



أبوظبي البحرية
ABU DHABI MARITIME

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (JET SKI) HANDBOOK

Everything you want to know about your
Personal Watercraft (Jet Ski)





I advise my friends (jet ski users) to wear their life jackets, respect others and remember the way back, your family is waiting for you.

Mohamed Ahmed Al Muhairbi
The Professional Racer

Abu Dhabi Maritime

ZonesCorp Main Center, Engineering Building (No 50),
Abu Dhabi Industrial City 1, M41, Al - Mu-asasat Street,
Musaffah, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

800 10 20 30

admaritime.ae



Personal Watercraft (Jet Ski)

A Personal Watercraft (PWC) also known as Jet Ski, can be described as a powered vessel with a fully enclosed hull that does not retain water if capsized. It is designed to be operated by a person standing, crouching or kneeling on it or sitting astride, without the need to be inside it. A PWC may also be called a water bike, jet ski, power ski, a wave runner and can include other similar vessels.

This handbook contains information about the rules and requirements for operating a PWC, and tips on how to use your PWC safely.

Some PWC may be fitted with a reverse function that allows a PWC to be operated backwards, and assists maneuverability in tight quarters. The reverse function should only be used when the PWC is at a slow speed or stopped.

Personal Watercraft – Front View



Personal Watercraft – Side View



Personal Watercraft Capacity

The PWC person capacity is stipulated in an international standard (ISO 13590:2003) that makes it mandatory for the manufacturer to attach its plate to the PWC, stating the maximum person capacity on board the PWC at any time. The manufacturer plate may be located at various places on the PWC, but is commonly found at the rear of the PWC or under the seat.

Load capacities will vary from 1 to 3 persons, depending on the type of PWC. Consult your user's manual to find out your PWC load capacity, maximum allowable weight or the number of persons allowed on board as determined by the manufacturer and displayed on the capacity plate. Never exceed the manufacturer's recommendations, including the allowed load to be towed behind the PWC.

Remember: Watercraft is designed to carry the operator and up to 2 passengers. Do not exceed the specified capacity.



Safety Equipment

All PWC users must secure the following safety equipment:

1	 <p>A life jacket: of globally approved brands and capable of floating the PWC user.</p>
2	 <p>An engine switch key: tied to the PWC user's wrist to turn off the engine upon falling off the PWC.</p>
3	 <p>A whistle: used to call for help or alarm others.</p>
4	 <p>A pair of goggles: to protect eyes from water splashes.</p>
5	 <p>A protective helmet (Recommended): to protect the PWC user from shocks.</p>

Preparing for a Safe Trip

Safety checklist – prior to departure

✓	My PWC is registered and the registration number is displayed correctly.
✓	I am wearing the life jacket and carrying the required safety equipment.
✓	My PWC has to be serviced and maintained in accordance with the operation manual of the PWC.
✓	I have checked for any restrictions, including speed restrictions in the area I will be operating in.
✓	Check the weather before you head out. Forecasts are available from the National Centre for Meteorology and Seismology at www.ncms.ae
✓	Report your trip to someone and let them know where you are going, who with and when you intend to return.
✓	In accordance with the operating manual of the PWC, I have inspected the following to ensure proper operation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steering controls Fuel and oil supplies are adequate for the journey There are no leaks in fuel lines, fuel or oil tanks Batteries are properly charged and secured The engine cover and seats are latched securely The pump intake area is free of obstructions The hull is free of cracks and damage The throttle is in working order The lanyard cut-off switch is in proper working order and is attached to your wrist or life jacket Ensure that the bungs are securely fixed in place

Safe Operation of a PWC (Jet Ski)

Operational hours of a PWC

You may only operate your PWC during daylight hours, i.e. between sunrise and sunset. Any operation of a PWC outside these hours will be considered as an offence and may incur a penalty.

Age restrictions

No one under 14 years of age is allowed to operate a PWC and those who have reached the age of 14 years are allowed to operate with an accompanying licensed trainer or operator who is over 18 years of age (Proof of age must be carried during operation of a PWC). The motor horsepower should not exceed CC 1800 and HP 360.

