

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.

Know the rules

- ▶ 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

Before you leave

- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Keep well clear of moving ships as they may alter course and without notice.

▶ If you leave a vessel sounding at least five short and rapid blasts or 10 horn you must keep it if not required by its way.

▶ Remember that paddle craft are generally harder to see and hear.

▶ Report marine incidents to Victorian Police.

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 recreational infrastructure.

▶ Avoid alcohol when operating a vessel.

▶ Keep well clear of moving ships as they may alter course and without notice.

▶ If you leave a vessel sounding at least five short and rapid blasts or 10 horn you must keep it if not required by its way.

▶ Remember that paddle craft are generally harder to see and hear.

▶ Report marine incidents to Victorian Police.
- ▶ 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.

▶ No fishing

▶ No spear fishing

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 in:

- ▶ 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

▶ 50m or as per the scheduled waterway rules

See transportsafety.vic.gov.au/msv/waterways

Don't drink and boat

- ▶ 0.0 blood alcohol limit applies for operators and masters under 21 years of age

▶ 0.05 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 or 2	Type 1, 2, or 3
Off-the-beach sailing yacht	Type 1 if ≥22m from coast, Type 1 or 2 if <22m from coast	Type 1 or 2	Type 1, 2, or 3
Yacht (at times of heightened risk)	Type 1	Type 1 or 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

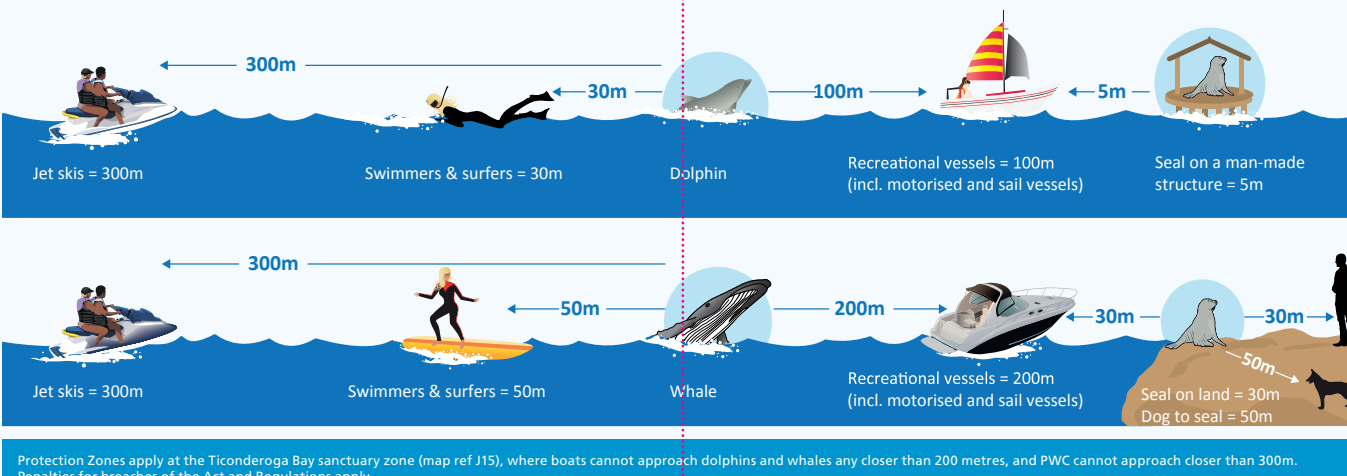



EPIRB
Activate your distress beacon
- # STAY WITH YOUR BOAT
- ▶ A vessel is a lot easier to spot than a swimmer

▶ Anchor your boat to maintain position if safe to do so
- # 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 objects

▶ 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 (Turopsis 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 Cheltenham's Hat. Humpback and Southern right Whales may be spotted from May to October during migration.
- It's important to not 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.
- ## Sharing our coast with whales, dolphins and seals – minimum approach distances
- 
- ## Meet the locals at South Channel Pile Light
- The South Channel Pile Light is one of the most recognisable features in the bay. The cottage style lighthouse was completed in 1874 and occupied by lighthouse keepers until the early 1900s. The light was finally switched off in 1985, having operated as a navigational beacon for some 111 years. The structure has been restored and relocated to a site near the Rye Channel and serves as a seal haul-out.
- ▶ Map reference N16
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- # OTHER INFORMATION
- ## USEFUL CONTACTS
- Emergency
000 or 27MHz – Ch 88 or VHF – Ch 16

Australian Hydrographic Service
01 4232 6500 hydro@ahs.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 (DELWP)
136 166 delwp.vic.gov.au

