


Department of Transport

Boating Guide Mid West

Marine Safety



YOU'RE THE SKIPPER YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE

Contact details

Department of Transport
 Marine Safety Hotline: 1300 863 308
 Geraldton Office: 9956 0113
 Fremantle Office: 9216 8999
 Operations Centre: 9431 1000
 Website: www.transport.wa.gov.au/imarine

Police
 Geraldton: 9923 4555
 Kalbarri: 9937 1006
 Dongara: 9927 1122
 Water Police: 9442 8600

Department of Fisheries
 Geraldton: 9921 6800
 Fishwatch: 1800 815 507

Department of Environment and Conservation
 Geraldton Office: 9921 5955
 Kalbarri Office: 9937 1140

Shire Rangers
 Geraldton/ Greenough: 9921 0504
 After hrs: 9956 6600

Local Government Authorities
 Geraldton - Greenough: 9956 6600
 Northampton: 9934 1202
 Irwin: 9927 0000

Geraldton Regional Hospital
 9956 2222

Sea Search and Rescue
 Geraldton VSSR: 9964 3543
 Kalbarri VSSR: 9937 2112
 Port Denison VSSR: 9927 1770

Yacht Clubs
 Geraldton: 9964 1664

Weather
 Boating weather: 1900 969 902

The information contained in this publication is provided in good faith and believed to be accurate at time of publication. The State shall in no way be liable for any loss sustained or incurred by anyone relying on the information. 032013

March 2013

Batavia Coast Marina rules

The Department of Transport (DoT) manages the Batavia Coast Marina and users should abide by the following rules in the interests of safety:

- 5 knot speed limit applies which includes a 45 metre buffer zone outside the Marina;
- swimming or diving within the Marina and Marina entrance is prohibited;
- Due to high demand on limited space, club or group activities must be booked through the DoT's Geraldton office. Conditions of operation will apply;
- wind surfers, hard surfboards, PWC freestyling, towing skiers or other buoyant equipment are prohibited to operate within the Marina;
- cleaning fish and dumping offal or rubbish into the Marina is prohibited;
- do not place fishing nets, lobster pots, lines or floats within the Marina or entrance channel;
- anchoring a vessel anywhere within the Marina or entrance channel is prohibited; and
- people departing on charters are not to park vehicles in the penholder section of the car park.

Reduce wash

Damage to vessels and floating pen jetties can be caused by a vessel's wash. Look behind you occasionally to make sure that your boat is not creating too much wash. If your wash is affecting other boats and property, slow down!

Moorings and pens

Private boat pen hire is available for stopovers of one night or more.

Bookings can be made through the DoT's office in Geraldton, which is open on weekdays only. Please ensure you book in advance to avoid disappointment.

Phone 9956 0113.



Boat ramp courtesy

A good skipper plans for a day on the water and organises equipment, motors and mooring lines before leaving the boat ramp.

- utilise designated rigging and de-rigging areas to avoid impeding other people launching and retrieving vessels;
- follow the directions indicated by signage and or painted on the roadway;
- on the roadway;
- utilise the correct lanes for launch and retrieval;
- move quickly to the end of the jetty giving room for other people to launch and recover; and
- have patience with others less experienced and remember we all had to start somewhere!

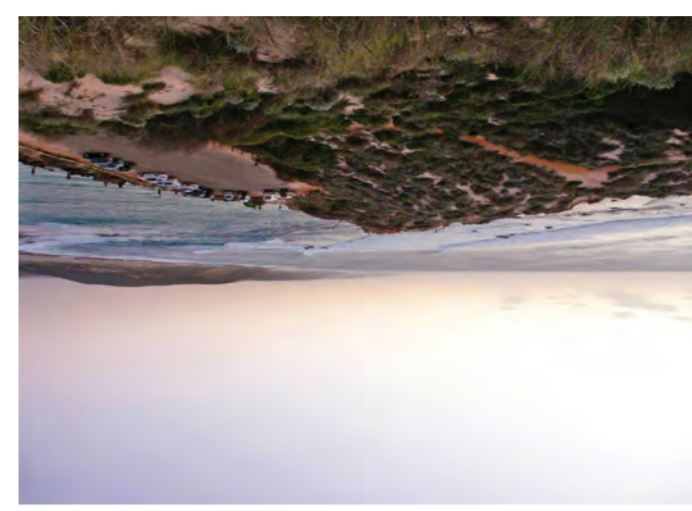
Local knowledge

The Mid West is known for the strong southerly winds that prevail during the summer months. Recreational boaters are advised to check the weather reports before heading out on the water. Winds can blow up quite suddenly and reach speeds of 30 knots, making the return journey hazardous to small vessels.

