

PORT PHILLIP RECREATIONAL BOATING GUIDE



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Did you know?

Covering 1,950 square kilometers, Port Phillip is the entrance to Australia's busiest port and is one of Victoria's most popular recreational destinations. Although Port Phillip is commonly referred to as 'the bay' or 'Port Phillip Bay', Port Phillip is actually not a bay but an embayment made up of over 16 bays. Parks Victoria is the port and waterway manager for the local port of Port Phillip and is responsible for recreational activities on the bay.

Parks Victoria manages piers and jetties, mooring permits, aids to navigation, tour operators, marine national parks and acts as referral agency for planning matters and authorisation of new structures.

GREAT BAY ADVENTURES

Port Phillip is one of Victoria's most popular recreational destinations. Whether it's fishing, boating, paddling, kite boarding, diving, swimming or simply walking along one of the many piers, there's so much to see and do both on and under the water.

Explore amazing underwater life

Port Phillip is home to four marine national parks and sanctuaries which host diverse marine life not found anywhere else in the world. They protect a unique and diverse range of marine plants, animals and habitats for the benefit of current and future generations. Around 90 percent of the plants and animals are unique to Port Phillip. These marine protected areas provide a variety of swimming, snorkelling and diving opportunities for varying skill levels, as well as low speed recreational boating, paddling or sailing.

Know the boundaries – penalties apply

A number of activities are not permitted within the boundaries of marine national parks and marine sanctuaries. It's your responsibility to know the rules which include:-

-  **No fishing**
-  **No spear fishing**
-  **No taking or damaging of any animals, plants and object**

Heavy penalties including fines, equipment confiscation and imprisonment may apply for offenders. To report an offence call the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

Encounter marine mammals in their natural habitat

As you explore Port Phillip, be on the lookout for whales, dolphins or seals. Port Phillip is home to a unique species of Bottlenose dolphin known as the Burranan dolphin (*Tursiops australis*). Dolphins tend to be seen more often at the southern end of Port Phillip, while seals can be seen soaking up the sun at Chinaman's Hat. Humpback and Southern Right Whales may be spotted from May to October during migration.

It's important not to get too close to marine mammals when on the water. To reduce the risk of disturbance to natural behaviours never approach closer than the minimum prescribed distance (see below), and leave them alone if they show signs of agitation such as diving or rapid changes in direction. Wherever possible, leave encounters to chance and at the animal's choice.

Uncover our early defence history

The bay's early history as a defence line for Melbourne is reflected through a number of forts and gun placements such as the South Channel Fort. This artificial island was constructed in the 1880s to illuminate the channel at night and electronically explode mines under attacking ships should they breach the fortified Port Phillip Heads.

A system of antiquated gun emplacements and tunnels are a feature of the island which is now also a significant refuge for seabirds.

Pg 13 Map reference N15

A similar island was proposed but only partially completed off the coast of Queenscliff. Known as Popes Eye or The Annulus, this structure is also an important roosting and breeding area for Australasian Gannets and wildlife refuge above and below the water, and is part of the Port Phillip Heads Marine National Park. Its sheltered waters provide a popular destination for snorkel and dive activities.

Pg 13 Map reference J14

Hook a fishing adventure

With a surface area more than 35 times the size of Sydney Harbour, there's endless scope for fishing adventures in Port Phillip. Whether you're catching trevally, snapper, squid, leatherjackets, salmon or bream, most fishing adventures start at Patterson River. Four launching ramps with multiple lanes, ample parking and new all-abilities access facilities cater for over 50,000 boat launches each year.

Pg 13 Map reference W8

Download the free 'Vic Fishing' app to access the 'Can I Fish Here?' tool.

The feature uses your smartphone's location to determine if you are within or near a no-take zone.



Unwind at Queenscliff Harbour

The Queenscliff Harbour is a destination in itself and, being a working harbour, there is always something to see and do. Restaurants and cafes complement the setting and the viewing tower provides stunning 360 degree views over Port Phillip Heads and Swan Bay. The historic Queenscliff Pier and the charming Queenscliff township are only a short stroll away.

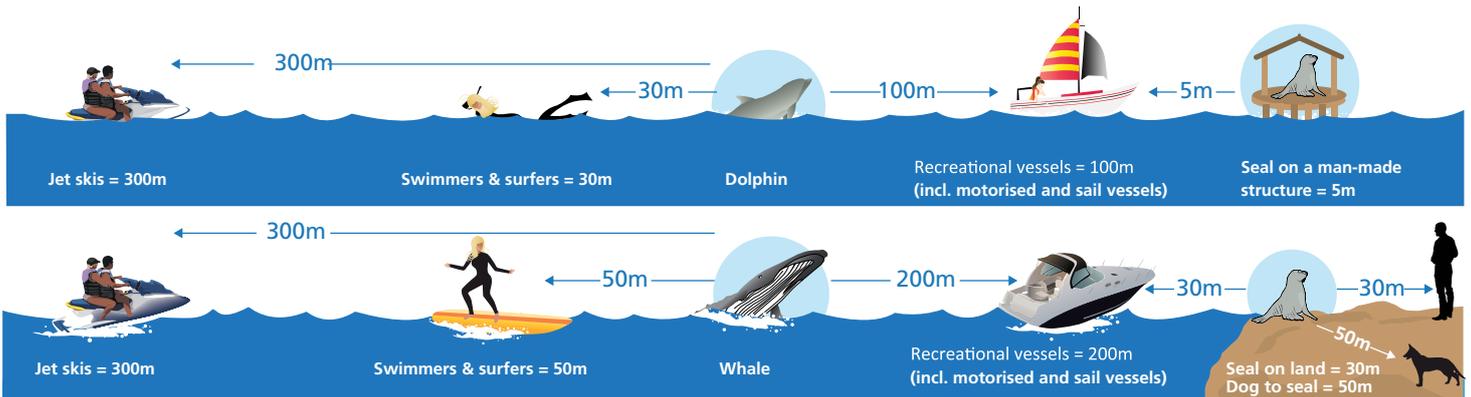
Pg 13 Map reference J13

Nearby is the recently upgraded Portarlington Harbour providing additional berthing facilities and home to the majority of the Aquaculture operations in Port Phillip.

Pg 13 Map reference I9

Sharing our coast with whales, dolphins and seals – minimum approach distances

Penalties for breaches of the Act and Regulations apply



Protection Zones apply at the Ticonderoga Bay sanctuary zone (map ref J15), where boats cannot approach dolphins and whales any closer than 200 metres, and PWC cannot approach closer than 300m. Penalties for breaches of the Act and Regulations apply.

LOCAL RULES AND CONDITIONS

When enjoying Port Phillip, there are many rules and regulations to be aware of to help protect the environment and ensure safety for all users.

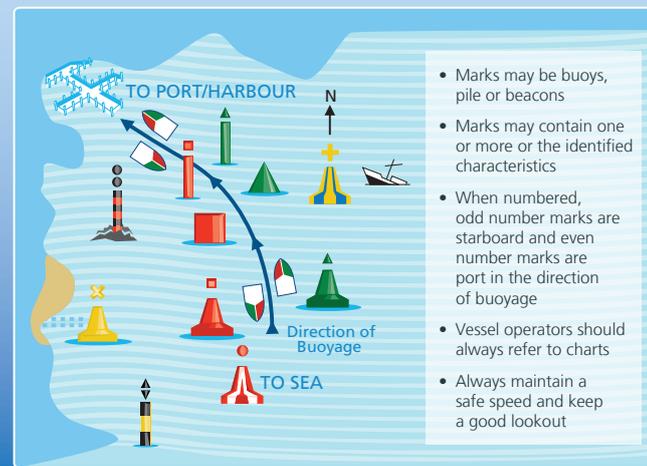
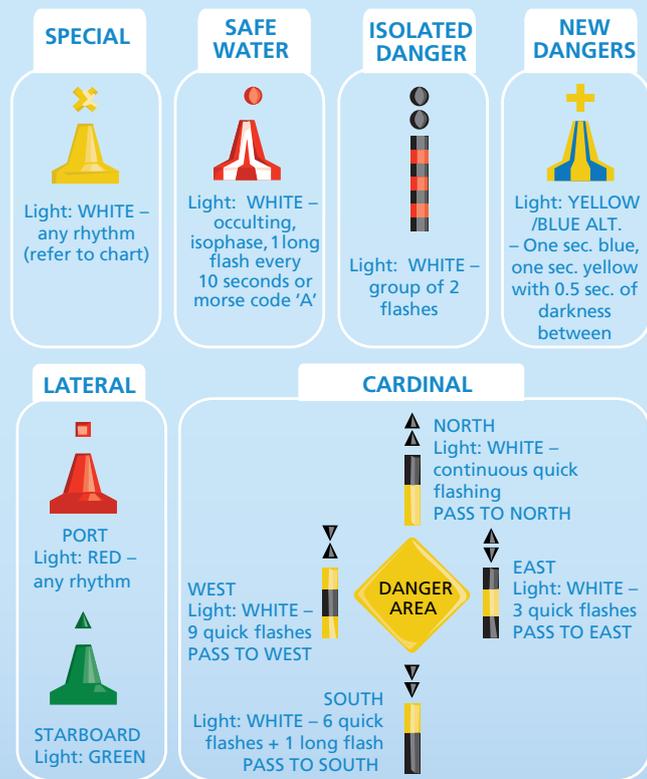
Aids to navigation

Aids to Navigation (AtoN) are the traffic signals of the water that guide vessel operators safely along waterways. They also identify dangerous or controlled areas and give directions and information.

