

Boating and Swimming Zones are Changing for the Better

June 2015

Parks Victoria is implementing new boating and swimming zones to improve safety across Port Phillip and Western Port.



Port Phillip and Western Port



Boating and Swimming Zones Upgrade

Port Phillip and Western Port

Parks Victoria is implementing new boating and swimming zones to improve safety across Port Phillip and Western Port. The new boating and swimming zones are being introduced in stages with new aids to navigation and clear signage installed prior to each new zone coming into effect.

Boating and swimming zones are prepared under the Marine Safety Act 2010 with the primary aim of providing a safe environment for water users. They apply conditions of operation and prohibit incompatible uses for safety reasons.

In 2009 Parks Victoria completed a comprehensive two-year review of all boating and swimming zones across Port Phillip and Western Port. The review found that the existing boating and swimming zones could be difficult to understand from the water or land. There were a large number of different types of zones that made it overly complex to interpret. They also did not reflect changing trends in boating and swimming activity.

Parks Victoria as the Local Port Manager of Port Phillip and Western Port, jointly with Maritime Safety Victoria who oversee the management of recreational boating across Victoria, reviewed the existing boating and swimming zones. The review was to determine what zone types are required in each local area around Port Phillip and Western Port to allow safe access and use of the coast and waterways.

Following extensive community consultation a standard set of zones and criteria for application was devised. Parks Victoria has worked in partnership with Maritime Safety Victoria and in consultation with the local community to apply these zones across Port Phillip and Western Port.

The principles that have been applied during review of the recommendations are that the boating and swimming zones should be:

- Safe;
- Practical;
- Easy to identify;
- Easy to comply with and regulate;
- Responding to current and anticipated future water uses.

Some of the general and more significant changes as a result of reviewing each local area include:

- The realignment and simplification of zones to provide a more user-friendly arrangement;
- The consistent application of 'Swimming Only' zones in front of Life Saving Clubs to provide increased swimmer safety;
- The introduction of 'Shared Wind Sport' areas to allow for the safe operation of the increasingly popular sport;
- The removal of 'No Sailboard', 'Sailboards Only' and 'PWC Only' zones to reflect changing water uses and duplication with other zones; and
- The adjustment of the '5 Knot' zone between Safety Beach and Blairgowrie from 760m from shore to 500m from shore.

A simpler set of new zones will replace the previous zones. These are:

- Boating Only – swimming is not permitted in this zone.
- Swimming Only – all vessels, including personal watercraft, powered and non-powered vessels, are not permitted in this zone.
- Shared Wind Sport Area – this zone provides an area for kiteboarding, sail boarding and other wind based boating which may exceed 5 knots except within 50m proximity to other vessels and swimmers. Other vessels are permitted in this area.

- 5 Knot Speed Limit – all vessels, applicable either:
 - as a zone extending to 200m from shore. Swimming and boating are permitted within 200m of the shore subject to defined areas above. All vessels must adhere to the 5 knot speed limit in this zone; or
 - as a zone extending to 500m from shore on the Mornington Peninsula from Martha Cove, Dromana to Sullivan Bay, Sorrento. Swimming and boating are permitted within 500m of the shore subject to defined areas above. All vessels must adhere to the 5 knot speed limit in this zone.
- In some areas with exceptional circumstances two pre-existing zones will be retained. These are:
 - No Wind Sports – sailboarding and kiteboarding is not permitted;
 - No Personal Watercraft – personal watercraft (including jetskis) are prohibited in this zone.

Parks Victoria has commenced implementation of the endorsed zones and is installing buoys, piles and signage as part of the upgrade work. Implementation will continue as weather conditions, materials and contractor availability allow.

The new zones have been prioritised and are being implemented in stages, with Stages 1, 2 and 3 now complete. Proposed zones may change prior to implementation.

As works progress Parks Victoria will undertake local and general education campaigns for waterway users. Notices to Mariners will also be issued to advise of revised zone arrangements and works occurring on the water.