If unsure of weather conditions, please contact Geraldton Sea Search and Rescue on VHF channel 16 or 27.9MHz for latest weather reports and updates.

Safety Equipment	Protected Waters lakes, rivers, inlets and estuaries except Lake Argyle	0-2 Nautical Miles from the mainland shore	2-5 Nautical Miles from the mainland shore	Over 5 Nautical Miles from the mainland shore
Recreational Skipper's Ticket The skipper of a recreational vessel, powered by a motor greater than 4.5kw (6 hp) (6 hp) must hold an RST.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bilge Pump/Bailer All vessels must carry a bilge pump. Vessels under 7 metres may carry a bailer in lieu of a bilge pump.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fire Extinguisher Vessels with an inboard engine or carrying hydrocarbon heating or cooling appliances must carry an approved fire extinguisher.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Anchor and line An efficient anchor and line must be carried.	-	✓	✓	✓
Lifejacket A lifejacket bearing the label PFD Type 1 or the Australian standard AS 1512 or AS 4758 - Level 100 (or higher) must be carried for every person onboard.	-	✓	✓	✓
Red and Orange Flares At least two hand held red flares and two hand held orange flares must be carried. Two parachute flares may be carried in lieu of the two hand held red flares and a smoke canister may be carried in lieu of the smoke flares.	-	✓	✓	✓
EPIRB A 406 MHz EPIRB registered with AMSA bearing the standard AS/NZS 4280.1 must be carried if proceeding more than 2 miles from the mainland shore or more than 400 metres from an island located more than 2 miles from the mainland shore.	-	-	✓	✓
Parachute Flares A minimum of two parachute flares must be carried if operating more than 5 miles from the mainland shore or more than 1 mile from an island located more than 5 miles from the mainland shore.	-	-	-	✓
Marine Radio A marine radio must be carried if operating more than 5 miles from the mainland shore or more than 1 mile from an island located more than 5 miles from the mainland shore. The radio can be 27 MHz, VHF or HF.	-	-	-	✓

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Sea Search and Rescue groups

Please remember to log on to the group nearest your location before heading out to sea and supply them with:

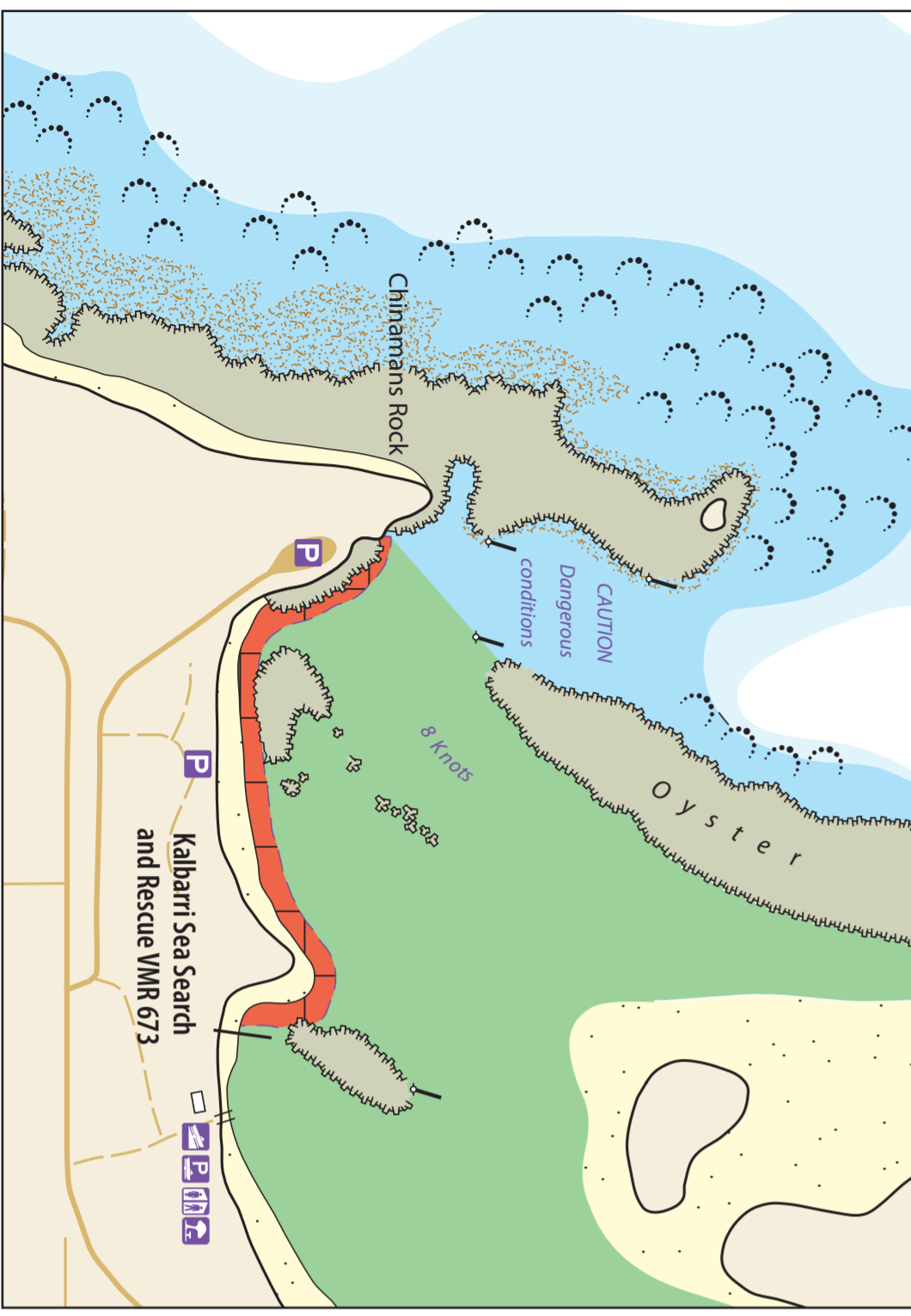
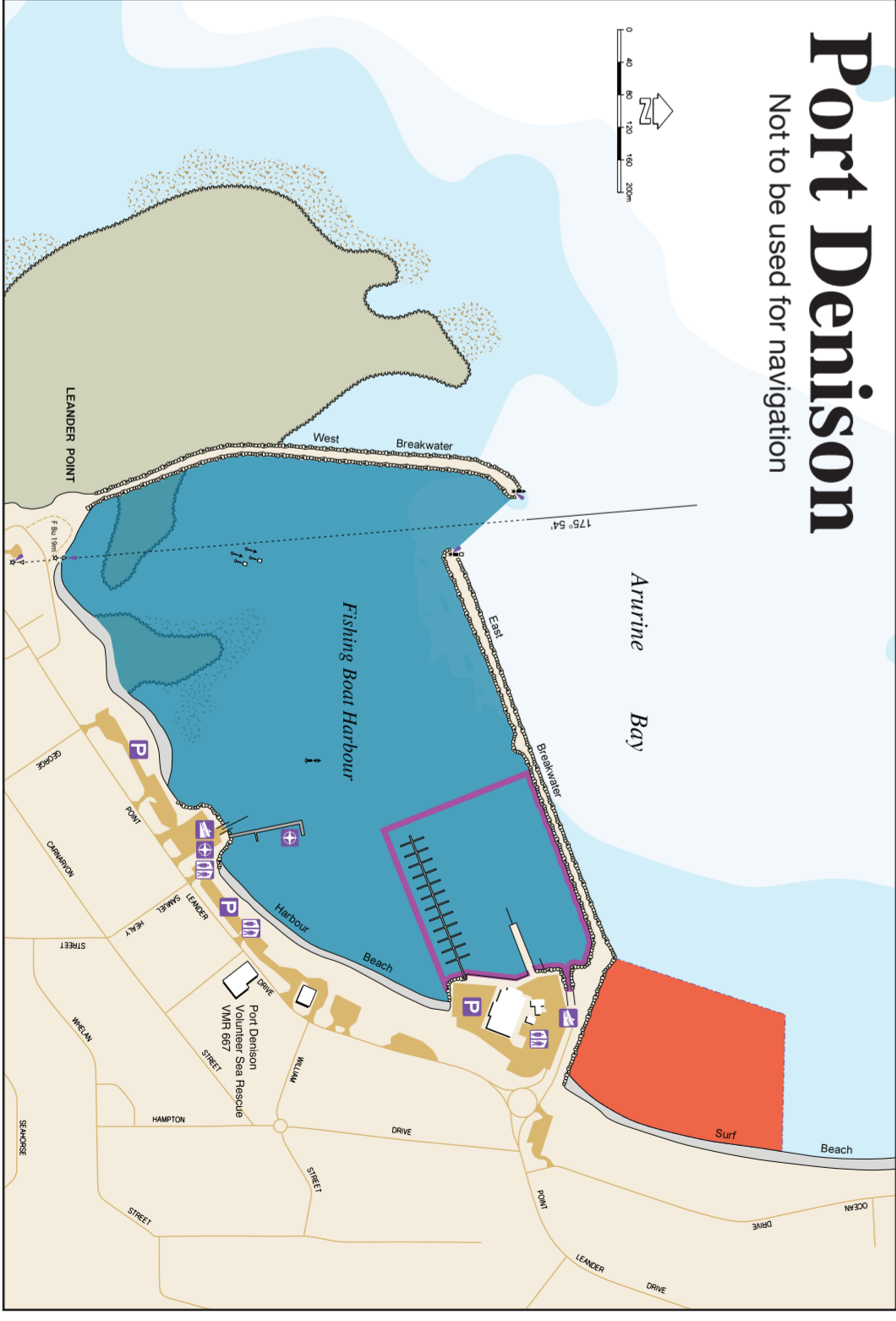
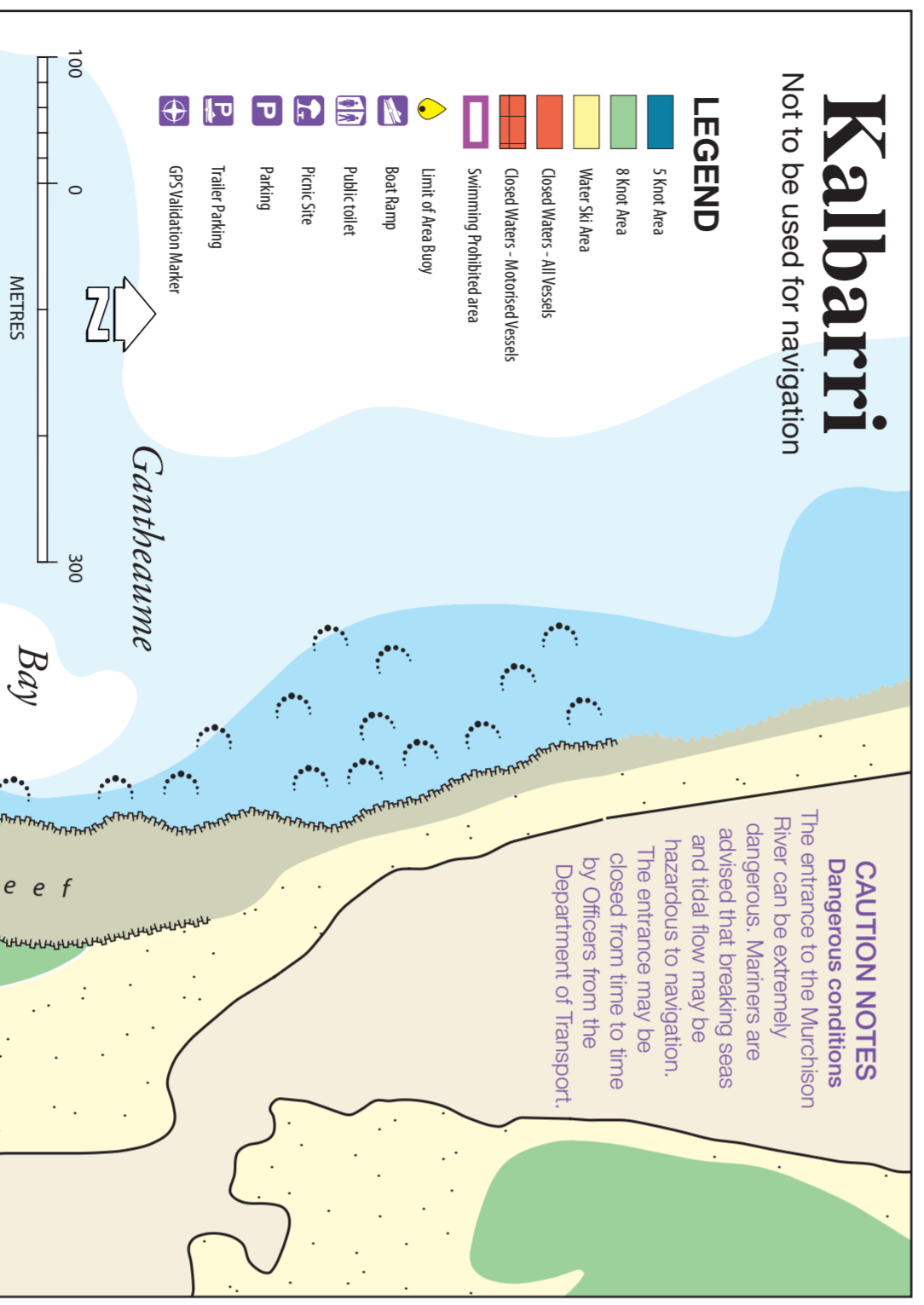