The buoyage system used in Victoria is known as the IALA System A which is a combined Lateral and Cardinal system. Although called a buoyage system, marks may be buoys, piles, or beacons. Continuously refresh your understanding of AtoN by using AHS Charts, by referring to the Guide to Vessel Operating and Zoning Rules (VOZR), checking the latest Parks Victoria issued Notice to Mariners or checking the buoyage system chart.

Buoyage system

Ports and coastal waters



Hazards and risks



Should you encounter damaged aids to navigation, malfunctioning navigation lights, vessels adrift, submerged objects and other dangerous debris floating in the local port, contact Parks Victoria to report them immediately.

Anchoring

When anchoring ensure you always place anchors correctly and securely and avoid anchoring over seagrass and reef areas. Anchors damage reefs and seagrass beds when they are allowed to shift. Anchoring is not permitted in mooring grounds or shipping channels and fairways.

Aquaculture Fisheries Reserves

Eight offshore marine Aquaculture Fisheries Reserves have been established in Port Phillip totalling 1,990 ha. Within the reserves are Crown lease areas designated for marine farming. Recreational users may enter the reserves but cannot enter the lease areas (within the marked boundaries) without permission of the leaseholder. Recreational fishing can be undertaken throughout non-leased parts of the reserves under the following conditions:

- Keep to public areas of the reserves.
- Watch for divers and keep vessels and equipment a safe distance from aquaculture equipment.
- Always travel at a safe speed and keep boat wash to a minimum.
- Follow all local boating and fisheries regulations.
- Don't tie up to navigation aids, aquaculture equipment or external Crown lease boundary buoys.
- Don't berley, clean fish or discharge human waste in or around the Reserves.

For more information contact Victorian Fisheries Authority.

Marine licences

All powered recreational vessels, including paddle craft and sail boats fitted with a motor, must be registered. Anyone operating a powered vessel on Victorian waters requires a marine licence. You must carry your licence with you when operating a vessel. A restricted marine licence is available for those aged over 12 and under 16. Once 16, the restricted licence automatically becomes a marine licence. Masters of personal watercraft (PWC), such as a jet ski, must obtain a PWC endorsement on their licence. The PWC endorsement is not available to restricted licence holders. An unlicensed person may operate a powered vessel under the direct supervision of a person who is: Over the age of 18 years; Licensed (and endorsed if it's a PWC); and on board in a position where they are able to take immediate control of the vessel. For more information contact Transport Safety Victoria.

Notice to Mariners

A Notice to Mariners (NTM) is issued by a Harbour Master, Port Manager or Waterway Manager to advise commercial mariners and recreational users of a significant change in a port or waterway which may affect the safe navigation of a vessel. Boat operators should always check the latest NTM before operating a vessel on Port Phillip. Parks Victoria NTMs are available at parks.vic.gov.au, and all Victorian NTMs can be found at regionalchannels.vic.gov.au. To receive Parks Victoria issued Notices to Mariners, email your details to noticetomariners@parks.vic.gov.au.



Berthing and mooring facilities

Public berthing is available on piers and jetties throughout Port Phillip for up to 48 hours at a time. Some areas have been leased or allocated for commercial boat operators only. These berths are not available for public use, including short term berthing. Time limits and other restrictions are detailed on signs at each location and outlined in the table below. Berthing is also available in harbours, marinas and sheltered waters throughout Port Phillip. Contact local marina and harbour operators to book a berth prior to arrival.

Key

- Up to 48 hours (vessels should be attended)
- Short Term – up to 4 hours (check signage)
- Loading
- Permit and commercial

BERTH LOCATION		Type	Map Ref.
North Port Phillip	Werribee Jetty	● ○	J5
	Altona Pier	● ○	N2
	Gem Pier	●	Q1
	Ferguson St Pier	○ ● ● ●	Q1
	Lagoon Pier	● ○	R1
	Kerferd Road Pier	● ○	R1
	St Kilda Pier	○ ● ●	R1
	Middle Brighton Pier	● ○	S3
	Hampton Pier	○ ● ●	S4
	Black Rock Jetty	● ○	T5
East Port Phillip	Mordialloc Pier	●	V6
	Frankston Pier	●	W10
	Mornington Pier	● ●	U12
	Mornington Fisherman's Jetty	●	U12
	Dromana Pier	●	R15
	Rosebud Pier	●	Q16
	Rye Pier	●	N16
	Sorrento Pier	● ●	L16
	Portsea Pier	● ●	K15
	West Port Phillip	Queenscliff South Pier	●
Swan Bay Jetty		○	I12
St Leonards Pier		● ● ●	K11
Portarlington Harbour		○ ● ●	I9

Parks Victoria manages two thirds of the estimated 3000 swing moorings across 65 locations around Port Phillip and Westernport. The remainder are managed by eight various yacht and boat clubs and mooring associations acting as agents for Parks Victoria. To stay at public moorings at Queenscliff, Limeburners Bay (near Geelong), Williamstown and Sorrento contact Parks Victoria.

Boating zones

Boating and swimming zones are created 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.

The boating and swimming zones of Port Phillip include:

- Vessels Only/ Prohibited to Bathers – swimming is not permitted in these zones.
- Vessels Prohibited (Swimming Only) – all vessels, including personal watercraft, powered and non-powered vessels, are not permitted in these zones.

- Shared Wind Sport Area – provides an area for kite boarding and sail boarding where they may exceed 5 Knots within 200m or 500m of the water's edge (depending on the location) except not within 50m proximity to other vessels and swimmers. Other vessels are permitted in this area providing they abide by the speed and distance rules.

- 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.

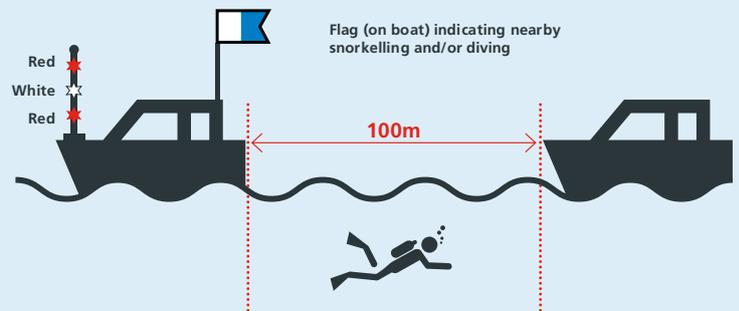
The above rules are enforceable by law. Parks Victoria, Maritime Safety Victoria and the Victorian Water Police issue penalties where vessels are in breach of waterway rules. For more information contact Maritime Safety Victoria or refer to the Boating and Swimming Zone Brochure available from Parks Victoria.

Charts

Vessel operators should carry accurate Australian navigation charts (Aus 143, Aus 144, Aus 153, Aus 154, Aus 155, Aus 157 and Aus 158) which can be purchased through mapping retailers and the Australian Hydrographic Service.

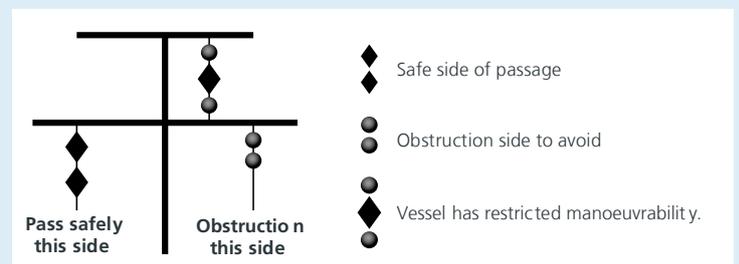
Diving and snorkeling

A 5 Knot speed limit applies to vessel operators and water skiers within 100m of a vessel, buoy or structure on which a 'diver below' signal is displayed. Any vessel with divers or snorkelers operating from it must always display signals by day or night to inform other vessel users. During night diving, a vessel must show the international signal for a vessel restricted in its ability to manoeuvre. Always be aware that divers in the water may not be near a vessel.



Dredging

Dredging is conducted by Parks Victoria to maintain safe access to boating facilities in key locations such as Queenscliff, Patterson River, Werribee River, St Kilda Pier and Mordialloc Creek. Water depth surveys for Patterson River and Mordialloc Creek are available from the Parks Victoria website. Dredging of shipping channels and fairways is managed by the Victorian Ports Corporation (Melbourne) and Victorian Regional Channels Authority. When encountering a dredge vessel, recreational vessel operators should always maintain a safe speed and pass on the non-obstruction side of the dredge vessel. A series of signals displayed on the dredge will guide recreational vessels on safe passing.



Exclusion zones

A number of events that take place on water require sections of Port Phillip to be closed for public safety. This may also be required for construction or other works. Exclusion zones are created under the Marine Safety Act 2010 to allow the closure of a designated area of water. The exclusion zone boundaries may be delineated by a temporary marker buoy. Exclusion zones and river closures are advertised on the Parks Victoria website and in the government Gazette. A Notice to Mariners is issued prior to the event.

Fishing

Fishing may be undertaken across Port Phillip from either a vessel (but must not anchor in a shipping channel) and land excluding marine national parks and sanctuaries. Recreational line fishing is permitted from most piers, jetties and vessels, but some exceptions do apply and will be signed accordingly. It's a requirement to reel in your lines when a vessel approaches. A Recreational Fishing Licence is required for persons aged between 18 – 70 unless exempt. Observe all fishing regulations and remember to check bag and size limits, fishing methods and closed seasons. Check conditions before you go - people have been swept off piers during storms. For more information or to report illegal fishing contact the Victorian Fisheries Authority.

