

# ENJOYING OUR COAST SAFELY

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR SAFETY IN THE WATER ON JERSEY'S BEACHES





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# INTRODUCTION

**Jersey is blessed with a beautiful, accessible coastline that is enjoyed by beachgoers and ocean enthusiasts alike. In such a dynamic, busy coastal environment, safety at sea is of paramount importance to everyone who uses the water. The focus of this booklet is to provide guidance and advice to those that use the waters around Jersey with particular focus on the beaches and bays around the Island.**

This booklet has been developed by Ports of Jersey (PoJ), in conjunction with other national and international bodies as a best practice guide to those that use the waters either for business or pleasure. Particular thanks is extended to the RNLI and the Jersey Kitesurfing Association for their kind permission to reproduce their safety guide lines.

The Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture has entrusted Ports of Jersey with the responsibility for safety at sea in the Island's territorial waters. The instrument of entrustment is the Harbours (Inshore Safety) (Jersey) Regulations 2012.

These regulations allow Ports of Jersey to control activities in territorial waters<sup>1</sup>, control of ships plying for hire<sup>2</sup>, issue permits<sup>3</sup>, and ensure boats are correctly registered and insured<sup>4</sup>. This legislation also identifies various offences and the penalties applied.

Underpinning this legislation are Harbour Masters Directions, which are more prescriptive in what can and cannot be done in relation to certain activities. These directions are made primarily with the safety of those using the water in mind.

Anyone using the water for pleasure purposes should adopt the best practices identified in this booklet applicable for their particular water borne activity. In doing so they'll make the water a safe place for all to enjoy. Failure to follow the guides to good practice may render an individual to be in breach of the legislation and run the risk of being prosecuted for the offence.

Persons or companies plying ships for hire for commercial reasons must obtain a Permit under the aforementioned Regulations for that activity. The conditions on that permit will usually reflect the best practice associated with that activity as published by the associated governing body.

<sup>1</sup> Harbours (Inshore Safety) (Jersey) Regulations 2012 Regulation 3

<sup>2</sup> Harbours (Inshore Safety) (Jersey) regulations 2012 Regulation 4

<sup>3</sup> Harbours (Inshore Safety) (Jersey) regulations 2012 Regulation 6

<sup>4</sup> Harbours (Inshore Safety) (Jersey) regulations 2012 Regulation 7 & 8



## 1.1 GENERAL BOATING

Jersey's dramatic rocky bays and stunning sandy beaches are very popular amongst local and international boaters. Servicing our coastal waters are 10 harbours; namely St Helier, St Aubin, St Brelade, La Rocque, Gorey, St Catherine's, Rozel, Bouley Bay, Bonne Nuit and Grève de Lecq.

Popular boating bays include St Aubin, St Brelade, Portelet, Beauport, Grouville, Rozel, Bouley Bay and Bonne Nuit. There are a number of regulations in place to safeguard the environment, watercraft, beaches and swimmers, as follows:

### Speed Limits

A five-knot speed limit is in place in every harbour to ensure the safety of others. The speed limit also extends to up to 200m from the water's edge to protect any swimmers and other shallow water users.

### Swimming

While swimming is permitted in some of the Island's outlying harbours, caution should be exercised when swimming among moorings and close to steps as well as areas where boats unload. Priority is given to bona fide harbour users.

### Main Shipping Channels

Vessels using the main shipping channels should exercise caution and keep to the starboard side of the main channels, avoiding impeding the safe navigation of larger vessels<sup>5</sup>. It is advisable to monitor the ports VHF ch14 when in the vicinity and keep a general lookout.

### VTS IALA Lights

The IALA lights, which are situated in St Helier Harbour pier heads area, control the movement of vessels; allowing commercial ships to transit the pier heads or manoeuvre onto berths. Vessels should not proceed if the lights are red and must stay clear of vessels that are manoeuvring.



WITHIN HARBOURS AND WITHIN  
200 METRES OF THE WATER'S  
EDGE, DO NOT EXCEED 5 KNOTS.