For further information and to keep updated of when the boating and swimming zones will be rolled out in your local area, please contact the Parks Victoria Information Centre on **13 1963** or email **info@parks.vic.gov.au**.

St Helens Jetty and Point Henry

Boating and Swimming Zones

The new St Helens Jetty and Point Henry zone changes will come into effect in 2015-16.

The changes include:

- New Swimming Only zone at St Helens Jetty, extending approximately 100m offshore.
- Retain the No Wind Sports zone, incorporating the waters within 100m around Point Henry Pier.
- New Shared Wind Sports zone at Point Henry, extending approximately 2km south-west, as per previous trial zone.
- Improved visibility of aids to navigation and easier to understand regulatory signage.

KEY

- **Swimming Only**
All vessels including personal watercraft, powered and non-powered vessels are not permitted in this zone
- **Shared Wind Sports Area**
This area is set aside for kiteboarding and sailboarding which may exceed 5 knots, other vessels permitted
- **No Wind Sports Area**
Kiteboarding and sailboarding are not permitted in this zone
- - - - **200m from shore**
Swimming and boating are permitted within 200m of the shore. All vessels must adhere to the 5 knot speed limit within 200m of the shore
- ✕ **Special Mark**
- **Special Mark Buoy**
- **Shore Signs**
- ▲ **Starboard Lateral Mark**
- **Port Lateral Mark**
- ⚓ **North Cardinal / West Cardinal**
- 🚤 **Boat Ramp**

Disclaimer: THIS IS NOT A NAVIGATION CHART. This map is indicative only and not intended for navigational use. For navigation of Port Phillip, Chart AUS 143 should be consulted. Notices to Mariners issued by Parks Victoria are published on www.parks.vic.gov.au



Clifton Springs and Portarlington

Boating and Swimming Zones

The new Clifton Springs and Portarlington zone changes will come into effect in 2015-16.

The changes at Clifton Springs include:

- New Swimming Only zone at Clifton Springs Boat Harbour extending 200m offshore.

The changes at Portarlington include:

- New Shared Wind Sports zone at Point Richards, west of Portarlington Sailing Club adjacent to the eastern Point Richards Boat Ramp breakwater, extending 200m offshore.
- Revised No Personal Watercraft zone at Portarlington Pier, extending 200m offshore.
- Revised Swimming Only zone opposite Portarlington Bowling Club between Portarlington Pier and Stewart Grove extending 200m offshore.



KEY

- **Boating Only**
Swimming is not permitted in this zone
- **Swimming Only**
All vessels including personal water craft, powered and non-powered vessels are not permitted in this zone
- **Shared Wind Sports Area**
This area is set aside for kiteboarding and sailboarding which may exceed 5 knots, other vessels permitted
- - - - **200m from shore**
Swimming and boating are permitted within 200m of the shore. All vessels must adhere to the 5 knot speed limit within 200m of the shore
- ✕ **Special Mark**
- **Special Mark Buoy**
- **Shore Signs**
- **Port Lateral Mark**
- **Boat Ramp**



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Indented Head to St Leonards