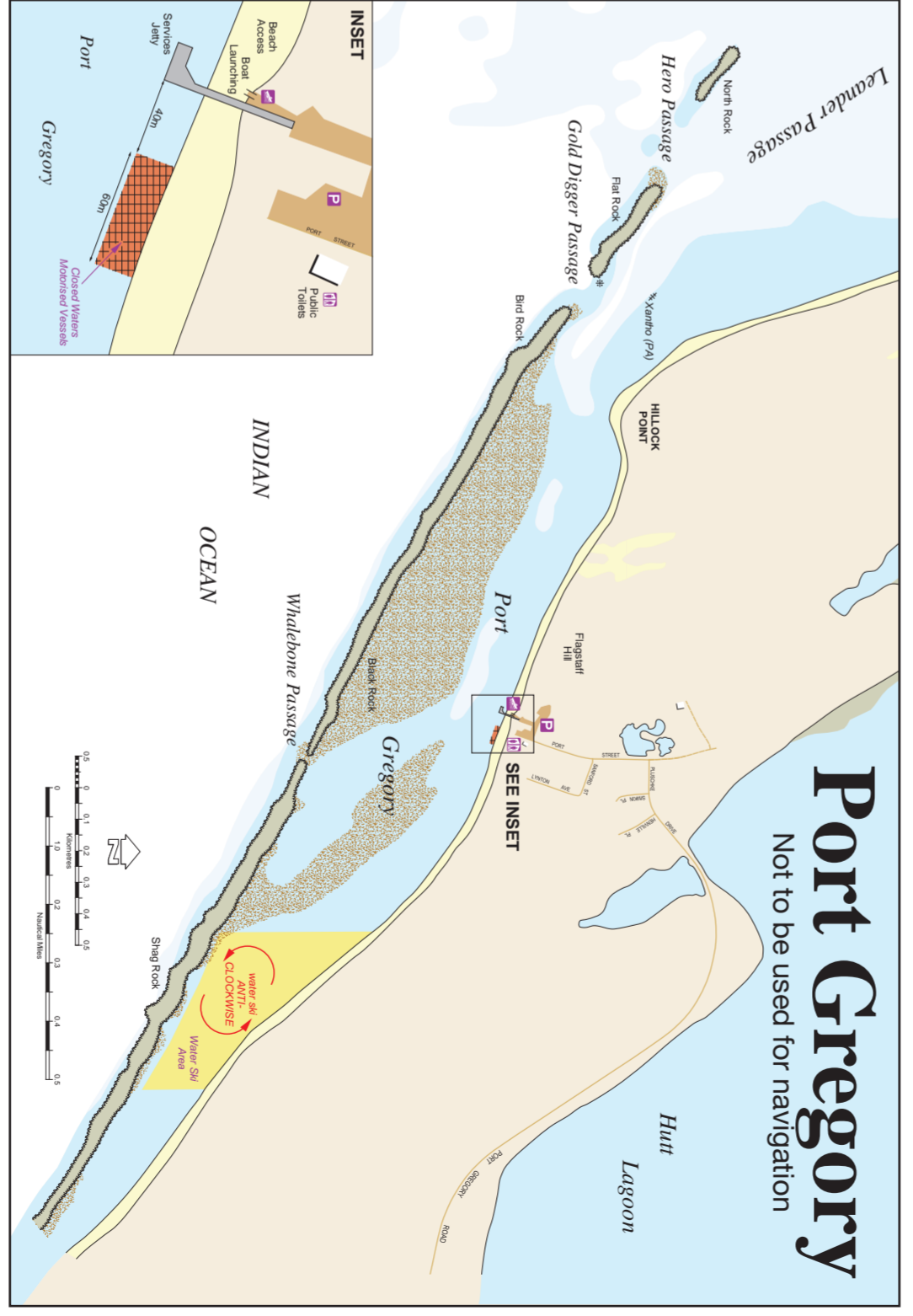
- the vessel's name, registration number or call sign;
- the departure point and time;
- the destination;
- the trip intentions;
- the number of people on board; and
- the amount of fuel carried; and
- the estimated time of return.

