

# *ILFRACOMBE HARBOUR*

## *Personnel Watercraft (PW) Policy*

*NORTH DEVON COUNCIL*

*DRAFT VERSION*

*Authored by: Harbour Master*

# ILFRACOMBE HARBOUR

## Personnel Watercraft (PW) Policy

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### Background

Personnel watercraft commonly known as Jet Skis have been around since the 1950s in one form or another. The 1980s saw an increase in use as newer and more powerful models were introduced. In the 1990s this type of watercraft really took off when they were then able to take up to 3 persons and became entertainment for the whole family. With the increase of personnel watercraft being used on the waters and the production of more powerful crafts it has put increasing pressure on the Harbour Authority to ensure that the safety of navigation is maintained for the benefit of all Harbour Users.

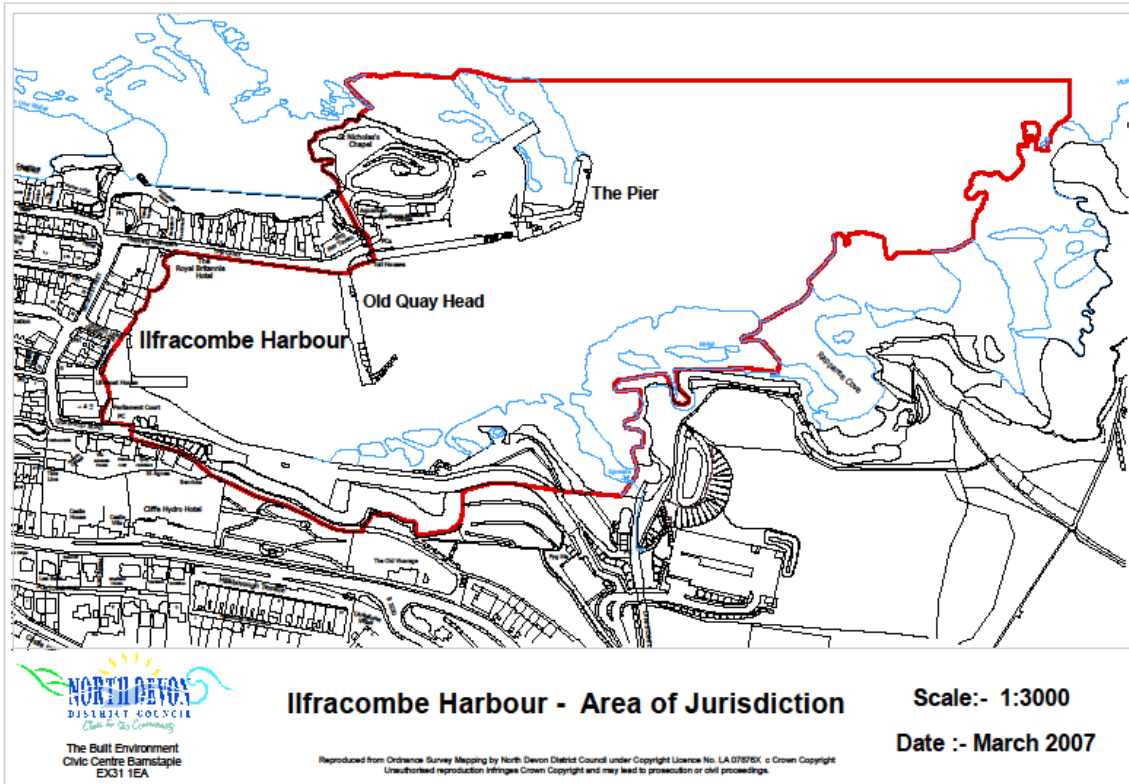
### Mission statement

It is the intention of the duly appointed Harbour Master by North Devon District Council as the Harbour Authority to set in place a new Personnel Watercraft (PW) policy.