Heritage Shipwreck Protection Areas

Heritage Shipwreck Protection Zones are no entry areas around very fragile shipwrecks. Shipwrecks automatically become historic shipwrecks under State and Commonwealth legislation once they are 75 years and older (from the time of wreck). The shipwrecks that have protected zones around them within the bay are HMVS Cerberus, SS City of Launceston, Clarence, Joanna, Will O' the Wisp and William Salthouse. It is important to steer clear of these zones because the fragile wrecks within them could easily be damaged by anchoring, fishing or diving activities. It is illegal to enter a protected zone without a permit from Heritage Victoria. Penalties apply. For more information contact Heritage Victoria.

Fuel and pump out facilities

Refuelling, including transferring fuel between containers, is a potentially hazardous part of boating. It is important to take care and to follow the correct procedures as outlined below:

Fuel

1. No passengers are on board during refuelling or starting.
2. Turn off the engine and electrical equipment before refuelling.
3. Use a wide-mouthed funnel, don't overfill the tank and clean up any spillages.
4. Ventilate the tank and engine compartments after refuelling (a marinised, non-sparking blower will move a greater volume of air more quickly).
5. Don't start the engine if you can detect fumes (gas detectors can be helpful).
6. Refuelling should always be carried out 'on-boat' and not by leaning over the boat from a pier, jetty or landing.
7. If possible, fill the fuel tanks away from the vessel in a well-ventilated, non-smoking area.
8. Regularly check perishable fuel lines for wear and tear and carry spares.
9. Don't keep oily or fuel-soaked rags onboard.
10. Keep spare fuel in a tightly capped, secure container.
11. When in public areas all diesel or unleaded fuel should be transported in AS2906 containers with a volume no greater than 25 litres. Multiple containers can be used or fuel can be purchased from boat fuel retailers around Port Phillip.

Fuel Retailers	Map Ref	Phone
d'Albora Marinas Pier 35	Q0	9646 1200
Martha Cove Marina	T15	5987 0287
Patterson Lakes Marina	W8	9772 6622
Queenscliff Harbour	J13	5258 5459
Royal Geelong Yacht Club	A10	5229 0799
Royal Yacht Club of Victoria	Q1	8383 1975
Sandringham Yacht Club	S4	9598 7444
St Kilda Marina	S2	9535 0448
Wyndham Harbour	K4	9646 9695

Pump out facilities

Poor water quality affects the health of the environment and in turn the enjoyment of recreational boating and fishing activities on Port Phillip. Discharge of sewage and other waste from boats is prohibited, adds pollutants to our valuable waterways and poses a risk to marine ecosystems and human health. Use a holding tank for sewage and dispose of waste properly on land or use provided pump out facilities. Boat sewerage pump out systems are designed for larger boats that have holding tanks. Sewerage hoppers are designed for boats that use a portable toilet.

Location	Contact	Map Ref	Sewerage	
			Pump out	Hoppers
Anchorage Marina	9397 6977	P1	Yes	No
Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron	5988 8453	L16	Yes	No
Martha Cove Marina	5987 0287	T15	Yes	Yes
d'Albora Marinas Pier 35	9646 1200	Q0	Yes	Yes
Queenscliff Harbour	5258 5459	J13	Yes	Yes
Royal Brighton Yacht Club	9592 4022	S3	Yes	Yes
Sandringham Yacht Club	9598 7444	S4	Yes	No
St Kilda Marina	9535 0448	S2	Yes	No
Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron	9534 0227	R1	Yes	Yes

Personal watercraft (PWC)

A PWC includes jet skis, wave runners and similar vessels that have an engine used for propulsion, fully enclosed hull, don't retain water and are operated by standing, kneeling or sitting astride. It is important to remember that PWCs are just another type of powered vessel and must be operated within the rules relating to powerboats. Always read signage placed at boat ramps and on shore. Some local rules may apply specifically to PWCs, so be familiar with the area you intend to operate in. For more information contact Transport Safety Victoria.

Piers and jetties

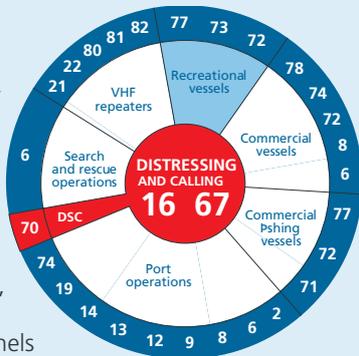
Pier and jetty structures provide a link between land and water and are a popular place for berthing, fishing and promenading. Some activities may be restricted in some areas for the safety and enjoyment of all users. You can check the colour coded signs at individual locations which identify temporary berthing zones, loading zones, short term zones and permit only zones or contact Parks Victoria to find out the latest Remember – Never dive or jump from a jetty or pier – it's illegal and dangerous. Always enter the water from the beach or use ladders provided.

Port security

Victorian Water Police manage port security in partnership with port managers. If you see something suspicious on the water, contact the Water Police via 000. Port security boats patrol the restricted waterside zones. In line with the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code, ports have three security levels – Level 1 is the default. The Victorian Ports Corporation website provides advice on the current security level.

Radio channels

Marine radio is potentially a lifeline for vessels in an emergency, so avoid using it for unnecessary communications. In Victoria, VHF and HF emergency radio traffic is monitored and recorded by Marine Radio Victoria (MRV) 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year. MRV covers the Victorian coastline, up to 20 nautical miles from the coast on the VHF emergency channels and out to 200 miles for the HF emergency frequencies. MRV also provides radio checks and broadcasts weather forecasts and warnings. Find out more information contact Transport Safety Victoria.



Shipping channels and fairways

Large ships travel Port Phillip shipping channels at all hours and sometimes travel outside designated fairways. A ship's blind spot can extend for many hundreds of metres and it is very difficult to change course quickly. It is the responsibility of recreational vessel operators to:

- Keep clear of ships at all times.
- Never anchor in shipping channels or transit only zones.
- Never obstruct the path of ships or assume a ship can see you.
- Never tie up to navigation aids such as buoys or channel markers

Penalties apply.

Swing basins

Swing basins are areas where large commercial ships turn when entering and leaving berths. Be aware of ships at all times near swing basins and steer clear for your safety.



Boat ramps

Boat ramps are managed by the respective landside managers, generally local council or Committee of Management throughout Port Phillip. and facilities vary at each site. If you're unfamiliar with a particular boat ramp contact the relevant boat ramp manager for more information before your trip.

BOAT RAMP LOCATION	Map Ref	Managed by	Contact #	
Northern Port Phillip	Altona	Q1	Hobsons Bay City Council	9932 1000
	Half Moon Bay - Black Rock	T5	Bayside City Council	9599 4444
	Nth Road- Brighton	S2	Bayside City Council	9599 4444
	St Kilda	R1	St Kilda Marina	9534 0448
	The Warmies - Newport	P1	Hobsons Bay City Council	9932 1000
	Werribee South	J5	Wyndham City Council	3974 20777
Eastern Port Phillip	Anthony's Nose	R16	Dromana Foreshore Committee	5981 0933
	Blairgowrie - Tyrone	L16	White Cliffs – Camerons Bight Foreshore Committee	5985 3288
	Fishermans Beach	T12	Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	1300 850 600
	Olivers Hill	W10	Frankston City Council	1300 322 322
	Kananook Creek	W10	Frankston City Council	1300 322 322
	Martha Cove Marina	T15	Martha Cove Marina	5987 0827
	Mordialloc	V6	Kingston City Council	1300 653 356
	Patterson River	W8	Parks Victoria	13 1963
	Rye	N16	Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	1300 850 600
	Safety Beach	S15	Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	1300 850 600
	Schnapper Point	U12	Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	1300 850 600
	Sorrento	L16	Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	1300 850 600
	Tootgarook	O16	Capel Sound Foreshore Committee	5986 4382
Western Port Phillip	Avalon	B8	City of Greater Geelong	5272 5272
	Clifton Springs	F10	City of Greater Geelong	5272 5272
	Corio Bay Boat Club	A8	City of Greater Geelong	5272 5272
	Grammar School Lagoon - Geelong	A8	City of Greater Geelong	5272 5272
	Indented Head	K10	Bellarine Bayside Coastal Management	1800 222 778
	Kirk Point	F7	Parks Victoria	13 1963
	Limeburners Point	A10	City of Greater Geelong	5272 5272
	Point Richards	H9	Bellarine Bayside Coastal Management	1800 222 778
	Queenscliff	J13	Borough of Queenscliff	5258 1377
	St Helens	A9	City of Greater Geelong	5272 5272
	St Leonards	K11	Bellarine Bayside Coastal Management	1800 222 778
	Steeles Rock (Fairfax Street) - Portarlington	J9	Bellarine Bayside Coastal Management	1800 222 778
Swan Bay	I12	Parks Victoria	13 1963	

HELP PROTECT THE BAY

CHECK, CLEAN, DRY – Stop the spread of marine pests

Marine pests are highly invasive, usually non-native animals and plants that cause significant damage to the marine environment. Marine pests can attach to boat hulls, propellers, ropes or other equipment that contacts water. Hence, moving boats and other water craft from areas with marine pests to new locations increases the risk of spread. To help prevent the spread of marine pests practice the **check, clean, dry approach**:

- **Check** your vessel and any marine equipment for marine pests regularly
- **Clean** vessels and other marine equipment with fresh water when possible
- **Dry** boats and marine equipment before moving to other marine locations
- Regularly apply appropriate anti-fouling paints to vessel hulls according to manufacturer instructions.
- Never use marine pests as bait

How do marine pests affect my boat?

Marine pests can:

- Damage the paint and hull where they are attached.
- Increase drag and therefore fuel costs.
- Clog pipes, motors, or propellers causing overheating.

How can they affect my fishing?

Marine pests can deplete fish stocks.

Damage the paint and hull where they are attached.