This basic information can make the difference in a response to an emergency situation.

It is also important to remember to log off with the sea rescue group to avoid a search being initiated.

Kalbarri

The Murchison River Mouth is used as the path to the open sea. The channel is known for the swells that can make navigation through this area dangerous. The local sea rescue group is located adjacent the boat launching ramp and should be consulted if you are unsure of navigating the entrance. Marker buoys have been placed in the channel to assist with navigation.



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Not to be used for navigation

For more detailed information, refer to the Department of Transport's Nautical Charts GERALDTON WA 939

LEGEND

- 5 Knot Area
- 8 Knot Area
- Water Ski Area
- Closed Waters - All Vessels
- Closed Waters - Motorised Vessels
- Swimming Prohibited area
- Limit of Area Buoy
- Boat Ramp
- Public toilet
- Picnic Site
- Parking
- Trailer Parking
- GPS Validation Marker

Navigation lights

All vessels underway during the hours of sunset to sunrise must display navigation lights appropriate to the particular size and type of vessel. For further information please refer to the RST Workbook or contact the Department on 1300 863 308.

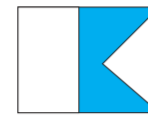
Diving flag

Any boat with divers operating from it must always display signals by day or night to inform other boat users. The daytime signal for divers is an International Code Flag "A". The flag must be at least 750mm long and 600mm wide.

Divers operating without a vessel, for example from a jetty, must display the International Code Flag "A". The flag must be at least 750mm long and 600mm wide.

The flag may be displayed from a buoy. If displayed from a buoy, the flag must not be less than 300 mm in length and 200 mm in width.

The flag must be clearly visible to all vessels operating in the vicinity.



Obstruction of channels and leads

Craypots - The setting of craypots or other fishing gear on leading lines, adjacent to navigation marks, in navigation channels, and boat harbours pose a very real danger to safe navigation and puts lives at risk.

Offences may result in removal of equipment and prosecution.