<sup>5</sup> COLREGS Rule 9





## 1.2 COASTEERING

Our rocky coastline and impressive tidal range presents the opportunity for endless adventure and discovery. Such adventure is not without its risks however, and so please take note of the following advice, issued on behalf of Jersey Coastguard:

### Check the weather forecast

The forecast can be obtained from the following sources:

- Jersey Met website
- Jersey Harbours website
- Local media

### Check the tide

- Times of High and Low water
- Be conscious of currents close to the shore and wash from boats passing close by
- Avoid being cut off by the incoming tide

### Make a plan

- ...but also have a 'plan B' in case the weather or circumstances change

### Ensure you have suitable safety equipment

- Life jacket or buoyancy aid and helmet if coasteering
- Wetsuit
- Sunglasses
- Sun cream
- First Aid kit
- A means of communication
- Plenty of drinking water

### Ensure you are wearing suitable clothing

- Have warm clothing, hat and waterproofs to hand
- Wear appropriate footwear

### Tell someone ashore in advance of your intentions and/or destination

- Advise family or friends of your intentions i.e. type of activity
- Where you are departing from, travelling to and intended route you plan to take
- Number of persons and expected duration of activity

### Explore with a friend

- ...especially in remote areas
- Join an organised group excursion

### Ensure all group members are aware of safety procedures and know what to do in an emergency

- Who to call
- How to explain your location to the emergency services
- If there are any concerns over safety while in and around the marine environment please contact Jersey Coastguard Telephone: (01534) 447705 and VHF ch82. In a genuine emergency VHF ch16 or telephone 999 and ask for Jersey Coastguard.

### Pier Jumping/Tombstoning

- For safety reasons these 'activities' are prohibited in St Helier Harbour and discouraged in outlying harbours<sup>6</sup>



BE AWARE OF INCOMING AND  
OUTGOING TIDES AND PLAN  
ACCORDINGLY.



## 1.3 JET SKI RIDERS, WATER SKIERS AND WAKEBOARDING

We're seeing an increase in numbers of those wishing to make the most of Jersey's coastline using high speed watercraft. As Jersey's beaches are forever changing with the incoming and outgoing tides, the available water space swells and contracts accordingly, meaning that users can often become confined in a much more limited space, and underwater features may become exposed. As safety is of paramount importance, please take note of the following advice, issued on behalf of the Jersey Coastguard:

### Check the tide and weather

- Times of high and low water
- Check the weather forecast

### Ensure you have suitable safety equipment

- Life jacket or buoyancy aid
- Wetsuit
- Sunglasses
- Sun cream
- First Aid kit
- Warm clothing to wear after your activity
- VHF for communication – handheld is available for jet ski
- GPS – handheld is available for jet ski
- Anchor and warp
- Flares

### Check your equipment to ensure it is in good working order

- Full tank and a full spare can of clean fuel
- Road trailer, if applicable
- Check oil levels
- Service the engine as recommended in the engine manual
- Check the expiry/service dates of all safety equipment e.g. flares
- Know the limitations of your vessel
- Check the operation of VHF and GPS

### Be aware of other water users

- Ensure you are clear of the designated swimming areas
- Do not exceed 5kts within 200 metres of the water's edge
- Familiarisation of the Harbours (Inshore Safety) (Jersey) Regulations 2012 and associated Directions and SOLAS V

### Tell someone ashore in advance of your intentions and/or destination

- Advise family or friends of your intentions i.e. type of activity
- Where you are departing from, travelling to
- Expected duration of activity

### Know what to do in an emergency

- Know how to handle currents
- Be aware of tidal streams and how to signal for help
- Ensure you are able to manage a capsize situation
- If there are any concerns over safety whilst in and around the marine environment please contact Jersey Coastguard Telephone: (01534) 447705 and VHF ch82. In a genuine emergency VHF ch16 or telephone 999 and ask for Jersey Coastguard





## 1.4 SHORE ANGLERS

The changing seasons present an exciting diversity of angling experiences for Jersey's Shore Anglers, however the productivity of our waters is partly a function of our dangerous, stormy seas and large tidal range. These conditions presents significant dangers to Shore Anglers. Accordingly, Jersey Coastguard offers the following advice:



### Check the weather forecast

The forecast can be obtained from the following sources:

- Jersey Met website
- Jersey Harbours website
- Local media

### Check the tide

- Times of high and low water
- Be conscious of currents close to the shore and wash from boats passing close by
- Be aware of swell and rogue waves
- Avoid being cut off by the incoming tide

### Ensure you have suitable safety equipment

- Wear a life jacket. Buoyancy aid or flotation suit if fishing in a precarious place
- Have a suitable means of communication
- Torch
- Sunglasses
- Sun cream
- First Aid kit
- Plenty of drinking water
- Take note of any nearby lifebuoy locations in case of an emergency and inform Jersey Coastguard on (01534) 447705 if you notice an empty lifebuoy bracket or damaged equipment

### Ensure you are wearing suitable clothing

- Have warm clothing, hat and waterproofs to hand
- Wear appropriate footwear

### Tell someone ashore in advance of your intentions and/or destination

- Advise family or friends of your intentions
- Location of your fishing area
- Number of persons and expected duration of fishing trip

### Take care accessing remote areas along the coastline

- Use marked paths where possible
- Fish with a friend
- Especially in remote areas

### Take care when handling equipment and know what to do in an emergency

- Be cautious with knives and hooks
- Be careful when casting
- Know who to call and how to explain your location to the emergency services
- If there are any concerns over safety whilst in and around the marine environment please contact Jersey Coastguard Telephone: (01534) 447705 and VHF ch82 In a genuine emergency VHF ch16 or telephone 999 and ask for Jersey Coastguard



**BE AWARE OF THE SEA  
CONDITIONS AND AVOID BEING  
CUT OFF BY THE INCOMING TIDE.**



## 1.5 KAYAKERS AND CANOEISTS

Whether for fishing or for the sheer thrill of exploration, Jersey's coastline is littered with untouched nooks and crannies that are often best accessed through the use of kayaks and canoes. For those adventurers wishing to explore the Island's coastline, whether new to the pursuit or experienced, please take note of the following advice, issued on behalf of Jersey Coastguard:

### Check the weather forecast

The forecast can be obtained from the following sources:

- Jersey Met website
- Jersey Harbours website
- Local media

### Check the tide

- Times of high and low water
- Be conscious of currents close to the shore, swell forecasted and wash from boats passing close by

### Make a plan

- ...but also have a 'plan B' in case the weather or circumstances change
- Plan the activity/area appropriately based on the experience of fellow participants

### Ensure you have suitable safety equipment

- Life jacket or buoyancy aid
- Flares
- VHF radio or other means of communication
- Hand held GPS
- Torch
- Sunglasses
- Sun cream
- First Aid kit
- Plenty of drinking water
- Glow sticks in case you get unexpectedly caught out after the sun sets

### Check your equipment to ensure it is in good working order

- Ensure name and contact numbers are visible on the kayak/canoe - see the Coastguard Safety Identification Scheme (C-SIS), a free initiative that allows users to register any vessel or equipment with Jersey Coastguard which is not included in the local ships registry
- Check the expiry/service dates of all safety equipment - e.g. flares, life jackets
- Know the limitations of your kayak/canoe

### Ensure you wear suitable clothing

- Warm clothing
- Waterproofs
- Wetsuits
- Hats

### Tell someone ashore in advance of your intentions and/or destination

- Advise family or friends of your intentions i.e. type of activity
- Where you are departing from, travelling to
- Number of people and expected time of arrival
- Expected duration of activity
- Log a traffic report with Jersey Coastguard via VHF ch82 or telephone (01534) 447705

### Be aware of other water users

- Ensure you are clear of the designated swimming areas
- Do not exceed 5 knots within 200 metres of the water's edge
- Familiarisation of the Harbours (Inshore Safety) (Jersey) Regulations 2012 and associated Directions and SOLAS V

### Ensure all members in the group are aware of safety procedures and know what to do in an emergency

- Allocate life jackets or buoyancy aids to all paddlers
- Practice a capsize drill
- Know how to handle currents and to signal for help
- Know who to call in an emergency
- If there are any concerns over safety whilst in an around the marine environment please contact Jersey Coastguard, telephone: (01534) 447705 and VHF ch82. In a genuine emergency VHF ch16 or telephone 999 and ask for Jersey Coastguard



TELL SOMEONE ASHORE IN  
ADVANCE OF YOUR INTENTIONS  
AND/OR DESTINATION.