- A marine pest outbreak can result in fishing or anchoring bans.
- Pests compete with native fish for food – with less food, fish won't grow or reproduce as quickly.

Top concern marine pests



Japanese Kelp

Grows rapidly up to 3 metres in length
Overgrows native seaweeds
Foul boats and have microscopic juvenile plants that stay in the water column for weeks
Established in Port Phillip Bay and Apollo Bay



Northern Pacific Seastar

Five arms with pointed upturned tips
Range in colour from yellow to purple
Voracious predator with a broad diet
Mature to adults quickly and reproduce on mass
Established within Port Phillip bay



Pacific Oyster

White to purple rough shell
Form large reefs which outcompete native oysters
Found in shallow estuaries and subtidal areas
Established in Western Port

If you suspect you have seen a marine pest outside of its known range, report it to 136 186 or to marine.pests@ecodev.vic.gov.au
If possible provide a clear image and accurate (preferably GPS) location of sighting. For more information on marine pests, visit vic.gov.au/marine-pests

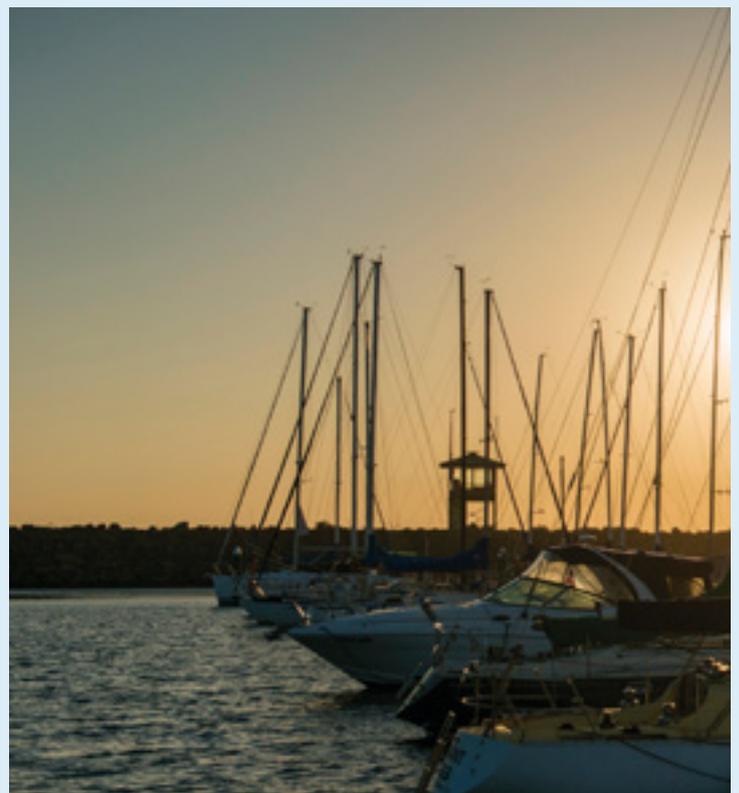
Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan

The Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan 2017–2027 (EMP) represents the Victorian Government's ongoing commitment to ensuring that Port Phillip Bay remains healthy and resilient over the coming decade. This Plan is authorised under the Marine and Coastal Act 2018 & the State Environment Protection Policy (Waters) 2018. It identifies 21 actions over seven priority areas to deliver on three goals: improved stewardship of the bay, improved water quality and protected marine biodiversity. A key objective is that the bay is valued and cared for by all Victorians and that we share responsibility for maintaining the health of the bay across community, industry and government. For further information contact the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

Boating for the future

Boat operators have a responsibility to protect the marine environment and ensure it can be enjoyed by future generations. You can protect Port Phillip and minimise your environmental impact by following these simple guidelines:

- Avoid anchoring over seagrass and reef areas - use an anchor that does less damage.
- Keep your boat clean and protected from aquatic pests.
- Reduce speed in shallow water or when close to the shoreline.
- Store rubbish securely on your boat and always take rubbish home with you.
- Prevent pollutants such as petrol, oil, sewage and detergents from entering the water.
- Dispose of sewage waste properly and use pump out facilities where available.
- Clean out bilges and sumps regularly.
- Launch or retrieve your craft at designated launching ramps.
- Observe recreational fishing regulations.
- Remember all native plants and animals are protected by law.
- Get involved with a marine friends group.



SAFETY ON THE WATER

Whether you are operating a powered or non-powered recreational vessel, there are some important things to do before departing and to know when you are out on the water to ensure safety for all users.

- When you need to wear a lifejacket
- What safety gear you need onboard
- Speed and distance rules
- Local waterway rules and zones

CHECKLIST - ADDITIONAL SAFETY TIPS

- ✔ Plan your trip – let someone know before you go and when you expect to return.
- ✔ Check local conditions, weather, tides and Notices to Mariners.
- ✔ Have a chart of where you are going and a working radio.
- ✔ Use technology (eg. Global Positioning System - GPS) to enhance safe navigation.
- ✔ Have a GPS-enabled distress beacon onboard.
- ✔ Carry sufficient water and a first aid kit.
- ✔ Ensure engine reliability and sufficient fuel.
- ✔ Know how to get back on board.
- ✔ Do not overload your boat.

On the water

- ✔ Maintain a proper lookout at all times and operate at a safe speed.
- ✔ Ensure you always keep to the right of channels.
- ✔ Wear a lifejacket anytime you're on an open area of a boat, even if not required to do so.
- ✔ When keeping your distance, bear in mind your wake can affect other users, including those on floating infrastructure.
- ✔ Avoid alcohol when operating a vessel.
- ✔ Keep well clear of moving ships as they may alter course and without notice.
- ✔ If you hear a vessel sounding at least five short and rapid blasts on its horn you must get out if its way.
- ✔ Keep a careful watch on the weather.
- ✔ Remember that paddle craft are generally harder to see and hear.
- ✔ Report marine incidents to Victoria Police.

Any person participating in the operation of a recreational or hire and drive vessel (master, operator and crew, or passenger), and those being towed, are responsible for their individual and collective safety, and the safety of those in the vicinity of the vessel.

SAFE OPERATION

Slow to 5 KNOTS when within:



- 50m of a person, vessel, fixed or floating structure and the shore on inland waters
- 50m of a person, vessel, wharf, jetty, slipway, diving platform or boat ramp on coastal and enclosed waters
- 100m of a dive flag
- 200m of the shore on enclosed and coastal waters
- or as per the scheduled waterway rules

Don't drink and boat



- .00 blood alcohol limit applies for operators and masters under 21 years of age
- .05 blood alcohol limit applies for 21 years of age and over

Wear a lifejacket



There are situations that you and your passengers are required to wear a lifejacket.

Your lifejackets must fit properly and be serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. It is important to know that your lifejacket is maintained so that it will work should you ever end up in the water. Use the table below to ensure you know when and where to wear a lifejacket. It won't just save you a fine – it could save your life.

VESSEL TYPE	COASTAL WATERS	ENCLOSED WATERS	INLAND WATERS
Powerboat up to and including 4.8m in length	Type 1	Type 1	Type 1, 2, or 3
Powerboat more than 4.8m but not more than 12m in length (at times of heightened risk)	Type 1	Type 1	Type 1, 2, or 3
Personal watercraft	Type 1, 2, or 3	Type 1, 2, or 3	Type 1, 2, or 3
Recreational tender	Type 1	Type 1, 2	Type 1, 2, or 3
Off-the-beach sailing yacht	Type 1 if >2nm from coast, Type 1 or 2 if <2nm from coast	Type 1, 2	Type 1, 2, or 3
Yacht (at times of heightened risk)	Type 1	Type 1, 2	Type 1, 2, or 3
Kiteboard or sailboard	Type 1, 2, or 3	Type 1, 2, or 3	Type 1, 2, or 3
Canoe, kayak, rowing boat, raft, stand-up paddleboard, pedal boat or fun boat	Type 1, 2, or 3	Type 1, 2, or 3	Type 1, 2, or 3

Type 1 = Level 100+, Type 2 = Level 50, Type 3 = Level 50S

- A person being towed must wear a lifejacket at all times
- Children under the age of 10 years old who are in an open area of a vessel must wear a lifejacket at all times
- A person who is wearing, or in the process of donning or removing, diving equipment is not required to wear a lifejacket

During times of heightened risk you MUST wear a lifejacket.