Vessels - Anchoring vessels on leading lines or in channels may impede the safe passage of other vessels and must be avoided unless you are broken down or in distress.

Wind surfing and kite surfing

Caution

With the onset of the sea breeze wind surfers and kite surfers congregate at many popular locations. In certain conditions these small, fast moving sailing vessels may be difficult to see and people navigating the coast need to maintain a proper lookout at all times and take appropriate action to avoid collisions.

Prevention of collision

All wind surfers and kite surfers have a duty of care to ensure their activities are conducted with regard to the prevailing conditions and circumstances and take appropriate action to avoid collisions.

Personal water craft (PWC)

Age limits

To operate a PWC at a speed greater than 8 knots you must be at least 16 years of age and the holder of a Recreational Skipper's Ticket.

Safety equipment

A Personal Flotation Device (PFD) for each person onboard must be worn at all times:

- within 400 metres of the shore - either a PFD Type 1, 2, or 3;
- between 400 metres and 2 NM from shore - a PFD (Type 1 only) and inshore distress flare kit, in serviceable condition;
- between 2 and 5 NM - a PFD (Type 1 only), inshore distress flare kit and an EPIRB;
- vessels of less than 3.75 metres in length are not permitted to operate more than 5 NM from the shore.

Freestyle driving and wake jumping is prohibited

- within any speed restricted area;
- within 30 metres of another PWC;
- within 50 metres of another vessel or person in the water.

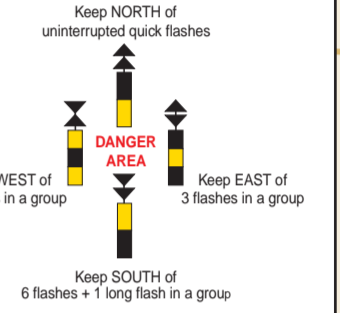
Water ski areas

All water ski areas and water ski take off areas are closed to navigation of PWC unless conducting water ski operations or transiting directly through the area.

PWC may operate when towing a water skier. When towing a water skier all vessels are required to carry an observer of at least 14 years of age. Observers must also wear a PFD.

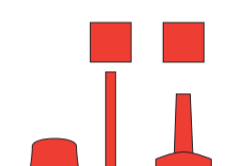
PWC not engaged in water skiing must not remain within the water ski area.

Cardinal Marks



Lateral Marks

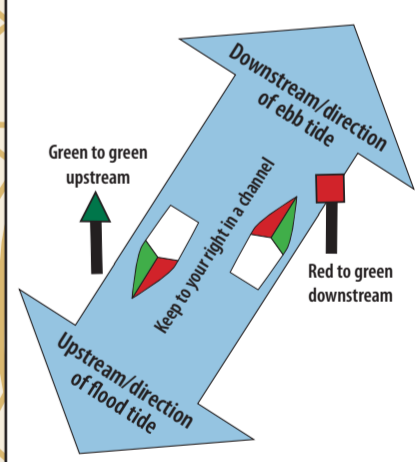
Indicate the port and starboard sides of a navigable channel.



Port Marks
Light: Red, any rhythm.



Starboard Marks
Light: Green, any rhythm.



Recreational Skipper's Ticket (RST)

Who needs an RST?

The person in charge of a vessel with a motor greater than 6hp (4.5 kilowatts) must hold an RST.

Age requirements and restrictions

To operate a non RST vessel
A person in charge of a recreational vessel with a motor of 6hp (4.5 kilowatts) or less is not required to hold an RST. However, the following age restriction applies:
Persons under 10 years may not drive a motor boat.

