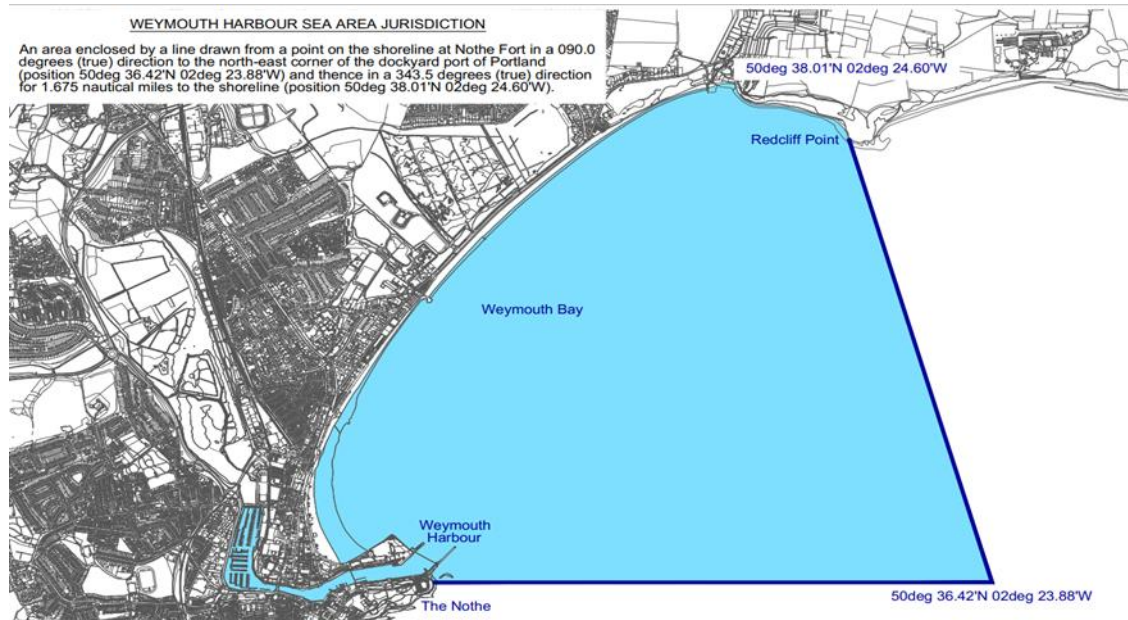


DORSET COUNCIL WEYMOUTH HARBOUR

Notice to Mariners No 06/21 WEYMOUTH BAY WATER ACTIVITIES 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.



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 - FOUR (4) 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 are included in the Weymouth Harbour Port Marine Safety Code.

In view of the changing nature of, and increase in, water sports activities a line of white marker buoys as laid down in the 1966 Byelaw and amended on 1st August 2006 was designated and remains in force. All such white spherical buoys are normally laid from April to September inclusive. 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.

This white buoy line designates the 4-knot restricted speed limit within approximately 400m of the metropolitan shoreline. This restriction applies at all times of the year, irrespective of whether or not the white marker buoys are in place. This speed restriction is important within this area, in order to keep a good lookout for other vessels, hazards and particularly swimmers who may be hidden from view by waves and swell.

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.

The following regulations apply when the buoys are in place:

3. DESIGNATED OPERATING AREAS FOR WATERPORTS

The following operating areas in Weymouth Bay were established to take a pro-active approach in the management of Weymouth Bay to provide opportunities for all users to enjoy themselves without risking the safety and enjoyment of others.

A. Personal Watercraft

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

All personal watercraft activities should take place seaward of the white spherical buoys located approximately 400 metres from shore.

All personal watercraft must observe Harbour Byelaws and keep clear of the Boardsailing and the entire swimming/ non-motorised vessel areas between Weymouth Harbour North Pier and Bowleaze.

B. Boardsailing/Kitesurfing (Overcombe Corner)

Access for all sailboards (including kitesurfs) to/from the beach foreshore shall be between the area marked by four (4) 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, Water Skiing and PWC (Lodmoor)

Access to/from the beach foreshore for all speedboats, water-skis and PWC 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° (T) St. John's Church spire
- b. 050° (T) St. John's Church spire.

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

- In a fairway used by commercial traffic.
- 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.
- Within the Harbour area.

4. USE OF PROPELLORS SHORESIDE OF WHITE 4 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 4 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 4 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:

No 09/13 WEYMOUTH BAY WATER ACTIVITIES

No 04/16 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (PWC) (OTHERWISE KNOWN AS JET SKIS)

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.

Jamie Joyce
Harbour Master
Date: 26/03/21