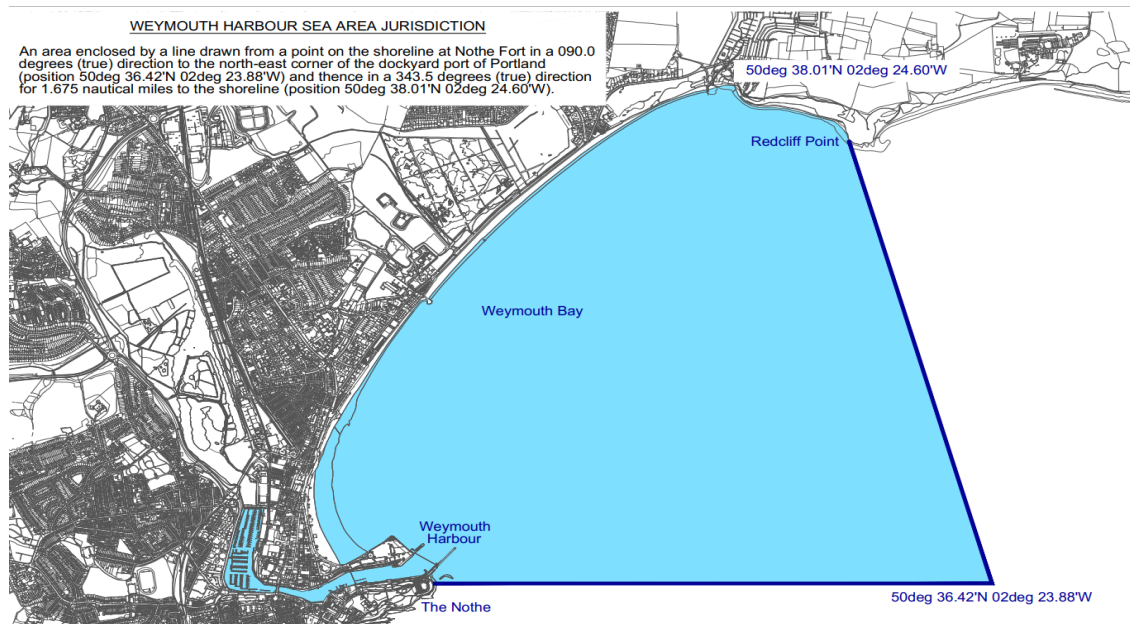


**DORSET COUNCIL
WEYMOUTH HARBOUR**

**Notice to Mariners No 5/21
Personal Water Craft - from 1st April 2021**

Weymouth Harbour Authority recognises the right of all craft-users in the harbour to enjoy their recreation in peace and safety (Weymouth Bay is part of Weymouth Harbour). Harbour Byelaws and Notices to Mariners are effective tools in implementing and promoting water safety.

This Notice is given to any person having or taking command, charge, management or conduct for the time being of any personal watercraft (as defined in paragraph 2) operating in or being launched into Weymouth Harbour Statutory Area (Shown below).



2. For the purposes of this Notice a “personal watercraft” means any watercraft propelled by a jet engine or other mechanical means of propulsion and steered either:
- a) by means of a handlebar-operated linkage system (with or without a rudder at the stern); or
 - b) by the person or persons riding the craft using his or their bodyweight for the purpose; or
 - c) by a combination of the methods referred to in (a) and (b) above, and includes (but not limited to) watercraft generally referred to as jet-skis, wave runners, wet bikes and PWC’s.

Before operating any personal watercraft in Weymouth Harbour, operators will be required to obtain a Motorised Water Sports Permit to operate PWC’s in Weymouth Bay (Byelaw 34.1). Persons wishing to obtain a permit should telephone 01305 838423 or use our online facility hosted on our website: <https://www.weymouth-harbour.co.uk/PricesandOnlinePayments>

Permits will be issued on acknowledgement and confirmation of the following:

- Hold 3rd Party insurance (£2M proof required).
- PWC is registered with Data Tag and the applicant’s details match those recorded on the Data Tag database.
- Data Tag number is clearly displayed on both sides of the PWC.
- Do not permit any person under the age of 12 to operate PWC.