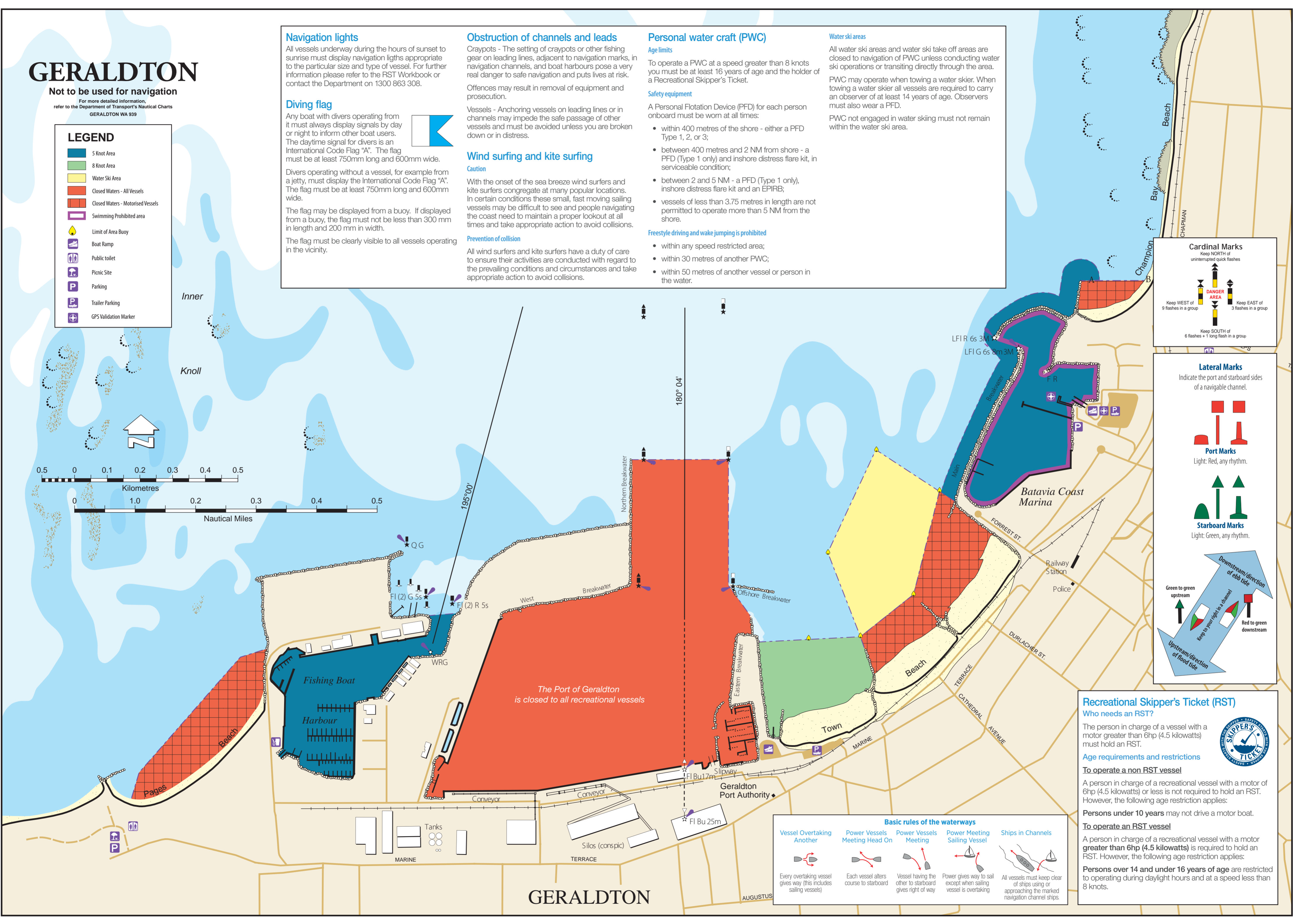
To operate an RST vessel

A person in charge of a recreational vessel with a motor greater than 6hp (4.5 kilowatts) is required to hold an RST. However, the following age restriction applies:
Persons over 14 and under 16 years of age are restricted to operating during daylight hours and at a speed less than 8 knots.



Basic rules of the waterways

- Vessel Overtaking Another**
 Every overtaking vessel gives way (this includes sailing vessels)
- Power Vessels Meeting Head On**
 Each vessel alters course to starboard
- Power Vessels Meeting**
 Vessel having the other to starboard gives right of way
- Power Meeting Sailing Vessel**
 Power gives way to sail except when sailing vessel is overtaking
- Ships in Channels**
 All vessels must keep clear of ships using or approaching the marked navigation channel ships.



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