**PLAN YOUR SWIM IN ADVANCE  
AND INFORM JERSEY  
COASTGUARD AT LEAST 48  
HOURS PRIOR TO YOUR SWIM.**

## 1.6 LONG DISTANCE SWIMMING

Long-distance swimming challenges, 'Around-Island' and 'Jersey to France' swims have become increasingly popular. At present, Jersey Coastguard does not enforce any restrictions on long distance swimming in local waters.

However, the following advice is set out as a means to promote safe practice as well as provide as much of the necessary information required, should the need for assistance arise.

### GUIDANCE AND ADVICE

#### Planning

When planning a long distance swimming event Jersey Coastguard should be informed at least **48 hours** prior to the swim; forwarding the completed 'Coastguard Long Distance Swimming' form either by fax or email.

If the swim involves entering French waters, French authorities should also be informed.

#### Swim Start

On the day of the event, prior to starting the swim, either update or confirm with Jersey Coastguard on VHF ch82 the following essential information:

- ✓ Intended start time
- ✓ Confirmed number of swimmers
- ✓ Number of guard vessels
- ✓ Total number of crew on each vessel
- ✓ Any assisting craft such as kayaks

#### Reporting Points

To enable Jersey Coastguard to be kept up-to-date with the progress of the swim, reporting points along the course are recommended. At these points it is recommended that weather updates are requested. Don't forget that communications should primarily be done through VHF ch82.

#### VTS

St Helier VTS must be provided with, via VHF ch14, the same information required by Jersey Coastguard, as detailed if a swim start position is located near any traffic lanes. Once the swimmer and escorting vessels are clear of the traffic lanes once again please advise VTS.

In return, VTS will then be able to advise of any commercial traffic movements at that time and whether the start should be delayed until a sufficient window of opportunity is available for the swimmer to cross the traffic lanes safely.

#### 'Around Island' swim

For an 'Around-Island' swim; VTS should be informed as the swimmer passes Corbière and then again at

Noirmont Point so as to advise of any commercial shipping transiting the area along the south coast and in turn advise those vessels to pass with caution.

#### 'Jersey to France' swim

For a Jersey to France swim; on commencement of the swim, call Cross Jobourg on VHF ch16, request a working channel and pass the relevant details of the swim to them. On crossing Longitude 001 50'00 W, inform Jersey Coastguard VHF ch82, and once again call Cross Jobourg on VHF ch16 and request a working channel to advise them the swim is now entering French waters.

For the duration of the swim a listening watch should be maintained on VHF ch16.

On completion of an 'Around-Island' swim; Jersey Coastguard and St Helier VTS should be advised via their respective channels. If the swim terminates in France then Cross Jobourg and Jersey Coastguard should be informed.

On return passage to Jersey a Traffic Report (TR) should be opened with Jersey Coastguard and then closed

on safe arrival. Information on TRs can be found online at [jerseycoastguard.je](http://jerseycoastguard.je).

#### Tides and Sea conditions

Jersey has some strong tidal currents; some of these currents are notably more prominent at certain states of the tide and at different points along the coast due to the large tidal range experienced by the Channel Islands and nearby French coast.

Information relating to tidal conditions around the coast can be found in the:

- ✓ 'Admiralty Tidal Stream Atlas: The Channel Islands and Adjacent Coast of France'
- ✓ Online at [easytide.com](http://easytide.com)

#### Weather

Jersey's weather can be quite localised and is subject to rapid change due to its location in the Bay of Mont Saint-Michel. Weather conditions are one element that cannot be controlled, and is one of the most important factors that needs to be considered when organising a long distance swimming event.

