISA) run courses that cover all levels of powerboat handling & safety afloat from absolute beginner to advanced skills. Details of these courses, which are available all around the country, can be obtained from the ISA on (01) 2800239.
- It is recommended that you carry a waterproof hand-held marine VHF radio. (An operator's certificate and an annual licence are required) For more information call the Radio Survey Office at the Department of the Marine and Natural Resources on (01) 6785444
- A whistle can be used to attract attention in an emergency.
- If you are operating the larger types of Personal Watercraft or a Powerboat the following should be carried:
 - An anchor and rope (the rope can also be used for towing)
 - A paddle (collapsible type to assist with stowage)
- Carry a basic First Aid kit.



BE AWARE



- In the interest of other water users and people in the vicinity ashore, engine noise should be kept to a minimum - **Be considerate to others!**
 - Pollution of beaches, banks and the water, from oil and rubbish is an **offence**. When fuelling, care should be taken to ensure that fuel and oil are not released into the environment. Limit fuel cans to 5 litres and it should be a suitable container.
 - Wild life may be vulnerable if it is disturbed. Personal Watercraft Users or Powerboat Users should be aware of any sensitive areas and keep well clear of them.
 - Serious accidents can occur as a result of small children playing with the controls of a Personal Watercraft, or a Powerboat - **Be Aware**
- Remember - Don't Be A Nuisance!**