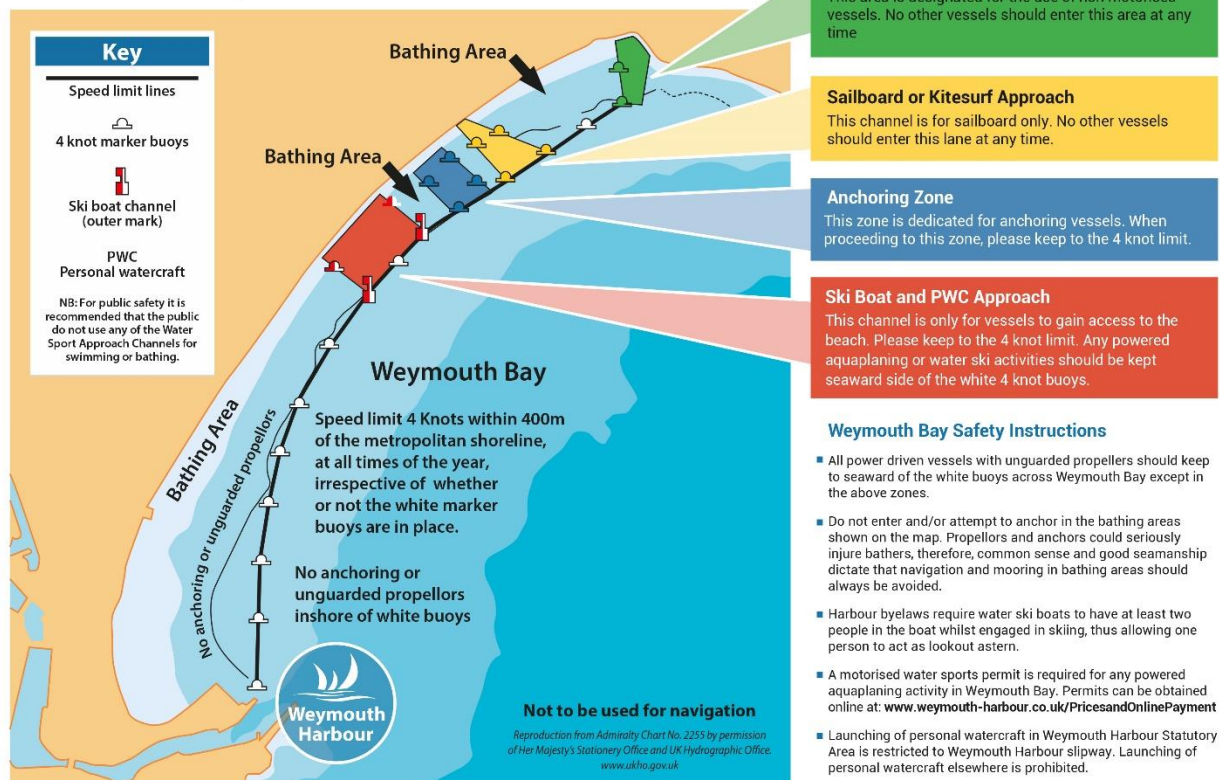
- Operators between 12 and 16 years of age not permitted to operate PWC unless under direct supervision (being present on PWC) of permit holder.
- In order to tow a person behind the PWC a second person is required to be on board to act as a look out astern.
- Operate between 8 am and sunset or 8 pm (whichever is the earlier) on any day.
- Check for local rules including operating restrictions, which are displayed on signage at boat ramps.
- Understand the areas of water for PWC usage:
 1. Operate to the seaward side of the white marker buoys.
 2. Access anchoring zone and ski vessel pick up – restricted speed 4 Knots.
 3. Prohibited from entering marked bathing, non-motorised vessel zone and Sailboard/Kitesurf approach.

When Dorset Council receives a permit application it will share personal data including the applicant's name, address, and date of birth with Data Tag for the purpose of checking the applicant:

- i) is the lawful owner of the PWC.
- ii) has a valid registration.
- iii) has provided accurate contact details.

Launching of personal watercraft in Weymouth Harbour Statutory Area is restricted to the **Weymouth Harbour slipway**. Launching of personal watercraft elsewhere is prohibited.

Weymouth Bay Water Sports Zones



PWC operator's requirements:

- Ensure all operators & passengers are wearing approved lifejacket / buoyancy aids.
- Operate to the seaward side of the white marker buoys.
- Not operate PWC's within marked bathing zones.
- Adhere to 4 knot speed limit within 400m of the metropolitan shoreline, at all times of the year, irrespective of whether or not the white marker buoys are in place.
- Adhere to 4 Knot speed limit within 50m of a swimmer, non-motorised craft, moored vessel and not cause any wash.
- Adhere to 4 Knot Speed limit within Weymouth Harbour and approaches.
- Comply with give way rules, including giving way to sailing vessels, larger vessels operating in confined channels and other vessels crossing from your starboard side.
- Ride on the starboard (right) side of a river or channel in the direction of travel.
- When towing a person behind the PWC a second person is required to be on board to act as a look out astern.

Safe operation:

- It is most important to keep a good lookout for other vessels, people, and hazards in the water at all times.
- Wherever you operate, swimmers may be hidden from view by waves and swell, so keep well away from, or slowdown in areas where swimmers are likely to be.
- Comply with all speed limits (vessels are required to travel at a safe speed at all times).
- 4 knot speed limit applies within 50m of swimmers or non-motorised vessel.
- Don't cut blind corners.
- Slow down or stop if your vision is affected by sun or spray.
- Keep clear of anchored and moored vessels.
- For your own safety you should always attach the ignition cut-out safety line to yourself and consider suitable footwear, goggles and gloves.

This Notice to Mariner's replaces No 4 of 2016 which is hereby revoked.

Infringement of these regulations could result in withdrawal of permit and prosecution.

Jamie Joyce
Harbour Master
Date: 26/03/21