Learn more: wearalifejacket.vic.gov.au

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES



ALL OCCUPANTS TO PUT ON PFDS

RAISE THE ALARM



MARINE RADIO
27 MHz – Ch88
VHF – Ch16



PHONE
Call 000



FLARES
Activate when you
see a potential rescuer



EPRIB
Activate your
distress beacon

STAY WITH YOUR BOAT



A vessel is a lot
easier to spot than a
swimmer

Anchor your boat
to maintain position
if safe to do so

OTHER INFORMATION

USEFUL CONTACTS

Emergency

000 or 27MHz – Ch 88 or VHF – Ch 16

Australian Hydrographic Service

02 4223 6500 hydro.gov.au

Australian Volunteer Coast Guard

9598 9092 coastguard.com.au

Bureau of Meteorology

9669 4000 bom.gov.au

Dept. of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DEWLP)

136 186 delwp.vic.gov.au

Environment Protection Authority (EPA)

9695 2722 epa.vic.gov.au

Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA)

13 FISH (13 3474) vfa.vic.gov.au

Government Information Centre

1300 366 356 vic.gov.au

Heritage Victoria

8644 8800 heritage.vic.gov.au

Maritime Safety Victoria (MSV)

1800 223 022 transportsafety.vic.gov.au/msv

Parks Victoria

13 1963 parks.vic.gov.au

Port of Melbourne

1300 857 662 portofmelbourne.com

Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management

Authority

8781 7900 ppwcma.vic.gov.au

Victorian Ports Corporation

8347 8300 vicports.vic.gov.au

Victorian Regional Channels Authority

5225 3500 regionalchannels.vic.gov.au

Victorian Water Police

9399 7500 police.vic.gov.au

VicRoads

131 171 vicroads.vic.gov.au

VisitVictoria

visitvictoria.com

PEAK ORGANISATIONS

One of the best ways to learn more about a new sport or recreational activities on Port Phillip is to contact one of the following specialist peak organisations:

Australian Powerboat Association ausapba.com.au

Australian Sailing sailing.org.au

Australian Volunteer Coastguard coastguard.com.au

Boating Industry Association biavic.com.au

Kite Boarding Australia kiteboardingaus.com.au

Life Saving Victoria lifesavingvictoria.com.au

Paddle Victoria vic.paddle.org.au

RACV racv.com.au

Rowing Victoria rowingvictoria.asn.au

SCUBA Divers Federation of Victoria sdfv.org.au

VR Fish – Victorian Recreational Fishing vrfish.com.au

Victorian Water Ski Association vicwaterski.com.au

Wake Board Victoria wakeboardvictoria.com.au

PUBLICATIONS

Admiralty charts

Available from most mapping outlets

The Marine Safety Act and associated regulations

Available from the Government Information Centre

Port Phillip Safety Chart Grid

Available from the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard

Victorian Recreational Boating Safety Handbook

Available from Marine Safety Victoria

Victorian Tide Tables

Available from Victorian Ports Corporation

Vessel Operating and Zoning Rules

Available from Marine Safety Victoria



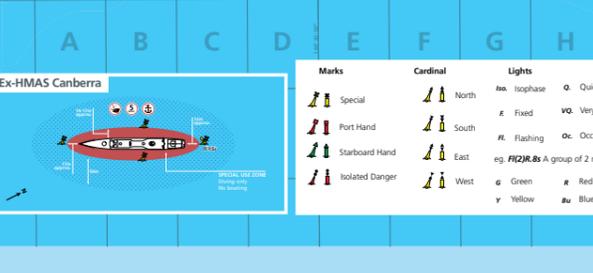
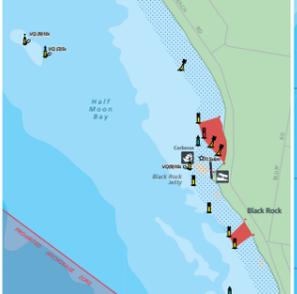
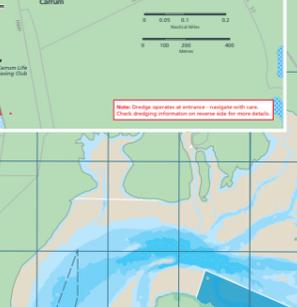
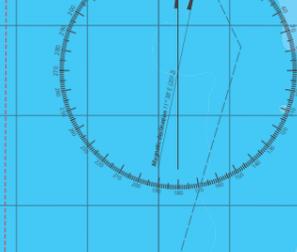
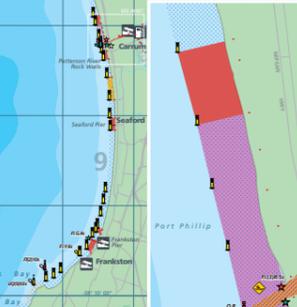
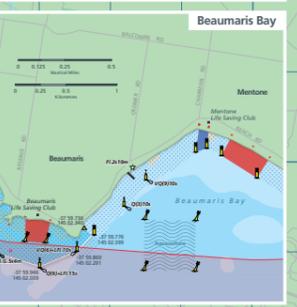
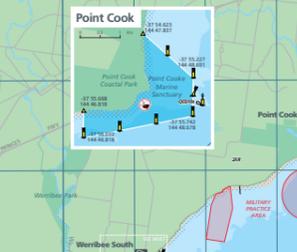
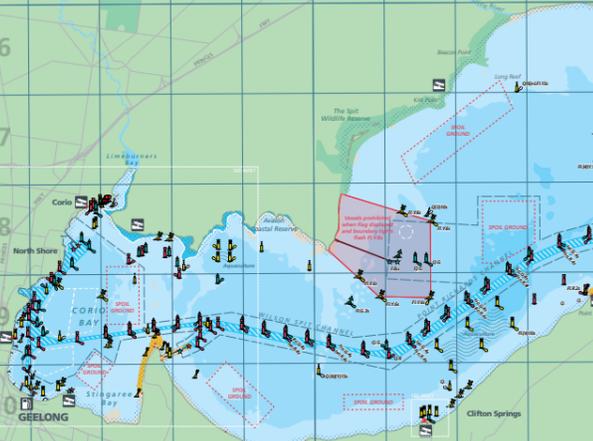
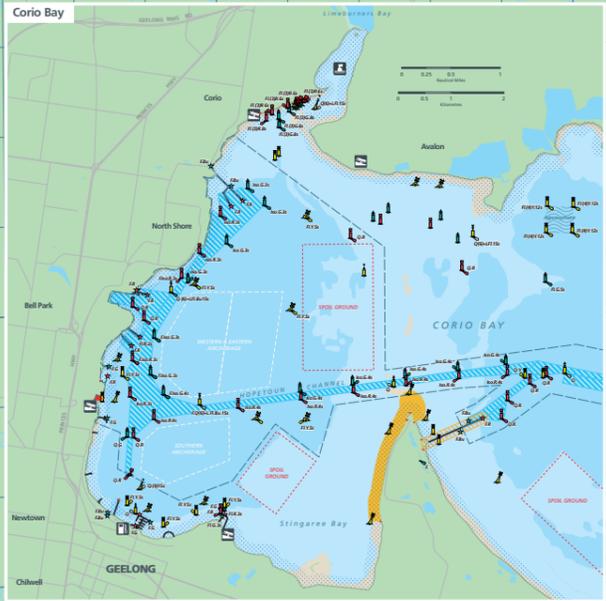
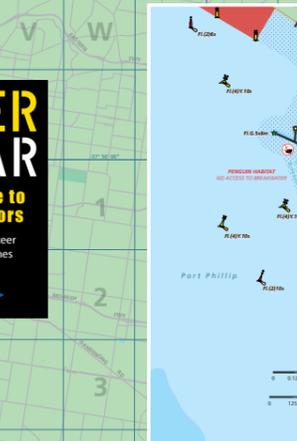
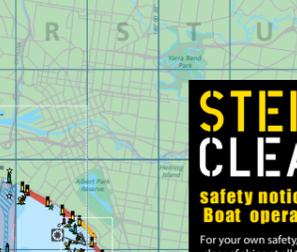
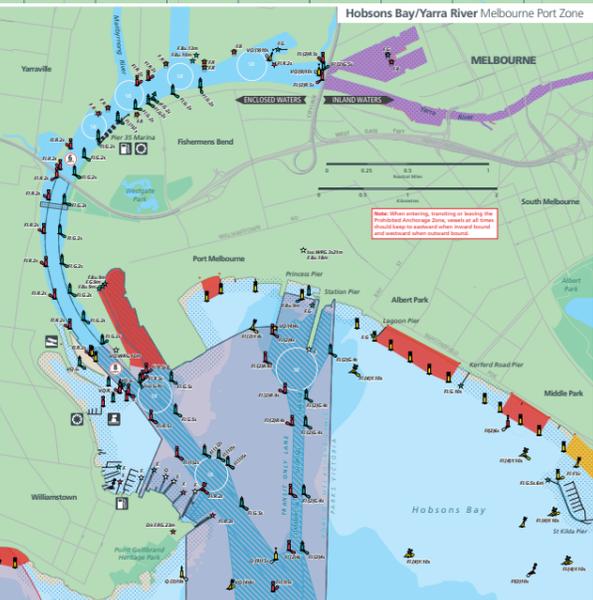
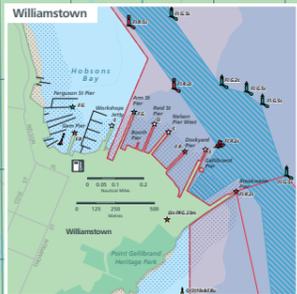
Enjoy a day on the bay

Strap on your lifejacket, grab your fishing rod or put on your wetsuit. With so many different water activities available right on Melbourne's doorstep, it's easy to spend a fun-filled day on the bay.

This brochure provides recreational boaters, including sailors, personal watercraft users, kayakers, canoeists, rowers, wakeboarders, water-skiers and kite surfers, with an introduction to the recreational opportunities available on Port Phillip, and important information around safe and responsible boating.