The weather forecast should be closely monitored up-to and

throughout the event. All weather information can be obtained from the Jersey Meteorological Department online at [gov.je/weather](http://gov.je/weather)

The latest shipping forecasts are also broadcast by Jersey Coastguard on VHF ch82. Visit [jerseyharbours.je](http://jerseyharbours.je) for broadcast times. The latest weather updates can be obtained through Jersey Coastguard's Channel VHF 82.

Jersey Coastguard recommends that long distance swimming attempts should be abandoned if:

- ✓ a deterioration in weather conditions, i.e. fog or an increase in wind strength to F4 or greater
- ✓ an impact on the safety of the swimmer

#### Commercial Shipping Traffic

The potential dangers of commercial shipping must also be taken into consideration when organising a swimming event. A navigational chart must be referred to in order to be familiar with the routes used by ships to enter and leave Jersey Harbour as well as any restricted or precautionary areas. St Helier VTS must be informed of any swimming that is to take

place near any of the main shipping passages, precautionary areas or restricted areas via VHF ch14.

#### Recommended Organisations

Jersey Coastguard recommendation is that anyone considering embarking on a long distance swimming event should join or contact a local club. They have knowledge, experience and expertise in this field, which would be beneficial to any swimmer wishing to take on a long distance swimming challenge in local waters.

Jersey Long Distance Swimming Club (JLDSC) – [jerseyseaswims.org](http://jerseyseaswims.org)

For information on long distance swimming – [channelswimming.net](http://channelswimming.net)



## 1.7 SURFING

Jersey has a long history of surf culture, founding Europe's first surfing club in 1923. Benefitting from exposure to strong Atlantic storms and swells, our beaches provide for a range of surfing experiences appropriate to all levels of surfer.

### Understand the risks and surf safely

Surfing hotspots can be a mass of bodies and boards when the sun is out and the surf is rolling. Impacts between surfboards and other surfers can cause serious injuries and so it is essential to be aware of others in the water and to stay inbetween the black and white flags. Most surfers have a good understanding of the risks involved in their sport but more experienced surfers tend to push themselves in bigger surf and dangerous conditions. Those new to surfing can lack the experience to manage difficult conditions and so should not surf outside of lifeguarded areas. Following some basic surfing etiquette and safety advice helps to make the surf a safer, friendlier and fun place for everyone.

- **Always surf between the black and white chequered flags**

Follow the advice of the RNLI Beach Lifeguards

- **Never surf alone**

Especially in a big swell. Surfers look out for one another

- **Tell someone you're going surfing**

Let someone know when and where you are going and, importantly, when you expect to be back. Ideally this would be a reliable person who could raise the alarm if there was a genuine cause for concern

- **Check weather and tides**

Before you set out, check the local forecast for wind, swell and tide conditions

- **Know your limits**

It's easy to be caught out. Don't challenge yourself too early and know your limits

- **Be aware of rip currents**

Speak to an RNLI Beach Lifeguard for advice on the location of rip currents

- **Always wear a leash**

So you don't become separated from your board (it is also your safety flotation device)

- **Wear the right wetsuit**

Wear an appropriate wetsuit for surfing. As well as keeping you warm, wetsuits give some added protection from scrapes on rocks or impacts from other surfboards

- **Understand surf etiquette and rights of way**



KNOW YOUR ABILITY, BE AWARE OF RIP CURRENTS, AND LEARN ABOUT SURF ETIQUETTE.





BE AWARE OF THE  
CONDITIONS AND AVOID  
STRONG OFFSHORE WINDS.

## 1.8 STAND UP PADDLEBOARDING (SUP)

Stand Up Paddleboarding is becoming increasingly popular for all of surfing, exploration and general exercise purposes. With so many new users, it is important that all are familiar with their equipment and the environment that they hope to enjoy.

### Understand the risks and paddle safely

The light, buoyant design of a paddleboard means that in an offshore breeze, you can quickly find yourself a long way from the shore and it can be extremely difficult to get back. Paddleboards are not usually used with a leash, unless in surf conditions; getting separated from your board can be a danger to you. However, taking some simple steps to stay safe will reduce your chances of getting into trouble and help you get the most out of a sport you love.