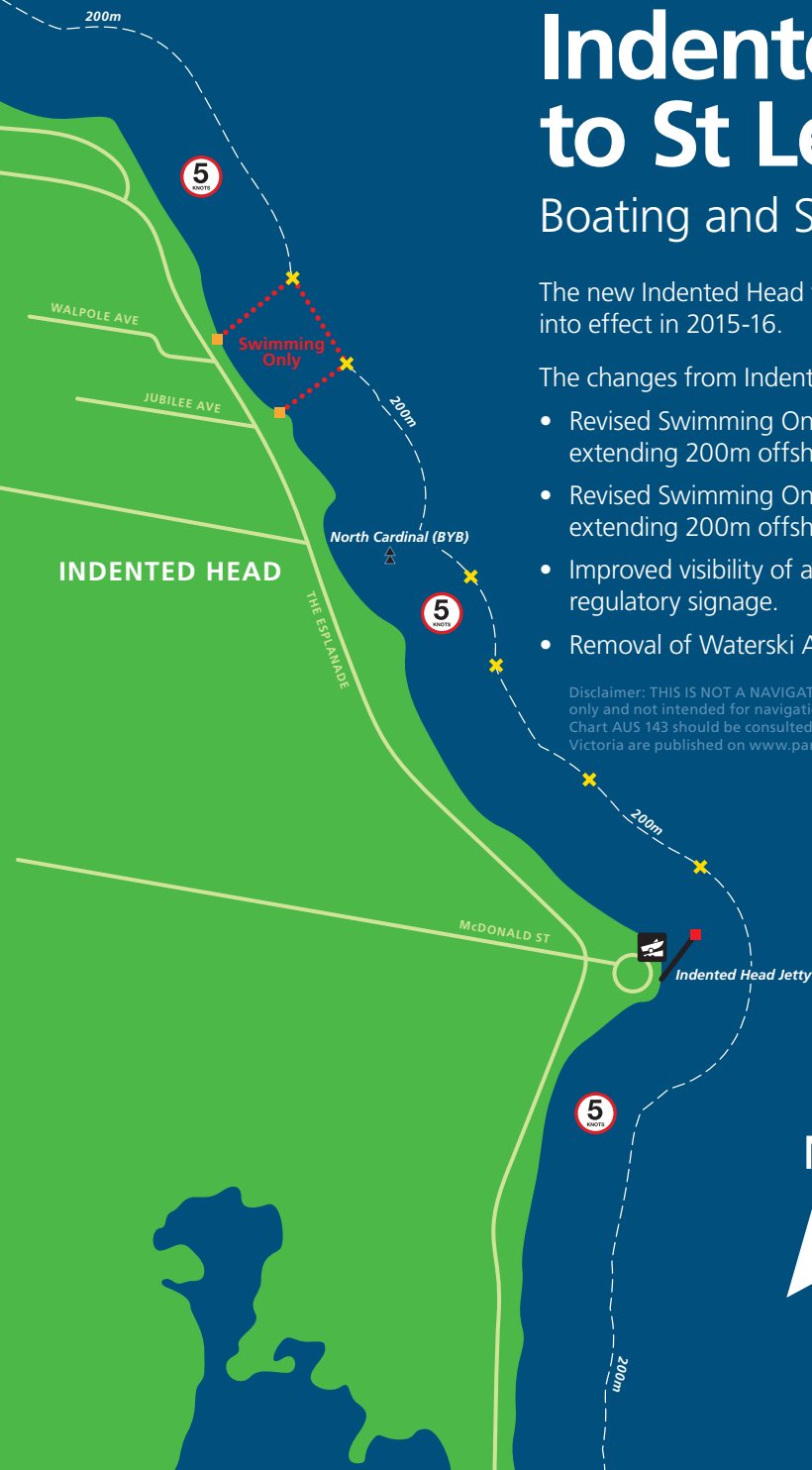
Boating and Swimming Zones

The new Indented Head to St Leonards zone changes will come into effect in 2015-16.

The changes from Indented Head to St Leonards include:

- Revised Swimming Only zone between Jubilee Ave and Walpole Ave, extending 200m offshore.
- Revised Swimming Only zone between St Leonards Pier and First Ave, extending 200m offshore.
- Improved visibility of aids to navigation and easier to understand regulatory signage.
- Removal of Waterski Access Lanes at Point George and St Leonards.

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KEY

- **Boating Only**
Swimming is not permitted in this zone
- **Swimming Only**
All vessels including personal watercraft, powered and non-powered vessels are not permitted in this zone
- **Shared Wind Sports Area**
This area is set aside for kiteboarding and sailboarding which may exceed 5 knots, other vessels permitted
- 200m from shore**
Swimming and boating are permitted within 200m of the shore. All vessels must adhere to the 5 knot speed limit within 200m of the shore
- ✕ **Special Mark**
- **Special Mark Buoy**
- **Shore Signs**
- ▲ **Starboard Lateral Mark**
- **Port Lateral Mark**
- Boat Ramp**