Speed and distance

Personal Watercrafts users must comply with the following:

1. Not exceeding the set speed limits
2. Avoiding travel at speeds that may cause water to splash on others
3. Considering the density of traffic in the area of operation to determine the safe speed
4. Not driving the Personal Watercraft if weather conditions or visibility are bad
5. Reducing speed to six (5) knots or under and keeping a safe distance as in the table below:

	From people in the water
Sixty (60) meters	From any fixed or floating structure such as anchored or moored vessels, structures, boat ramps, jetties, wharves, marinas or pontoons (excluding aids to navigation where this cannot be prevented)
	From other vessels including other Personal Watercrafts
One hundred (100) meters	From a vessel or buoy on which diver below signal (code Alpha) is displayed which is internationally represented by a white and blue flag with the letter (A) printed in English
	From the boundary of a designated swimming area.
Three hundred (300) meters	From the coast / Water edge (use PWCs only perpendicular to the public coast from the launching ramp)
	From Marine protected areas, Power plants and ADNOC/AD port limits, ADNOC oil fields, military bases, ferry routes, non-motorized watersport areas, diving and swimming areas, AD Ports and PPA anchorage areas.
Personal Watercrafts users must adhere to the distance and speed as under:	
One (01) Nautical Mile	From the Main Coastline (Open Waters)
As determined by Abu Dhabi Maritime	When passing under the arch of a bridge

Pass through areas serve only as transportation channels where recreational activity of PWC is prohibited. The use of PWCs at maximum speed of 5 knots is allowed in pass through areas.

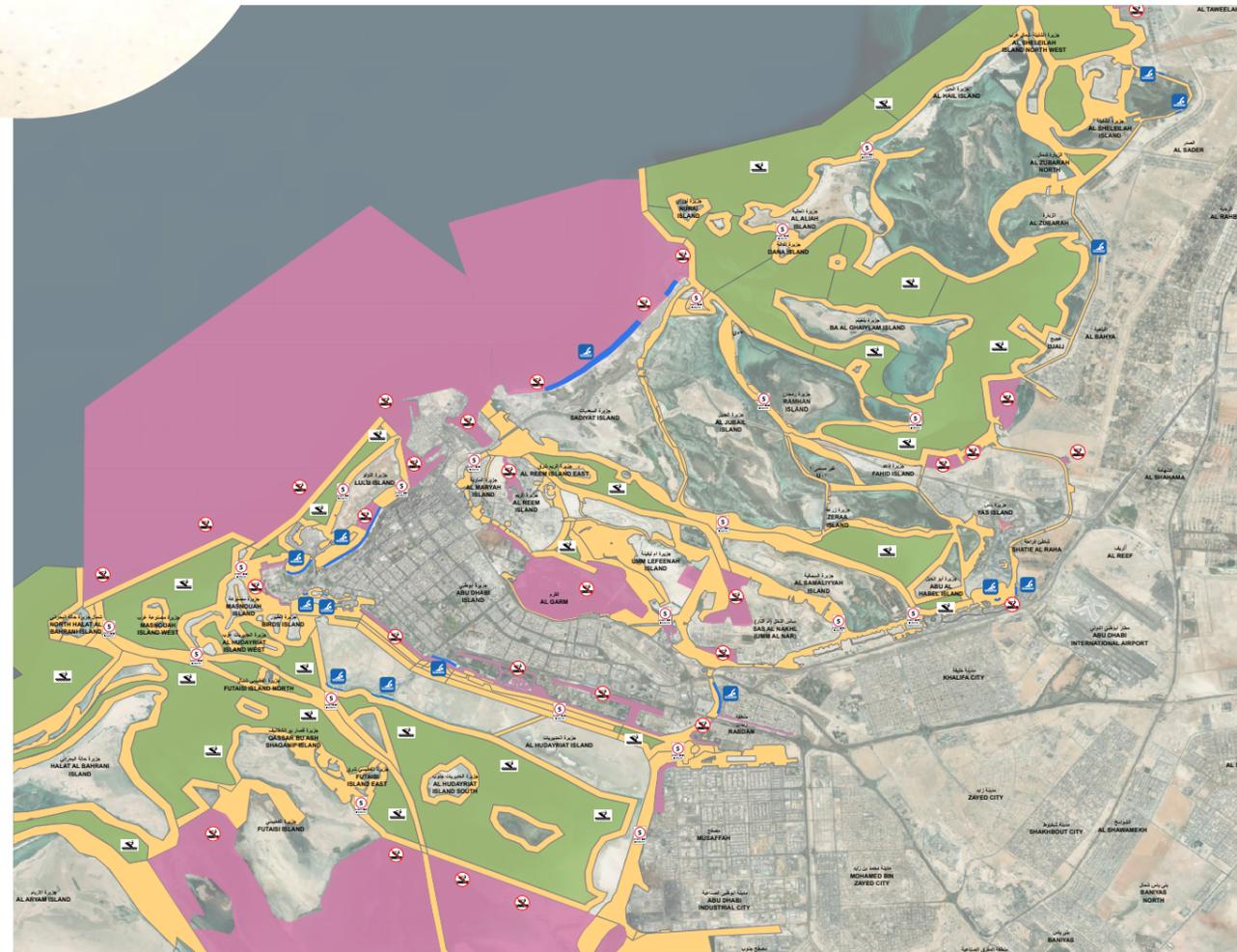
Safety ignition cut-off key



All PWC must have a safety ignition cut-off key (lanyard), which is designed to stop the engine if you fall off your PWC. The lanyard is an important safety device that must be attached to the operator's wrist, clothing or PFD.