### Simple checks for safe paddleboarding:

- ✓ Always tell someone where you're going and when you'll be back. Don't leave the house without a mobile phone or communication device
- ✓ Check the weather forecast and tide times before you set out - they can change quickly
- ✓ Avoid offshore winds
- ✓ Always go with a friend
- ✓ Wear a suitable personal flotation device
- ✓ Wear appropriate clothing suitable for the time of year
- ✓ Always wear your leash and hold onto your board if you get into trouble - it will help you float
- ✓ Always make sure you launch and recover between the black and white chequered flags, if operating from Plemont, St Ouen or St Brelade beaches
- ✓ Consider other water users by learning the rights of way in the surf. This can save you and others getting injured
- ✓ Get the appropriate level of training
- ✓ If planning a long distance excursion or 'Around Island trip, telephone Jersey Coastguard and advise them of your intentions
- ✓ Avoid paddling in or across main shipping lanes
- ✓ Always remember that your profile standing up on a paddleboard might be obvious at sea level but very difficult to spot from the bridge of a larger commercial vessel





**STAY CLEAR OF DESIGNATED  
SWIMMING AREAS AND BE  
AWARE OF OTHER WATER USERS.**

## 1.9 KITESURFING

**Our regular, strong winds, combined with the choice of West, South or East facing beaches, makes our island an enviable location for kitesurfing. With a wide range of others water users however, safety for yourself and others should be your number one priority:**

### Basic Rules

Always look out for and avoid other kite surfers when on the water. Kitesurfers in Jersey are generally self-regulating. Observing these simple rules will not only keep other people safe it will also help in maintaining the freedom of kiting.

For more detailed guidelines of kiting safety please read guidance published online at [britishkitesports.org](http://britishkitesports.org)

### Special areas of note

Specific restrictions exist for certain beaches in Jersey, in particular the following:

- **Le Braye, St Ouen (during the summer)**  
In the summer months this area gets crowded with other beach users so should be avoided if possible. Be aware of the RNLI Beach Lifeguard flagged areas.
- **Grouville Bay**  
An area to the south of the bay should be avoided due to the extensive rocks and oyster beds. In relation to wildlife activity it is also an area of special interest.

### Voluntary Code of Conduct for Kitesurfing in the Royal Bay of Grouville

In 2007 the Jersey Kitesurfing Association (JKSA) met with members of the Environment, Fisheries and Marine departments, along with members of the Ornithological Society and other interested parties. At the time it was agreed that a Voluntary Code of Conduct would be created by the Kitesurfing Association to cover kitesurfing in the Royal Bay of Grouville.

The aim of this voluntary code is to protect and respect wildlife and endangered coastal birdlife residing in the shallow waters of the Bay. All kitesurfers should observe this easy-to-read voluntary code, the general codes of conduct as set out online at [britishkitesports.org](http://britishkitesports.org) (detailed in the safety section) and observe the Nature Reserve byelaws, so that their activities are more responsible and less likely to affect other users of the beach, sea and wildlife in the area. Jersey's south east coast is a designated RAMSAR Site of Special Scientific Interest. The Royal Bay of Grouville falls within that area. A guide for people using the water within the RAMSAR site is available and kitesurfers are asked to follow this. Information relating to this can be found in Gorey Harbour and from the Island's Environment Department. Important: Kitesurfers are solely responsible for their own safety and that of affected bystanders. Despite the publication of this voluntary code, Ports of Jersey or its associated agencies cannot be held liable for your actions. This voluntary code will be updated regularly as a result of continued developments in safety, kitesurfing equipment, consultation with local focus groups and other interested parties. The JKSA strongly recommends that all kitesurfers obtain 3rd party insurance before kitesurfing.