Werribee River to Williamstown

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Port Melbourne to St Kilda



KEY

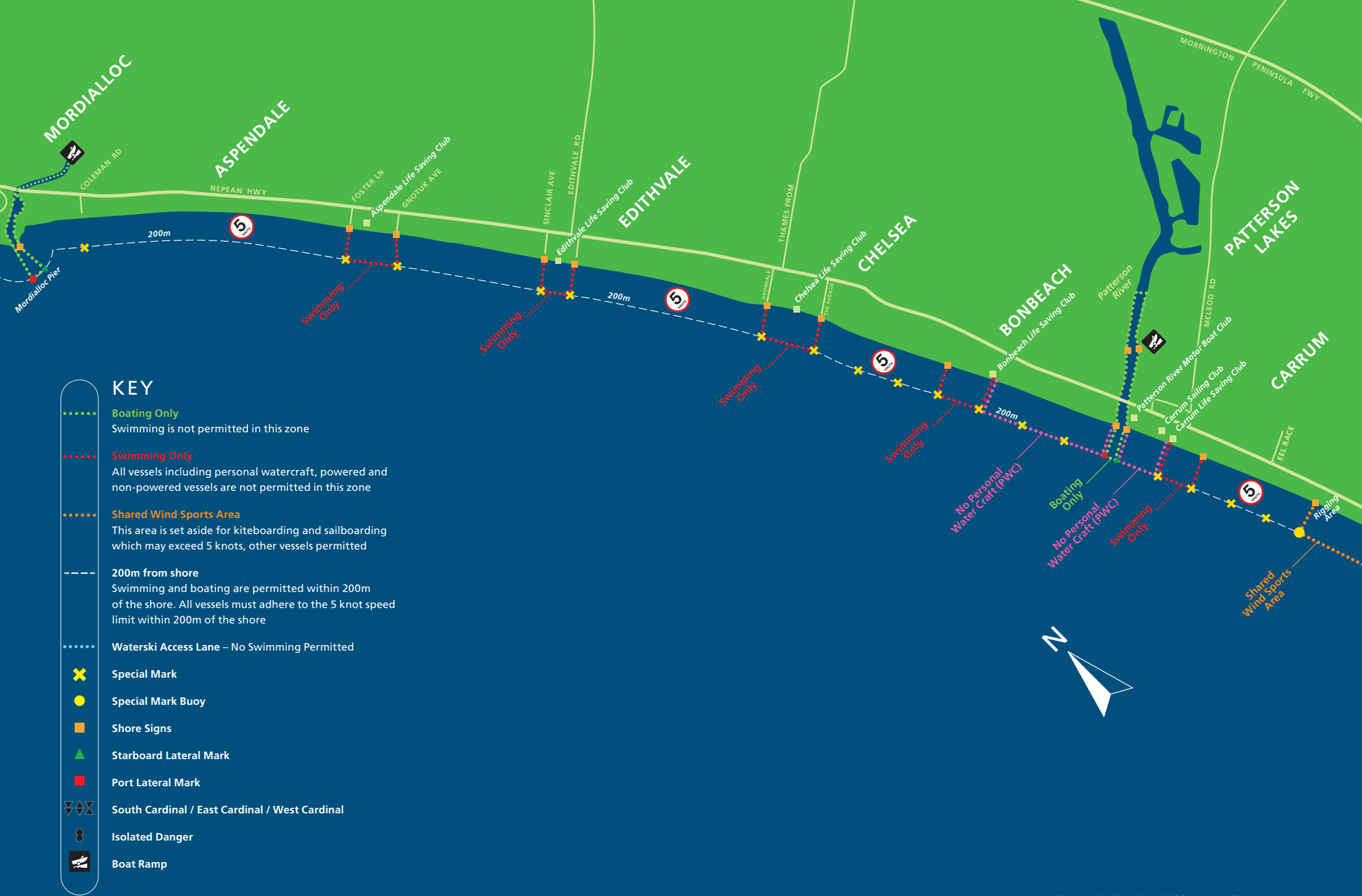
- Boating Only**
Swimming is not permitted in this zone
- Swimming Only**
All vessels including personal watercraft, powered and non-powered vessels are not permitted in this zone
- Shared Wind Sports Area**
This area is set aside for kiteboarding and sailboarding which may exceed 5 knots, other vessels permitted
- 200m from shore**
Swimming and boating are permitted within 200m of the shore. All vessels must adhere to the 5 knot speed limit within 200m of the shore
- Special Mark**
- Special Mark Buoy**
- Shore Signs**
- South Cardinal**