Boating Zones

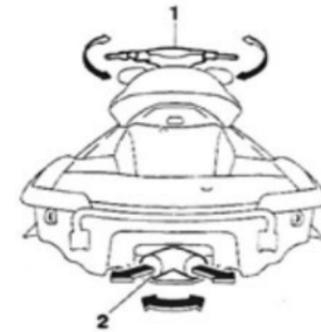
Boating zones may be introduced in certain areas throughout Abu Dhabi, placing limitations on certain types of vessels, for PWCs, or certain types of activities. Before going out to ride, check if there are any restrictions in the area that you intend to operate in. Abu Dhabi Maritime published a Safety Map (Additional Requirements for Jet Ski), including, restricted, designated and pass through areas



	NO PERSONAL WATERCRAFT	PWC Restricted Areas		Swimming Areas
	SPEED LIMIT IN KNOTS	PWC Pass Through Areas		Area not recommended for Jetski activities
		PWC Designated Areas		

Steerage

The steerage for PWC is made by jet drives, which are propelled by a jet of water forced out of the back of the PWC. Directing this jet of water steers the PWC. Jet drives use an engine to power a strong water pump, which sucks up water and forces the water out the back to thrust the vessel forward. The throttle needs to be applied to steer (turn and manoeuvre) the craft. The higher the thrust, the sharper the turn; insignificant or no throttle may cause the PWC to turn slowly or not turn, while excess throttle may cause the PWC to “spin out”.



Collisions often occur when the operator reduces power, not realising that the craft does not turn away from the object(s) without throttle. To avoid a collision, apply power to make your PWC turn, then reduce power when you can.

Boarding and re-boarding PWC

Caution should always be taken when boarding or re-boarding a PWC. When getting on board a PWC, make sure it is always approached from behind. Swim to the rear of the PWC and place both hands on the back of the craft and pull yourself up. Then step over into the correct driving position to start – remember to reconnect the lanyard in order to start the engine.



If you fall off a PWC, the lanyard, which is connected to you and the ignition safety switch, will cause the engine to shut down.

The safety switch shuts down the engine if the operator falls off the PWC. As falling off can lead to more serious injuries, you need, at all times, to exercise caution. As entry to the water is unexpected, PWC operators always need to be alert and aware of the surrounding conditions. Keep your eyes up and scan the area ahead to reduce the likelihood of unexpected entry into the water. If you do fall into the water, try to role yourself into a ball, cover your head and bring your arms and legs into your body.

If your passenger falls into the water, slow down immediately, manoeuvre the PWC taking care not to hit the person and blow your whistle to warn other PWC users. Approach the person from downwind or into the current, and when picking up the passenger, place the engine in neutral.

Capsizing

If your PWC has capsized, turn off the engine and remove the engine safety switch lanyard. Swim to the rear of the PWC, and turn the PWC over by gripping the ride plate with your left hand and pushing down on the gunwale with your right hand or foot. Most manufacturers have placed a picture at the rear of the PWC to indicate the direction to roll your PWC to an upright position. If you roll your PWC in the wrong direction you could cause extreme damage to your PWC. If a picture does not exist, consult your manufacturer's manual to find out which is the best way to right your PWC before you use it on the water. Do not put your hand in the intake grill. Start the engine in the normal way then head to the shore to inspect for water damage.