Phone 13 1963

parks.vic.gov.au

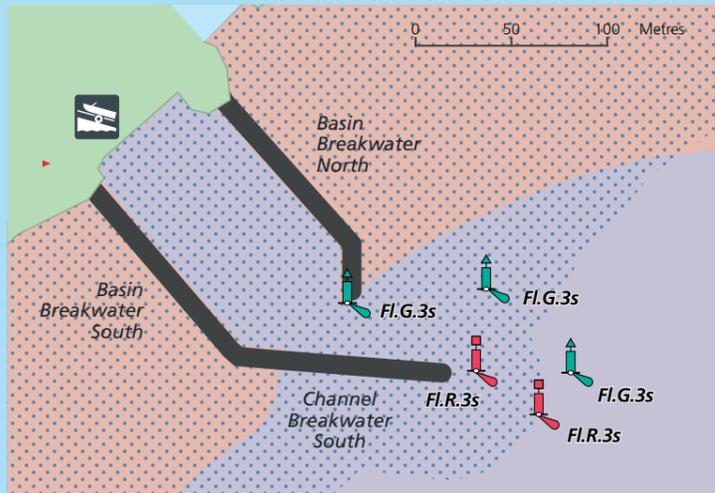


STEER CLEAR
 safety notice to Boat operators
 For your own safety, steer clear of ships at all times
 Port of Melbourne

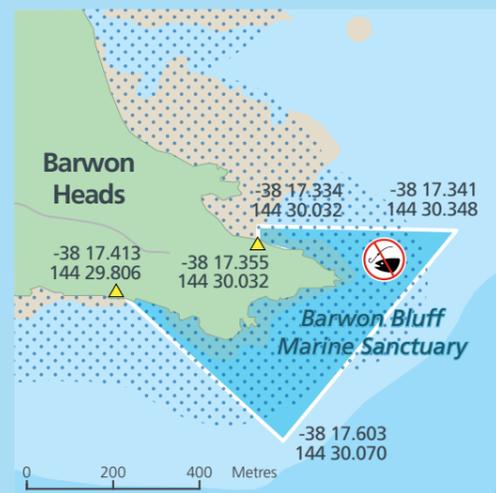


Marks	Cardinal	Lights	Symbols	Restrictions	Boating Zones	Water depth
Special	North	Isophase	Strong current/undertow	Restricted area	5 Knot Speed Zone	3-0m
Port Hand	South	Fixed	No anchoring	Spill ground	Vessel Prohibited (Swimming Only)	0-5m
Starboard Hand	East	Flashing	No swimming	Designated hazardous area	Shared Windsports	0-10m
Isolated Danger	West	Group of 2 red flashes every 8 seconds	No fishing, netting, spearing, taking or killing of marine life. All methods of fishing, from the shore or at sea, are prohibited.	Marine National Park	Waterski Access	10-15m
		Green		Marine Sanctuary	No Personal Water Craft	15-100m
		Yellow				
		Blue				
		Morse Code				

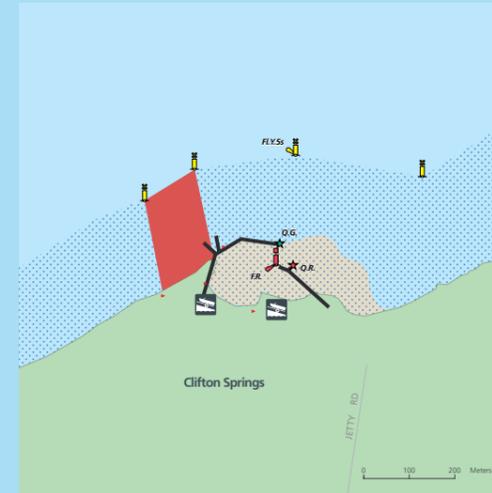
NOTE: THIS IS NOT A NAVIGATION CHART
 This map is not for navigation use.
 Some navigation aids have not been depicted to assist in the presentation of information.
 For navigation of Port Phillip, Chart AUS 143 should be consulted.
 Notices to Mariners issued by Parks Victoria are published on parks.vic.gov.au
 For further information call 13 1963.