This policy will enable the following;

1. The clarification of the Harbour area of Jurisdiction ( Bye Law Limits)
2. The provision of safety equipment required before gaining a permit to launch
3. The identification of personnel watercraft
4. The setting of Safety rules to be observed within the Harbour limits
5. The formal procedure of obtaining a permit to launch in Ilfracombe Harbour

Section 1. Harbour Area of Jurisdiction



*It is the responsibility for all Harbour users to be familiar with the bye laws set in place dated 1992. A copy can be found on the Harbour Website at the following address;  
<https://www.northdevon.gov.uk/business/ilfracombe-harbour/>*

## **Section 2. Safety Equipment**

*The minimum safety equipment to be carried whilst operating a personnel watercraft within The Harbour Limits are set out below;*

- An approved lifejacket to be worn at all times when in or near the water by every person who will be on or operating the watercraft, these lifejackets to be the appropriate size for the person.*
- A form of communication: If a VHF is carried then the user must provide the appropriate radio licence, If a mobile phone is carried then the user must provide an appropriate waterproof covering. It is advisable that both of these, whichever is carried, are attached to a form of floating device or secured to the craft to prevent them from entering the water.*
- A tow line of high visibility, floatable construction.*
- An approved Distress Flare of any type to attract attention.*

## **Section 3. Identification of Personnel watercraft**

*The following methods will be used to positively identify the Owner of personnel watercraft;*

- 1. All personnel watercraft operating within Ilfracombe Harbour will need to present to the Harbour Authorities their individual DataTag serial number. Which will then be checked.*
- 2. On confirmation of details with DataTag a unique Harbour number will be issued to the Owner in way of 2 waterproof labels to be placed in a visible location on the watercraft and on the Owners trailer.*

*N.B This information will be shared with other authorities upon a validated request for information.*

#### **Section 4. Safety rules to be observed within the Harbour limits**

1. *All Bye Laws are to be adhered to at all times within the Harbour Limits. However for ease of reference the most pertinent are set out below;*

##### #6 Vessels to navigate with care

*The Master shall navigate his vessel with such care and caution and at such speed and in such manner as not to interfere with the navigation, manoeuvring, loading or discharging of vessels or with moorings or other property*

##### #7 Speed of vessels

*Except with the permission of the Harbour Master and, subject to Byelaw 6 above and the Collision Regulations, the Master of a vessel shall not cause or permit the vessel to proceed at a speed greater than 4 knots*

##### #8 Small vessels not to obstruct a fairway

*The Master of a small vessel which is not confined to a fairway shall not intentionally or recklessly make use of the fairway so as to cause obstruction to other vessels which can navigate only within the fairway*

##### # 21 Obstructing Accesses

*The Master of a vessel shall not intentionally place his vessel nor allow it to be so Intentionally placed in such a position as to obstruct the access to any recognised landing place or leaving it moored alongside any such landing place unattended.*

2. *Once launched the watercraft is to keep to the North side of the Harbour, that is the Cove side and keep to this side until clear of Verity and to continue at 4 kts until outside of the Harbour limits.*
3. *Once launched a kill cord it to be worn by the driver at all times.*
4. *No one under the age of 12 is permitted to operate a watercraft at any time within the Harbour Limits*
5. *Any young person between the ages of 12 and 16 is only permitted to operate a watercraft alone if a valid certificate of competence is provided to the Harbour Authorities if this is not the case then they are permitted to operate a watercraft only if they are in the company of a responsible adult.*

## Section 5. Obtaining a permit to launch in Ilfracombe Harbour

Anyone wishing to launch a personnel watercraft from within Ilfracombe Harbour must have in their possession a valid Permit To Launch (PTL) before they launch.

The following must be provided to the Harbour Authority in person in order to obtain a PTL.

1. Insurance cover for public liability to a minimum of £1,000,000 for the personnel watercraft
2. Proof that the vehicle used to transport the watercraft is insured for use on the fore shore.
3. The DataTag ID number of the watercraft
4. Name, address, contact details and vehicle details.
5. Proof that the criteria in section 2 has been met.
6. Any certificates of competence of any young person who may be operating the watercraft.

On satisfactory production of the above and the completion of section 3.1 a PTL will be issued along with the unique ID labels.

## Section 6. Rescinding of PTL

If at any time the PTL holder is found to be non-compliant with this policy the Harbour Authority holds the absolute right to rescind the PTL.