### Why should kitesurfers adhere to the Voluntary Code?

Every year, thousands of visitors and residents choose to take part in a variety of pursuits, hobbies and recreational activities along the coast. Our aim is to promote the responsible use of the coastline by kitesurfers, to help avoid damaging this special environment and harming its wildlife. Over recent years coastal residents and wildlife





groups have become increasingly concerned about certain aspects of kitesurfing, both on the shore and in the water. The voluntary code represents an attempt to address their main concerns. The Code is voluntary but hopefully it will go some way to ensuring the beach, shoreline and sea continues to be enjoyed by all users. All activities in the Royal Bay of Grouville, including kitesurfing, should be conducted with respect to the local wildlife and wider environment. Kitesurfers thrive on the buzz of being driven by the wind, not wishing to pollute the environment but instead, moving with the flow of the wind and the journey of the tide. The enjoyment, for want of a better word, is created by the environment that everyone is in. A failure to honour the environment and the surrounding wildlife, will result in a failure to respect a world that was here before kitesurfing was even invented!! By respecting the coastal environment everyone can ensure that kitesurfing will be around for many more years to come.

Remember, kitesurfing is a very visible sport. Adopting this voluntary code can help minimise the risk of adverse attention, which could potentially give people reason to seek more formal restrictions. Members of the JKSA would like to think that all its members respect the environment they kite within. By adhering to this voluntary code, which they believe is fair and reasonable, sets an example to other sports who currently share our coast.

#### **Jersey Kitesurfing Association**

The JKSA is pleased to answer any issues about this voluntary code and encourages all kitesurfers to make themselves aware of local concerns relating to their activities. Everyone remains passionate about maintaining their right to ride but remember fools who act dangerously or irresponsibly will not be tolerated on the Island's beaches or sea. Kitesurfers are not being discouraged from using the area and it is hoped they continue to find it a great place to enjoy but must pledge their support in helping to safeguard this precious resource for generations to come.

#### **Voluntary Code**

Please kite within the area marked on the map for Royal Bay of Grouville. This is the stretch of beach that falls in line with the majority of the golf course. It lies in between Fort William, which has now been turned into private residence (to the right of the car park and sand track to the beach, where Wet and Wild store their equipment) and Fort Henry (which is just before the Club House for the Royal Jersey Golf Club).

Adhering to kitesurfing, all year round, within this section of the Bay will ensure that the wildlife has an ability to seek refuge either side of users when kitesurfing in the sea or setting up /landing kites etc. Common sense should be used. If there is a large flock of geese or other birdlife on

the beach or sea within this designated area every effort should be made to avoid disturbing them.

#### **Setting Up of Kitesurfing Equipment**

Kites should be inflated at the top of the beach but not on the sand dune banks or in the car park. Kites are then to be walked down to the area of the shoreline and lines, etc. set-up. Please refer here to the standard codes of conduct detailed in the website under Safety.

#### **Launching of Kites**

Kites are to be launched near the shoreline to ensure that bird life has adequate space up the beach and to the side of the voluntary designated kitesurfing area to rest and "escape" a kite. Always keep lines away from people, animals and craft on land. This area should only be used to launch/land and never to practice land-based flying skills, especially jumping.

#### **Kitesurfing**

Before flying your kite, check your immediate kitesurfing area for wildlife to ensure you are not creating an unnecessary disturbance once you are up and riding.

#### **Jersey Kitesurfing Association**

Make a mental note of your location in relation to the designated kitesurfing area and ensure you remain in this area. If you are more than 200 metres from the shore, it does not mean that you can kitesurf out of the designated area.

#### **Landing of Kites**

Kites are to be landed near the shoreline and not flown up the beach. This is for your safety as well as that of bystanders and will ensure minimal disturbance of wildlife in the area. Please refer to the website, britishkitesports.org for general Codes of Conduct relating to safety. As with launching, this area should only be used to land and never to practice land-based flying skills, especially jumping.

#### **Carrying of Kites**

Kites must not be flown up or down the beach at any time. If possible, kites should be deflated near the shoreline and carried up the beach. If this is not practical then kites may be safely carried up the beach but deflated before being taken off the designated kite surfing area.