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Elwood to Seaford





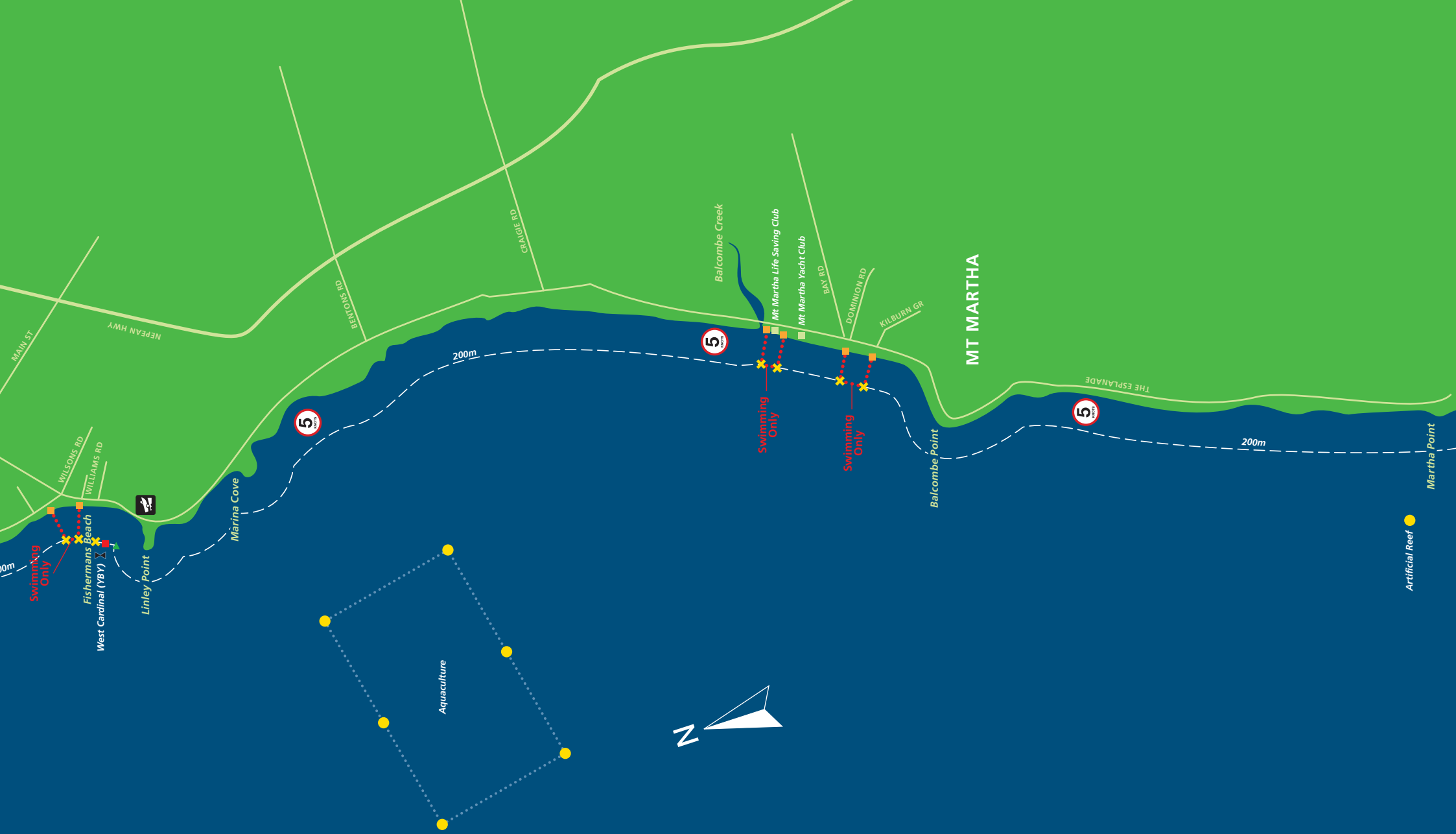


KEY

- **Boating Only**
Swimming is not permitted in this zone
- **Swimming Only**
All vessels including personal watercraft, powered and non-powered vessels are not permitted in this zone
- **Shared Wind Sports Area**
This area is set aside for kiteboarding and sailboarding which may exceed 5 knots, other vessels permitted
- - - - **200m from shore**
Swimming and boating are permitted within 200m of the shore. All vessels must adhere to the 5 knot speed limit within 200m of the shore
- **Waterski Access Lane – No Swimming Permitted**
- ✕ **Special Mark**
- **Special Mark Buoy**
- **Shore Signs**
- ▲ **Starboard Lateral Mark**
- **Port Lateral Mark**
- ⚓ **North Cardinal / West Cardinal**
- ⊘ **Isolated Danger**
- 🚤 **Boat Ramp**



Carrum to Mt Martha



Mornington Peninsula

KEY

- **Boating Only**
Swimming is not permitted in this zone
- **Swimming Only**
All vessels including personal watercraft, powered and non-powered vessels are not permitted in this zone
- **Shared Wind Sports Area**
This area is set aside for kiteboarding and sailboarding which may exceed 5 knots, other vessels permitted
- - - - **500m from shore**
Swimming and boating are permitted within 500m of the shore. All vessels must adhere to the 5 knot speed limit within 500m of the shore (or as marked)
- **Waterski Access Lane – No Swimming Permitted**
- ✕ **Special Mark**
- **Special Mark Buoy**
- **Shore Signs**
