

## **HOLYHEAD – Marine Safety & Information Circular** 01/2024

## Personal Water Craft (jet skis) Voluntary Speed Restriction

Issued 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2024 Expires Open ended

Holyhead Harbour is a brilliant place and here for the enjoyment of all, including the use of PWC.

There is a real mixture of users in the harbour and it is wise if we implement some voluntary rules in addition to those that are binding under the local byelaws (which can be found on the Ports Authorities website).

The speed limit in the New Harbour is 8 Knots between a line from Salt Island to the South end of the Breakwater – this is compulsory. Within this area scuba-diving is popular, there are numerous moorings, and people swimming off the beach. A good guide is once you pass the old ro-ro jetty you can speed up.

On a voluntary basis this speed limit is extended to the western part of the New Harbour where all the yacht moorings are – it makes sense not to have PWCs shooting about where you can't see what's behind another boat.

Regulations relating to jet skis changed in 2023 with the passing of the *The Merchant Shipping* (*Watercraft*) *Order 2023* so PWC are now treated like any other type of boat. This means you must comply with the 'International Collision Regulations' and proceed at a 'safe speed' and keep out of the way of other vessels when you have to.

Other harbour users do get nervous when they see a jet ski flying towards them – and the ferries are not keen on people shooting across in front of them – please be thoughtful how you ride.

If its busy please slow down to a safe speed (one at which you can take effective action to avoid hitting something and be stopped in an appropriate distance). There have been some very serious accidents involving jet skis - let's not have one here please.

Enjoy the Harbour.

John Goddard. Harbour Master Holyhead Harbour