Environment Protection Authority (EPA)
9695 2722 epa.vic.gov.au

Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA)
13 FISHL (13 3474) vfa.vic.gov.au

Government Information Centre
1300 366 356 vic.gov.au

Heritage Victoria
8644 9800 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 827 662 portofmelbourne.com

Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority
8781 7900 ppwcm.vic.gov.au

Victorian Ports Corporation
8347 8300 victports.vic.gov.au

Victorian Regional Channels Authority
5225 3500 regionalchannels.vic.gov.au

Victorian Water Police
9399 7500 police.vic.gov.au

ViRoads
131 171 vicroads.vic.gov.au

VisitVictoria
visitvictoria.com

Kite Boarding Australia
kiteboarding@kita.com.au

Life Saving Victoria
lifesaving@victoria.com.au

Paddle Victoria
vic.paddle.org.au

RACV
racv.com.au

Rowing Victoria
rowing@victoria.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
wakeboard@victoria.com.au

Australian Sailing
sailing.org.au

Australian Volunteer Coastguard
coastguard.com.au

Boating Industry Association
biac.vic.gov.au


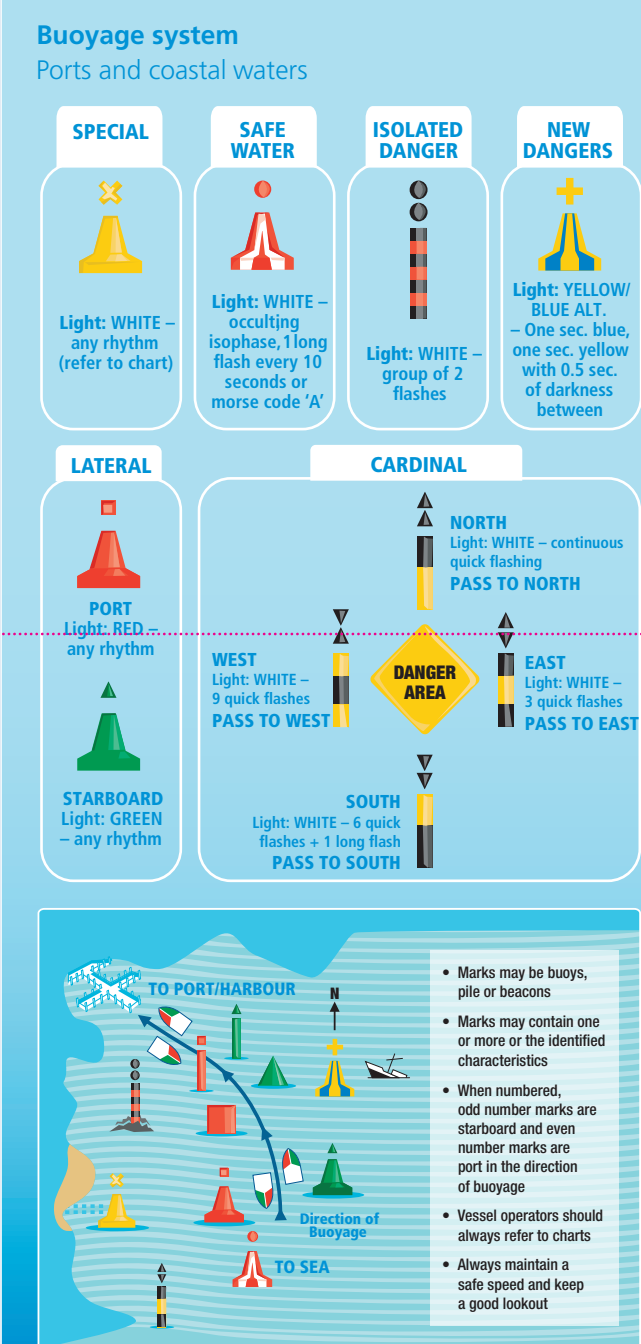
Kite Boarding Australia
kiteboarding@kita.com.au

Life Saving Victoria
lifesaving@victoria.com.au

Paddle Victoria
vic.paddle.org.au

RACV
racv.com.au

Rowing Victoria
rowing@victoria.asn.au


SCUBA Divers Federation of Victoria
sdfv.org.au
- ## 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. The artificial island 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.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Map reference J14
- ## Hook a fishing adventure
- With a surface area more than 15 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.
- ▶ Map reference W8
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- ## Unwind at Queenscliff Harbour
- The Queenscliff Harbour is a destination in itself, 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. ▶ 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. ▶ Map reference I9
- # 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 Operation and Zoning Rules (VOZR), checking the latest Parks Victoria issued Notice to Mariners or checking the buoyage system chart.
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- ## 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 water, 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 drift. 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. Vessel 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 notice@marinervic.gov.au.
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- ## 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)

