

Personal Watercraft (PWC) Management Policy

“Jet ski or “jet bike” means any personal watercraft propelled by a water-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 their body weight for the purpose; or
- (c) by a combination of the methods referred to respectively in (a) and (b) above.”

PWCs are fast and fun, and are relatively easily to launch and recover which reduces normal costs associated with boat ownership. Their use is now an established form of water sport with a band of enthusiastic participants. Most PWC use takes place in the close inshore zone and harbours. This poses a management challenge to ensure PWC users can enjoy themselves without putting others at risk.

Jet skis are welcome in Littlehampton Harbour. The Littlehampton Harbour Board acknowledges that the majority of PWC users conduct themselves in a responsible manner with due regard to the principles of good seamanship. It is accepted that suitably experienced and trained PWC users pose a minimal risk to themselves and other water users. However, it is also acknowledged that some degree of management is required particularly in response to a minority of negligent and potentially dangerous users. To manage these craft effectively LHB requires each craft to:

- 1. Purchase Harbour Dues;**
- 2. Receive a Safety Briefing from the Harbour Manager or Deputy;**
- 3. Carry third party insurance;**
- 4. Obey all Harbour Byelaws, Directions & Collision Regulations, ensuring they navigate and manoeuvre in a safe and courteous manner;**
5. On request, to provide evidence of RYA training course or logged experience;
6. On request, provide details of the craft to the Harbour Office (make , model, colour or photograph, data Tag number etc.).

By purchasing Harbour Dues (either daily or annual) you are agreeing to these conditions.

By order:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "B Johnson".

Billy Johnson
Harbour Master, Littlehampton

Personal Watercraft (PWC) Safety Brief

1. **Speed Limit** is 6 ½ knots throughout the harbour. The harbour extends from 50 yards south of the entrance breakwater up river to Arundel.
2. **Mind Your Wash.** Skis often have a disproportionate wash. Have some consideration for other river users and don't end up giving all jet skiers a bad name.
3. **Local Byelaws** prevent any powered craft from approaching the East or West Beaches once outside the harbour. If you wish to pick up passengers or change drivers please do so at the public slipway or by arrangement with one of the yacht clubs, marina or the harbour board.
4. **Wear a Lifejacket.** Is yours in-date for service?
5. **Look at the Forecast.** Available at the Harbour Office notice board in season.
6. **Take some means of Communication.** VHF radio as a preference.
7. **Wear and test your kill cord.** When did you last test yours?
8. **Get some training.** The RYA offer a 1 day PWC course.
<http://www.rya.org.uk/coursestraining/courses/pwc/Pages/personalwatercraftcourses.aspx>
9. **Supervise children.** Children aged between 12 and 16 must use PWCs only under the supervision of a responsible adult.
10. **Slipway Safety.** The public slipway is free to use for launch and recovery (provided you have paid your Harbour Dues). Take charge of safety when you launch and recover. The slipway is busy and not everyone is aware of the dangers involved.