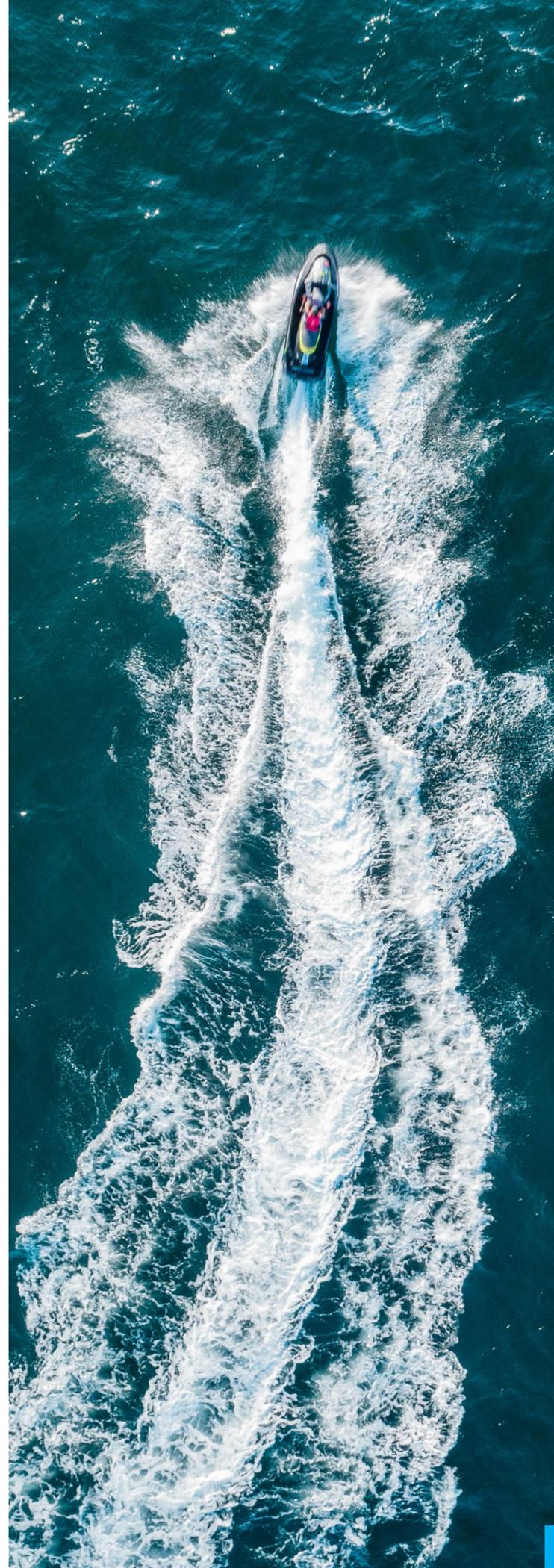
Fueling

It is important to fuel your PWC only on land as fuel is dangerous and considered a significant source of water pollution. Abu Dhabi Maritime has approved PWC refueling locations and these are stipulated on the website. When you refuel your PWC, make sure you take every precaution to ensure that you do not spill the fuel. Avoid overfilling your tank and watch all vents and use any absorbent material to collect any overflow.

If your PWC won't start

All PWC owners must ensure that their PWC is kept clean. You must ensure that the hull is free of damage and that the engine is free of any oil build-up.

Engine maintenance is most important. Your engine must be properly tuned and should receive regular preventative maintenance services by a qualified PWC mechanic. It is recommended that services should occur every fifty hours or every three months. You should refer to your PWC manufacturer's handbook for information regarding servicing and maintenance.

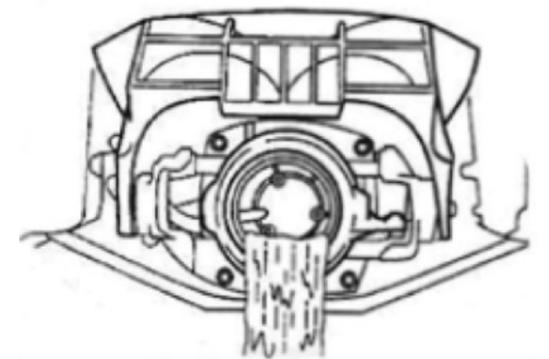


If weed or debris gets caught in the intake/impeller

Engine cavitations may occur and they can decrease thrust and may cause your engine to overheat if the condition is not fixed. If there is any sign of this, or if your intake/impeller is clogged, return to the shore to clear.

If at sea, turn the PWC off for at least 5 seconds and then restart the engine. If the intake is still clogged, place the PWC in reverse. If it is still clogged, stop the engine, remove the engine lanyard from the stop switch, dismount and reach under the PWC to remove the obstruction from the intake grate. If this fails, assistance will be required.

Once ashore, immediately remove the lanyard, take out the intake grate to remove the foreign object. The following checklist can be used for post-use, although all operators should refer to the PWC user manual for more details.