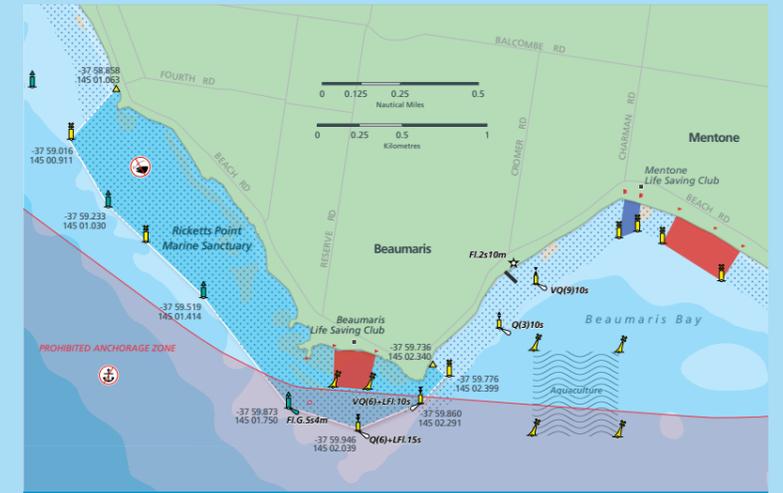
Altona



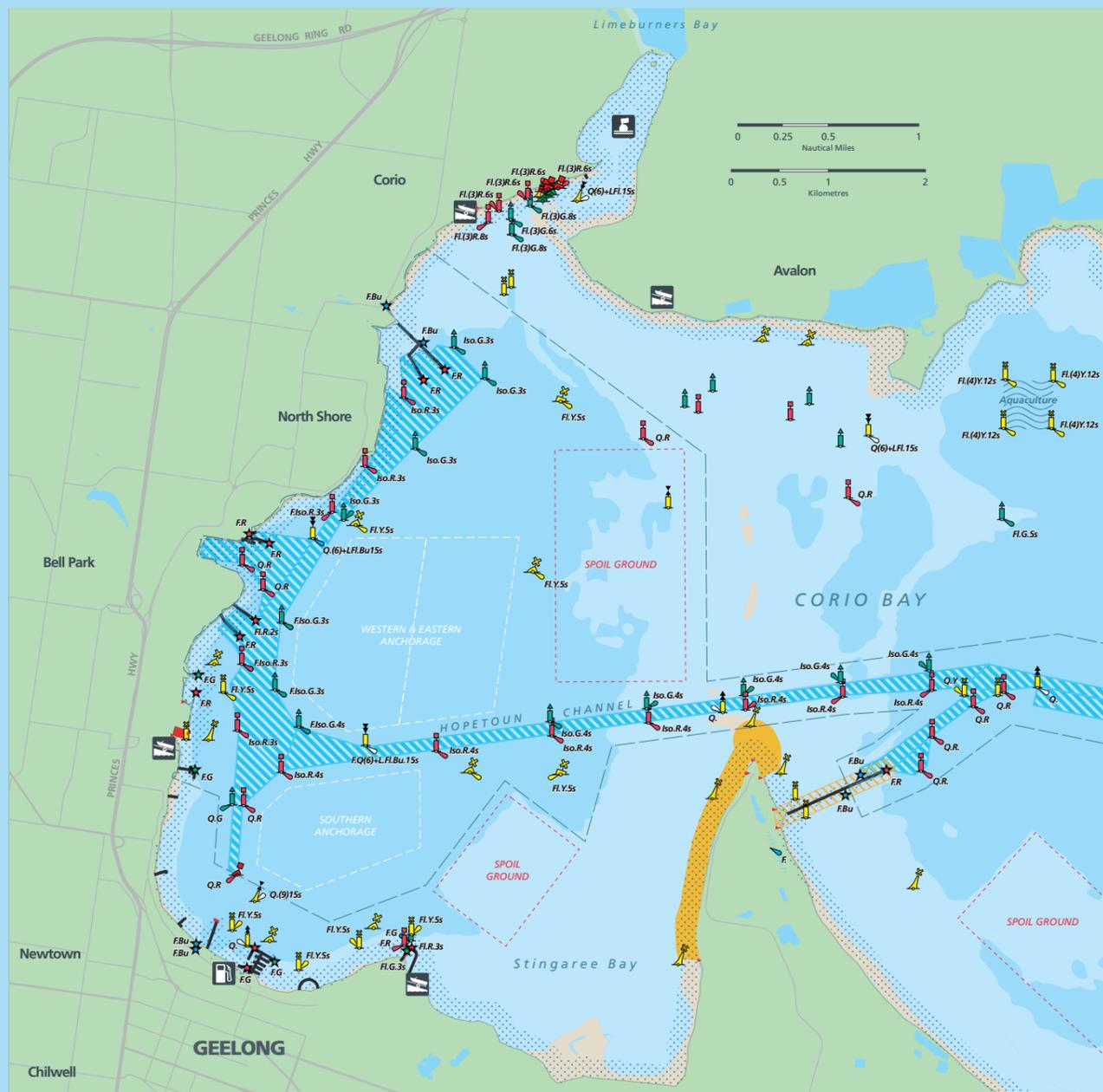
Barwon Heads Marine Sanctuary



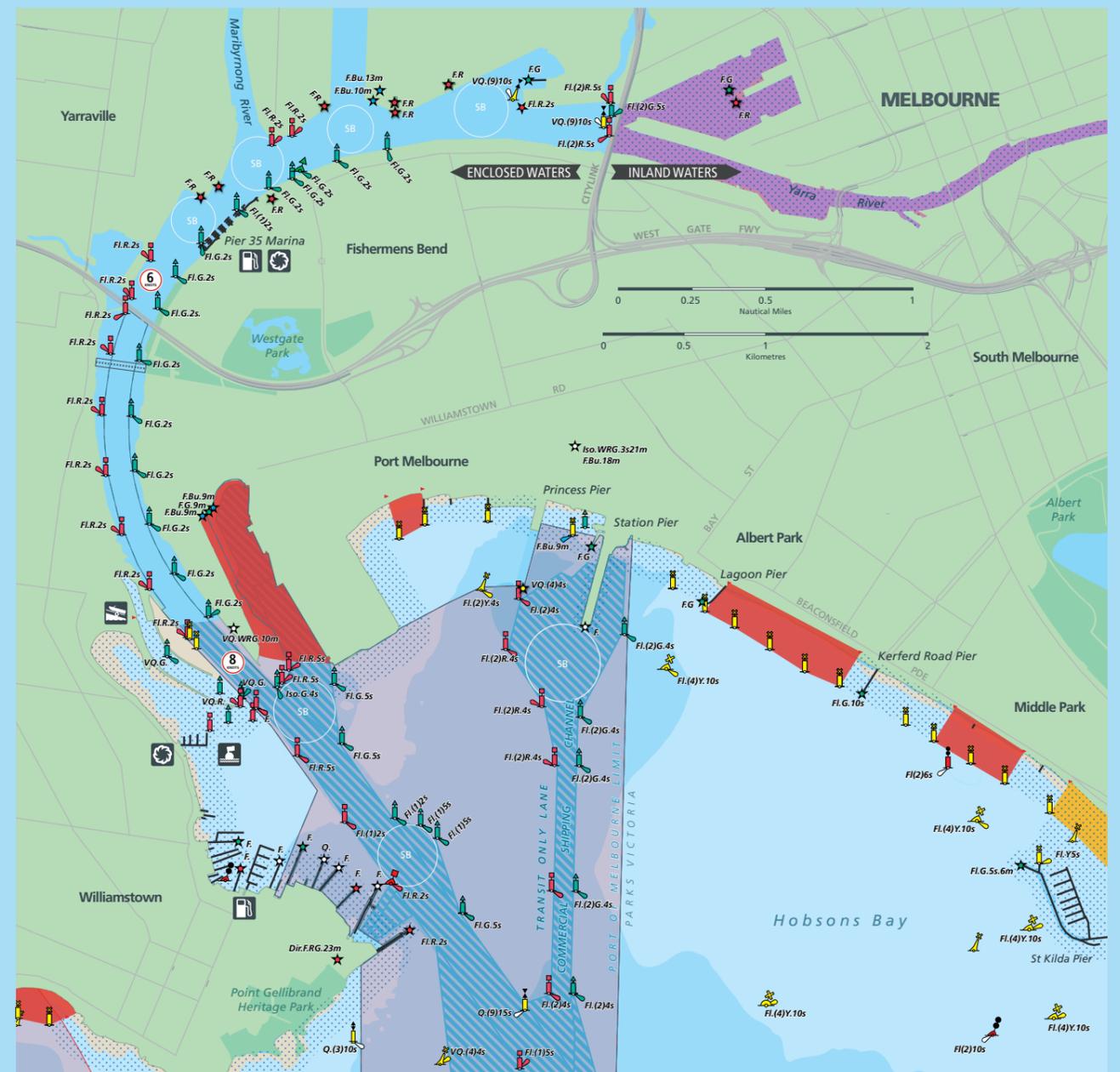
Clifton Springs



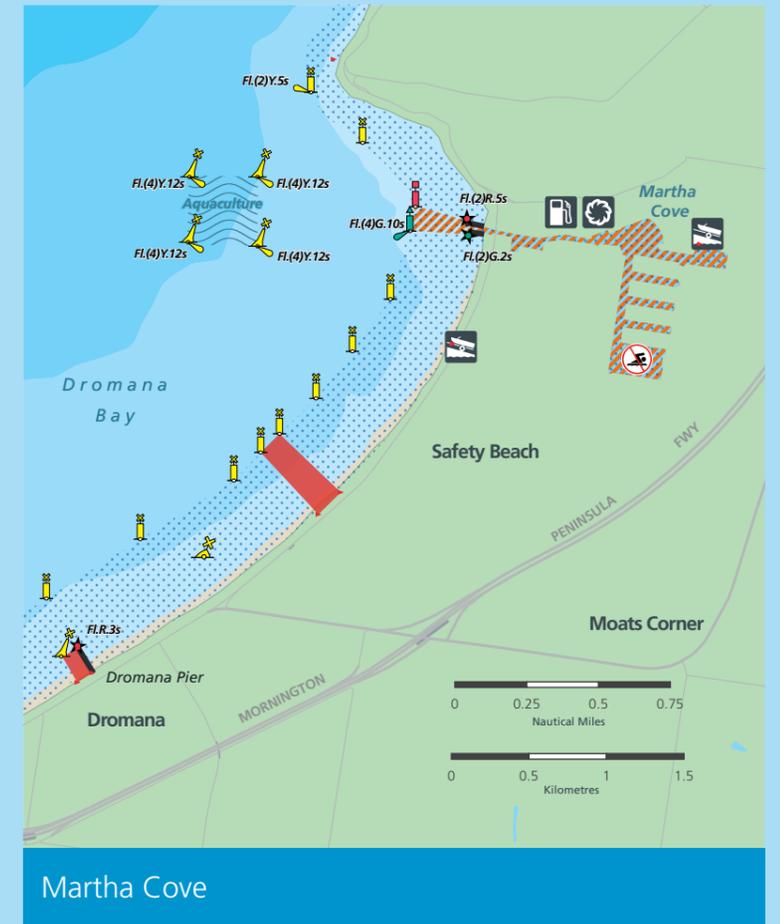
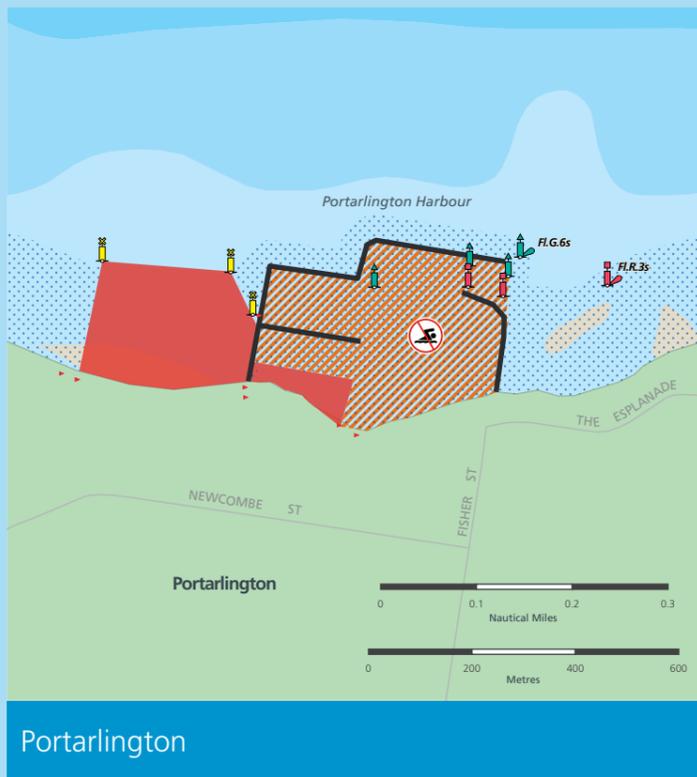
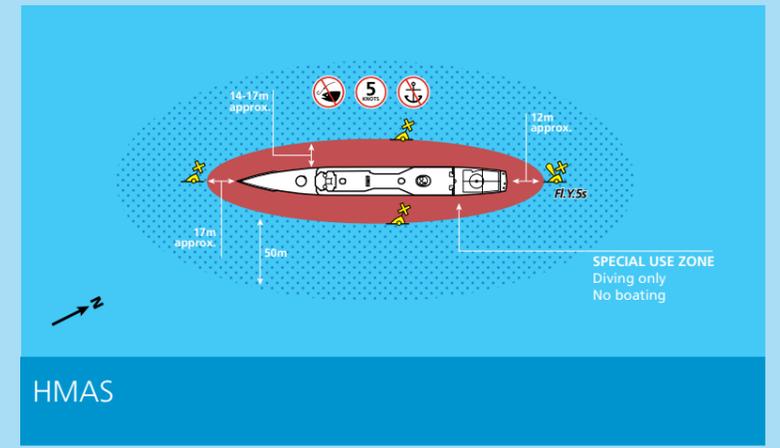
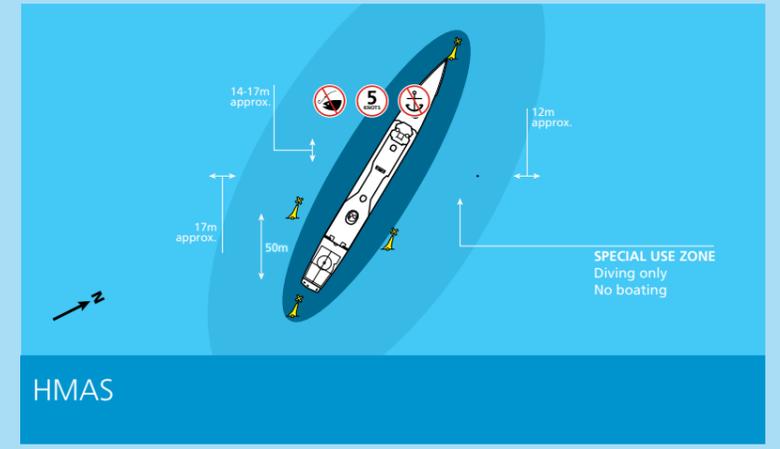
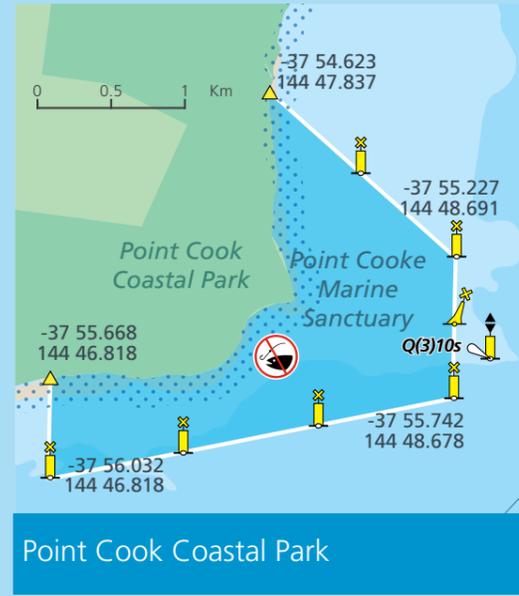
Beaumaris Bay

