

**WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND BOROUGH COUNCIL
WEYMOUTH HARBOUR**

Notice to Mariners No 09/13

WEYMOUTH BAY WATER ACTIVITIES

1. SAFETY

It is an offence to navigate a vessel (which includes sailboards) in a careless manner or in such fashion as to cause damage to other vessels or property, or which might cause injury to persons. (International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea 1972. W&PBC Harbour Byelaws 16 & 33.)

Navigation within the areas defined here is subject to Weymouth Harbour Byelaws, Byelaws for Seaside Pleasure Boats and the Harbours, Docks & Piers Clauses Act 1847, Section 52.

2. RESTRICTED SPEED AREA - EIGHT (8) KNOTS

The zone segregation/demarcation buoys which mark the limits of the various water based activities in Weymouth Bay are laid down in Local Notices to Mariners, Byelaws (Seaside Pleasure Boats Byelaw May 1966) and included in the Weymouth Harbour Port Marine Safety Code.

In view of the changing nature of, and increase in, water sports activities the line of eight knot marker buoys as laid down in the 1966 Byelaw was considered no longer appropriate. With effect from 1st August 2006 an amended line of the eight knot marker buoys was designated and remains in force. All such white spherical buoys are marked "8 knots". These buoys are normally laid from April to September inclusive. These regulations apply when the buoys are in place.

All craft shall be restricted to a maximum speed of eight (8) knots within an area between the beach foreshore and the line of white spherical buoys laid from:

(1) Position 052° (T) St. John's Church spire dist 0.67nm to the end of North (Pleasure) Pier. This line is approx. 400m from the shoreline.

and from

(2) Position 050° (T) St. John's Church spire dist. 0.88nm to position 211° (T) Bowleaze Cove Hotel white tower dist. 0.2nm. This line is approx. 400m from the shoreline.

Particular care is to be taken in this restricted speed area to safely de-conflict between swimmers and vessels of all types.

Mariners are warned against mooring to any moored marker buoys or swim raft.

The **anchoring** of any vessel is not permitted in the above area except within the area established at Overcombe (far NE end of Weymouth beach) and marked by blue buoys (adjacent to and close west of the boardsailing access channel).

Vessels anchoring outside the Restricted Speed Area with tenders and any other small craft should avoid landing on the beach but should use the harbour.

Designated access areas are defined below.

3. DESIGNATED ACCESS/OPERATING AREAS FOR WATERPORTS

The following access areas to the foreshore in Weymouth Bay were established to separate incompatible water sports:

A. Personal Watercraft

All personal watercraft are directed to navigate from/to the beach foreshore in a channel marked by four red spherical buoys, laid close inshore in line 172^o (T) from the slipway and jetty head in Bowleaze Cove and the area to the east adjacent the cliff to Redcliffe Point. This channel must only be used to gain access to the beach. After launching all personal watercraft activities should take place seaward of the white spherical buoys marked "8 knots".

All personal water craft must observe Harbour Byelaws and keep clear of the Boardsailing and Speedboats/Skis Areas below and the entire swimming area between Weymouth Harbour North Pier and the Personal Watercraft Area.

An alternative launching area is the slipway in the Inner Harbour, Weymouth.

B. Boardsailing/Kitesurfing (Overcombe Corner)

Access for all sailboards (including kitesurfs) to/from the beach foreshore shall be between the area marked by eight (8) yellow spherical buoys laid close inshore from the beach to the outer limit marked by the white seaward spherical buoys in the Overcombe Corner area.

Sailboards are restricted to areas clear of navigation channels, to seawards of the white marker buoys and must not use channel access areas designated for use by either personal watercraft, speedboats/water-skis or in areas used by swimmers.

C. Speedboats and Water Skiing (Lodmoor)

Access to/from the beach foreshore for all speedboats and water-skis shall be within a channel marked by red and white spherical buoys, red and white dan buoys and the outer limit defined by the white buoys, laid in positions:

- a. 052^o (T) St.John's Church spire
- b. 050^o (T) St.John's Church spire.

Water skiing, aquaplaning, para-ascending or similar airborne/seaborne activities, are not permitted:

- a. In a fairway used by commercial traffic.
- b. Within the area inside the line of white marker buoys extending from the end of the North (Pleasure) Pier to a position in Bowleaze Cove, except in buoyed approach channels for use of water ski craft.
- c. Within area of Harbour.

4. USE OF PROPELLORS SHORESIDE OF WHITE 8 KNOT BUOYS

Mariners are advised that power-driven vessels with unguarded propellers are not permitted to use shallow water areas in Weymouth Bay between April and September inclusive (sunrise to sunset) when the white 8 knot buoys are in position. This is to avoid endangering public bathing or other waterborne leisure activities. Such craft are prohibited within the area west of the white 8 knot buoys' line, except for the allocated water sports access channels above.

The term 'power-driven vessel' means any vessel propelled by machinery. This should not be confused with a 'sailing vessel' which is any vessel under sail provided that propelling machinery, if fitted, is not being used.

5. SUPERSEDED NTMs

This NTM supersedes the following NTMs which should be cancelled:

- 06/98 Safety, Waterskiing, Boardsailing
- 09/98 Designated Access Areas for Incompatible Watersports
- 7/03 Weymouth Foreshore: North Pier (Pleasure Pier) to Bowleaze Cove
- 08/06 Weymouth Bay Zone Buoys – Variation To Byelaws

NB. Owners, Agents, Charterers, Marinas, Yacht Clubs and Recreational Sailing Organisations should ensure that the contents of this Notice are made known to the masters or persons in charge of their vessels or craft.

Keith Howorth
Harbour Master

Date: 18 December 2013