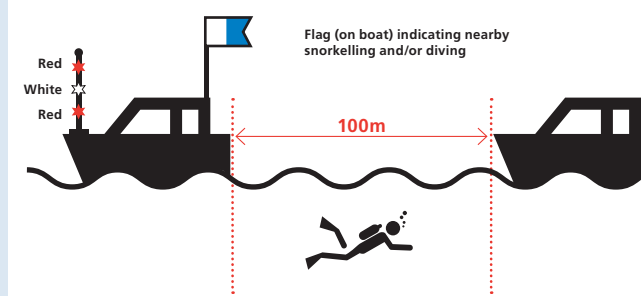
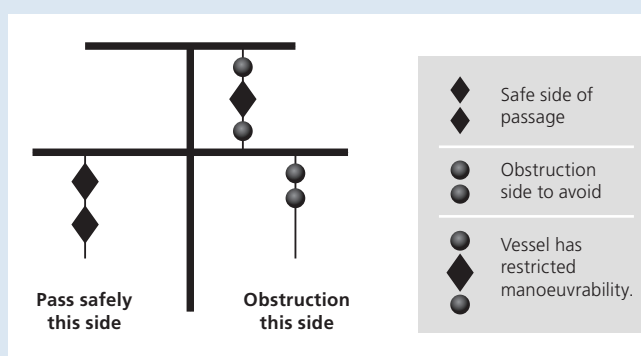
▶ Short Term – up to 4 hours (check signage)

▶ Loading

▶ Permit and commercial
- | BERTH LOCATION | Type | Map Ref. |
|------------------------------|------|----------|
| Wernbee Jetty | ▶ | J5 |
| Altona Pier | ▶ | N2 |
| Gem Pier | ▶ | Q1 |
| Ferguson St Pier | ▶ | Q1 |
| Lagoon Pier | ▶ | R1 |
| Kerford Road Pier | ▶ | R1 |
| St Kilda Pier | ▶ | R1 |
| Middle Brighton Pier | ▶ | S3 |
| Hampton Pier | ▶ | S4 |
| Black Rock Jetty | ▶ | T5 |
| Mordiallo Pier | ▶ | V6 |
| Franklin Pier | ▶ | W10 |
| Mornington Pier | ▶ | W12 |
| Mornington Fisherman's Jetty | ▶ | U12 |
| Dromana Pier | ▶ | R15 |
| Rosebud Pier | ▶ | Q16 |
| Rye Pier | ▶ | N16 |
| Sorrento Pier | ▶ | L16 |
| Portsea Pier | ▶ | K15 |
| Queenscliff South Pier | ▶ | J14 |
| 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 club boats and mooring associations acting as agents for Parks Victoria. To stay at public moorings at Queenscliff, Limdburners 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 Bathing – 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 50m of the shore subject to defined areas above. All vessels must adhere to the 5 Knot speed limit in this zone.
 - as a zone extending to 200m from shore on the Mornington Peninsula from Martha Cove, Dromana to Sullivan Bay, Sorrento. Swimming and boating are permitted within 50m 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 snorkelling
- 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 snorkellers 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.
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- ## Dredging
- Dredging is conducted by Parks Victoria to maintain safe access to boating facilities in key locations such as Queenscliff, Patterson River, Wernbee River, St Kilda Pier and Mordiallo Creek. Water depth surveys for Patterson River and Mordiallo 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.
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- ## 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 using power approaches. A Recreational Fishing Licence is required for persons aged between 18 – 70 unless exempt. Observe all fishing regulations and remember to check tag 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, St City of Launceston, Clarence, Joanna, Wil O' the Wisp and William Salthouse. It is important to steer clear of these shipwrecks 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
- Fuel**

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

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 marinated, 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-board' and not by leaving 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 A2306 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.

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 sewage pump out systems are designed for larger boats that have holding tanks. Sewerage hoppers are designed for boats that use a portable toilet.
- | Fuel Retailers | Map Ref | Phone |
|------------------------------|---------|-----------|
| d'Albora Marinas Pier 35 | Q0 | 9646 1200 |
| Martha Cove Marinas | T15 | 5287 0287 |
| Patterson Lakes Marina | WB | 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 | SA | 9598 7444 |
| St Kilda Marina | S2 | 9535 0448 |
| Wyndham Harbour | K4 | 9646 9695 |
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- ## 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 areas 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 promenadeing. 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 information. **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's 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.

▶ 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.
- 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.
- 