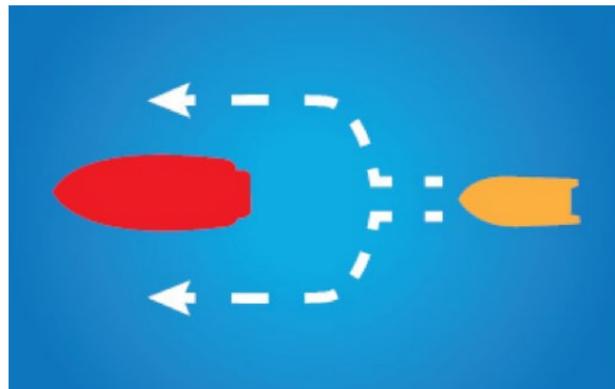


Collision Regulations



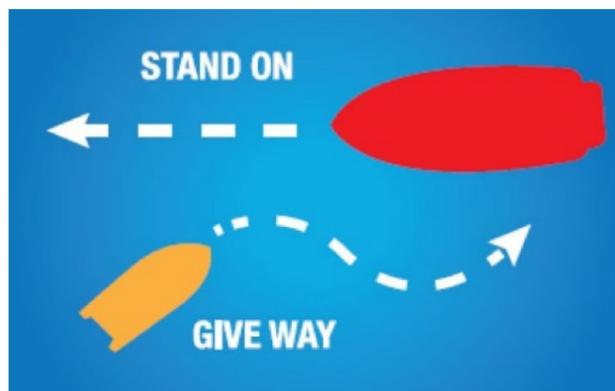
Approaching head on

Each PWC alters course to starboard (right) and passes port to port (left). This applies to both narrow channels and open waters.



Overtaking

As the overtaking PWC, you are responsible for keeping out of the way of the vessel being overtaken and passing safely on either side of the vessel.



Crossing situation

As a PWC is a powered vessel, you must give way to powered vessels approaching from your starboard side, as they are the stand on vessel.

As a PWC is a powered vessel, you must also give way to sailing vessels, fishing vessels engaged in fishing and other vessels that are restricted in their ability to manoeuvre or not under command.

Speed

All vessels (including PWC) are required to travel at a safe speed at all times. A safe speed is one where the vessel (including PWC) can be stopped in time to avoid any danger which may arise. When judging a safe speed you must consider visibility, other vessels, navigation hazards, wind, waves, and currents for manoeuvrability. Do not exceed the set speed limits.

Lookout

A good lookout by sight and by hearing must be maintained at all times. When operating your PWC you must be aware of what is going on around you, and ensure that you always check behind you. The Skipper is responsible at all times for maintaining a proper lookout.

Post-use checks

- After removing the PWC from water, start & rev engine to remove excess water from the exhaust. Remove bungs and drain the hull.
- Hose down the PWC and trailer. Remove all sand and salt build-up, paying particular attention to the inside of the jet unit. Hose out the engine bay. Do not spray water up the air box intake.
- Flush out the engine cooling system with fresh water.
- Remove seating.
- Use flush fitting to hook up water to the engine. Remove safety cap and hook up flush fitting.
- Start the engine and let run until it idles smoothly.
- Turn on the water supply.
- Gently rev the engine to help it circulate the water through the exhaust system – continue for 3-5 minutes.
- Turn off water supply.
- Rev engine gently to remove water from exhaust and then shut down the engine.
- Spray engine with suitable anti-corrosion.
- Leave seats and storage bucket off until engine dries out.
- Store PWC under cover.

Reporting marine incidents: !

All parties involved in a marine incident must report the incident as soon as practicable and by the quickest means possible, within 24 hours to the emergency number: **996**

Violations of Personal Watercraft Users

1. Driving a non-licensed personal watercraft or driving with a license that is expired
2. Driving the personal watercraft by people below (14) years or person 14 to 18 years without a specialised rainer or an escort over 18 years of age, or the PWC's engine is over 1800 c.c.
3. Using PWC in non-permitted places
4. Using PWC before sunrise or after sunset
5. Launching the PWC in non-designated areas
6. Failure to take precautions upon setting off and returning
7. Exceeding the permitted number of persons on the PWC
8. Failure to wear a life jacket
9. Failure to tie the switch key to the driver's wrist, clothes thereof, or the life jacket
10. Failure to keep away from the boundary of beach at a distance not less than (300 meters) towards the open sea, while driving and not exceeding one sea mile in length from the main coast in open waters
11. Using the PWC in proximity to public places or those populated with beach visitors or disturbing them
12. Reckless driving
13. Non-compliance with the maritime navigation laws and endangering maritime vessels and facilities
14. Failure to affix numbers on the PWC, or hiding or amending the same without referring back to the competent entity
15. No compliance with or evading orders of the security authority enforcement officers
16. Failure to report or deliver information regarding a collision accident
17. Damage of the PWC registration certificate