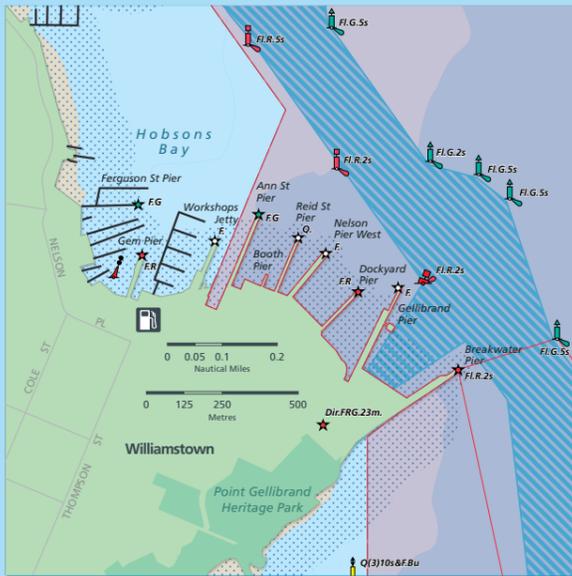


Corio Bay

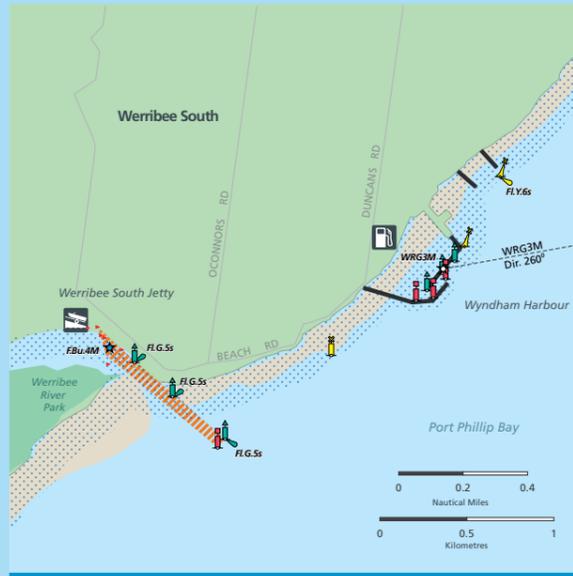


Hobsons Bay

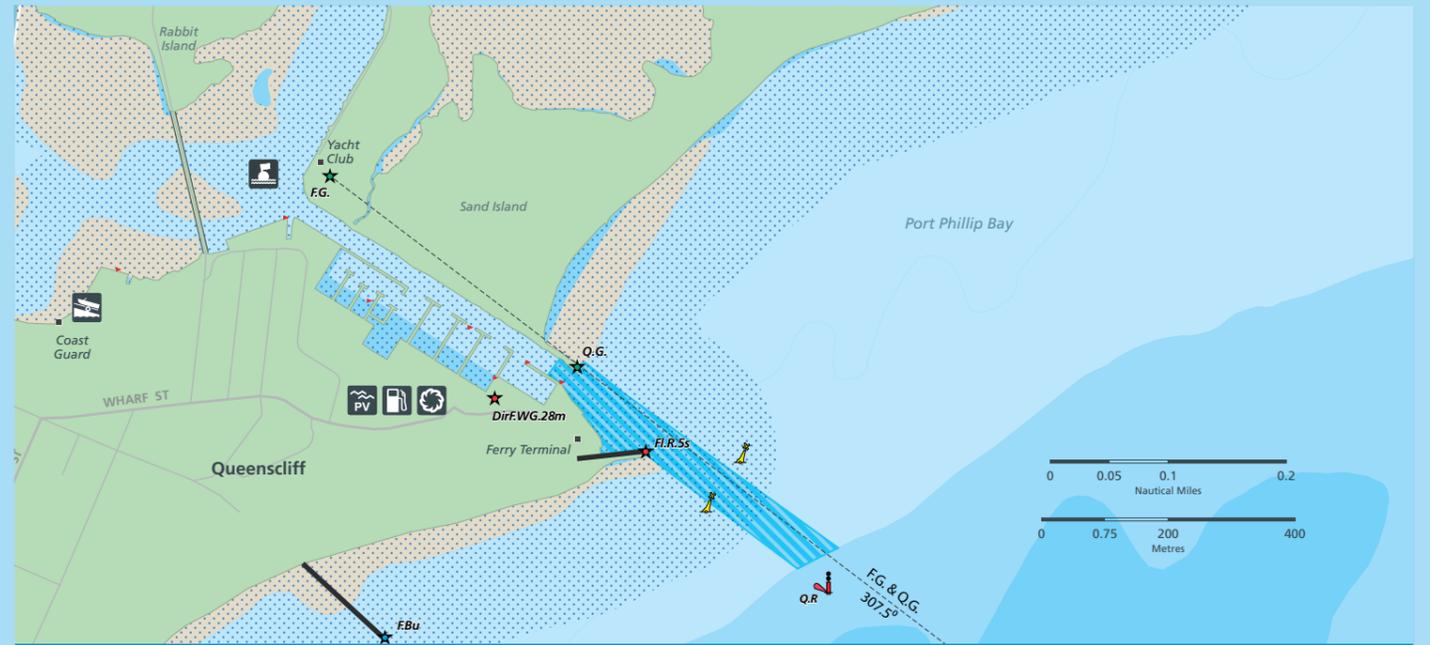




Williamstown



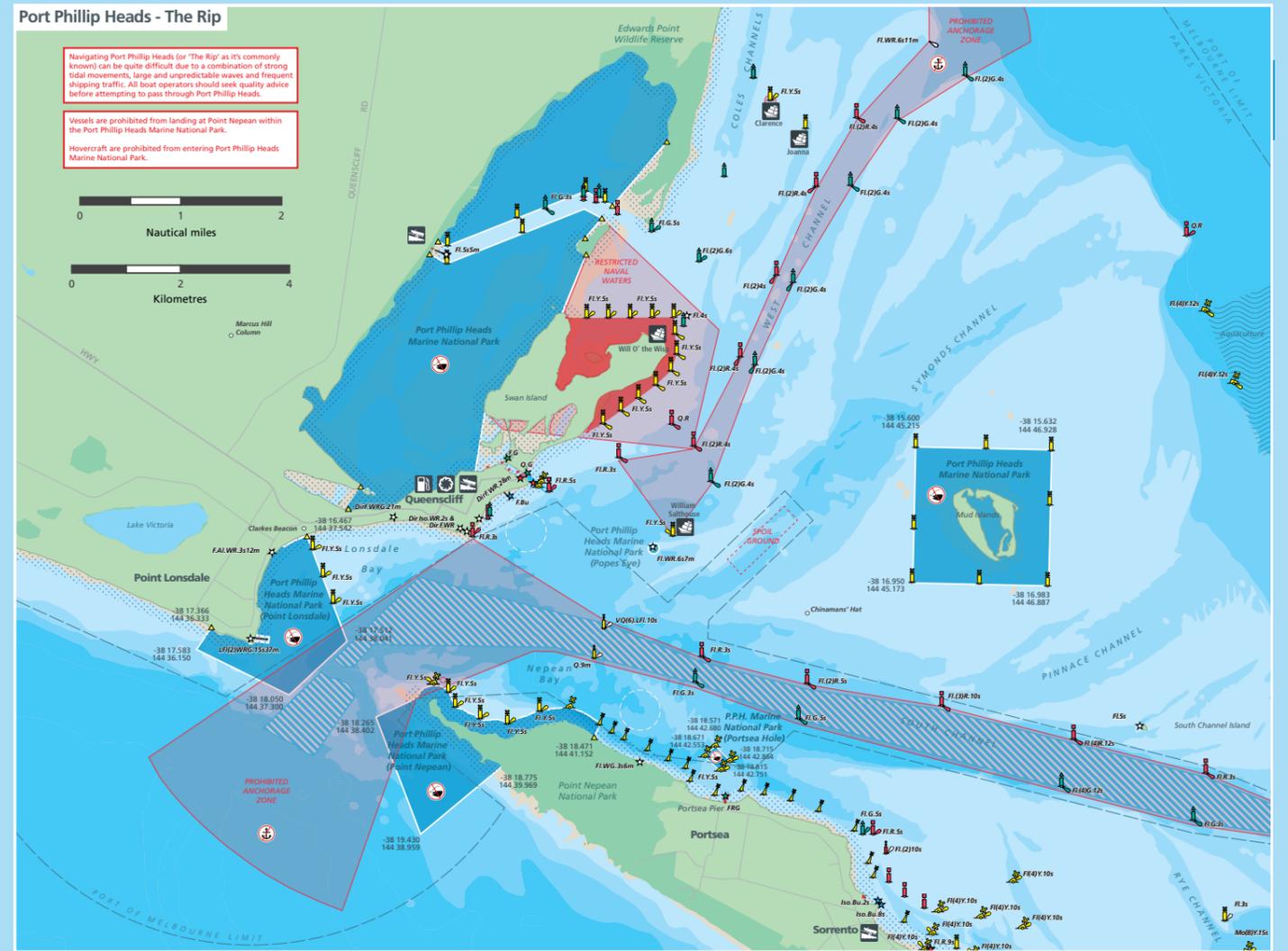
Weribee River



Queenscliff



St Kilda Harbour



The Rip