- ▲ **Starboard Lateral Mark**
- **Port Lateral Mark**
- 🚤 **Boat Ramp**



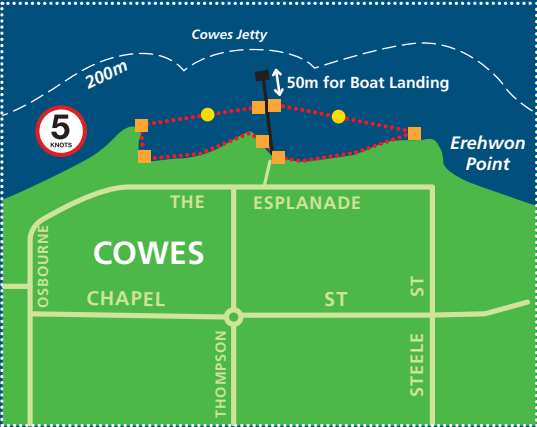
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Phillip Island

KEY

- **Swimming Only**
All vessels including personal watercraft, powered and non-powered vessels are not permitted in this zone
- 200m from shore**
Swimming and boating are permitted within 200m of the shore. All vessels must adhere to the 5 knot speed limit within 200m of the shore
- **Special Mark Buoy**
- **Shore Signs**



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Victoria is lucky enough to be home to some of the world's most spectacular bays and waterways. In particular, Port Phillip and Western Port hold some of the most unique and interesting marine plants and animals which are often found nowhere else in the world.

Parks Victoria is the local port and waterway manager for Port Phillip, Western Port, Yarra and Maribyrnong Rivers. Parks Victoria's role includes:

- Facilitating more than 50 million bays and river visits.
- Overseeing commercial activities such as berthing and mooring.
- Managing more than \$300 million worth of maritime infrastructure including piers, jetties and navigation aids.
- Looking after Victoria's precious Marine National Parks and Sanctuaries.
- Coordinating hundreds of marine and river based events per year.
- Assisting other government agencies with emergency response on the bays and waterways.

For more information call 13 1963 or visit www.parks.vic.gov.au