

## 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, fun and are relatively easily to launch and recover which reduces normal costs associated with boat ownership. Most PWC use takes place in the close inshore zone and harbours. Jetskis also have a very high power to weight ratio giving them acceleration capabilities far in excess of most other vessels. This results in a management challenge to ensure PWC users can enjoy themselves without putting others at risk.

Jet skis and other PWCs are welcome in Littlehampton Harbour. We acknowledge 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 inexperienced or negligent and potentially dangerous users.

To manage these craft effectively LHB requires each PWC user to apply for a **Littlehampton Harbour PWC Use Permit** ("a permit") before using any slipway or proceeding up-river of the A259 bridge (just north of Littlehampton Marina). PWC use in these areas without a valid permit result in prosecution in criminal court and a fine of up to £2,500 (Level 4 on the Standard Scale).

### **Before using the harbour, PWC users must:**

1. Apply for a permit at [www.littlehampton.org.uk/pwc](http://www.littlehampton.org.uk/pwc) or at the office, providing proof of formal marine training and signing a declaration to follow the restrictions and carry 3<sup>rd</sup> party insurance  
*Note: Registered PWC users since 2017/18 without formal qualification are eligible for a temporary 12-month permit providing a grace period to gain a qualification (RYA or similar)*
2. Collect permit from the Office and receive briefing on restrictions from Harbour Master or Deputy
3. Affix a registered [Data-Tag](#) to their PWC and register it with the Harbour Office including a photo
4. Pay PWC fees annually or daily (£74.68 and £12.28 in 2018/19)
5. Obey all other harbour regulations (including General Directions) listed at [www.littlehampton.org.uk/regulations](http://www.littlehampton.org.uk/regulations) and Patrol Staff. Any breach will result in permit being revoked.
6. Obey the Littlehampton Jet Ski Club Code of Conduct

**PWC users visiting from sea** (having launched from outside the harbour) may enter via the harbour entrance without a permit to take on fuel at Littlehampton Marina or pick up passengers from the Visitors Pontoon. They must make themselves known to the Office or Patrol Craft and pay the daily PWC fee (or online at [www.littlehampton.org.uk/payments](http://www.littlehampton.org.uk/payments)). A PWC user visiting from outside the harbour may face prosecution if they launch or recover at any slipway or go north of the A259 bridge without a permit.

**Carrying passengers or sharing your PWC:** Please note all PWC users in the harbour will need their own personal permit except in the following two cases: (1) a PWC permit holder is also riding the same PWC, (2) a PWC permit holder with an RYA Instructors Qualification is accompanying them on a separate PWC or other craft.

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

Billy Johnson  
Harbour Master  
1 March 2019