#### **The Future**

The JKSA will continue to work closely with various local groups about their coastal environment and ensure, where possible, that its members continue to respect the environment they choose to kite within. While the JKSA continues to go from strength to strength with an ever increasing membership, it must not be forgotten that kitesurfing is a relatively new sport for Jersey and is being continually monitored (along with other sea based sports), with consideration being given to its safety and suitability for Jersey waters. For the time being, those concerned about our effect on the coastal environment in the Royal Bay of Grouville, in particular, have agreed to wait and see whether the approach of self-policing and common sense can work.

So please kite safely, respect the environment and wildlife you are sharing your kitesurfing sessions with and be courteous to other beach and water-users at all times. Members of the JKSA all give their time voluntary and put many hours of work into the association generally to ensure the future of kitesurfing in Jersey. Most are on the water at every possible opportunity and enjoy sharing this great environment we all benefit from.

For further information on the JKSA, visit our website [jerseykitesurfing.co.uk](http://jerseykitesurfing.co.uk)

For further information on Coastal Zone Management within Jersey, contact the Environment Department on telephone (01534) 866214. For further information on Jersey birdlife, [jerseybirds.co.uk](http://jerseybirds.co.uk)



**STAY CLEAR OF DESIGNATED  
SWIMMING AREAS AND BE  
AWARE OF OTHER WATER USERS.**



## 2.1 BEST KITESURFING LOCATIONS

### Rice Bowl, Grève d'Azette Bay, St Clement

Named after the Chinese restaurant located at the top of the slip, this area is situated east of the reclamation site so is a little industrial, but can offer a comfortable small area of flat water during mid to high tide. Watch out for rocks to the east.

#### Wind Direction

SE-W but best directly onshore, which is SW.

#### Water

Best at mid to high water where a flat section of water appears between the slip and the reclamation site. At lower tides be aware of a multitude of exposed reefs and rocks.

#### Beach

Sandy beach with light shingle near the slipway. Rarely frequented by beach goers.

#### Rules and Restrictions

There are no specific rules and restrictions but kitesurfers must keep away from the Havre des Pas bathing pool

### St Aubin, Bel Royal, St Lawrence

Great location for beginners and wake-style aficionados as the water is usually flat and shallow at mid to low tide. Apart from the jet-ski lanes to the west you can go wherever you want.

#### Wind Direction

SSW-S-SE. Don't ride here in cross-shore westerly conditions as the wind can get very gusty and unpredictable.

#### Water

Majority of the time flat from mid to low tide; depending on wind strength some days can have a small swell.

#### Beach

Sandy beach, lots of space.

#### Rules and Restrictions

Keep away from the jetski lanes to the west.

#### Facilities

A choice of beach cafés, toilets and a shower can be found at the top of the slip

### St Ouen

This is the principal kitesurfing beach for the Island's prevailing winds. The areas to go are Sands and to the south of the surfers at Secrets. Le Braye should be avoided during the summer months as it is a popular beach for swimming. St Ouen is also a good beach for kite buggies, land boards and blo-karting.

### Gorey – Royal Bay of Grouville

Great beach for beginners as it's shallow and flat at low tide. But stay clear of the south with its rocks, oyster beds and geese!

#### Wind direction

NE-SE. Beware of northerly winds at high tide as it gets gusty as the wind has to come around the castle.

#### Water

Majority of the time flat; depending on wind strength some days can have a small swell.

#### Beach

Sandy beach with lots of space.

#### Rules and Restrictions

Kite between the beach café situated and Fort Henry. Please read our voluntary code of conduct before heading down for a session. The area to the south of the bay is a designated Ramsar Site of Special Scientific Interest but also has extensive oyster beds, which can be hazardous. Please launch and land by the waters' edge.

#### Facilities

Park your vehicle in the large gravel car park opposite Gorey Village Green. For food and refreshments head towards the castle. Toilets are located to the left of the gravel car park.

## 2.2 ST OUEN'S BAY – SURFING AND SURF SCHOOLS

Jersey's principal surfing beach is St Ouen, although at different times of the year surfers can be found at Petit Port, St Brelade's Bay, Plémont, Grève de Lecq, La Grève d'Azette and L'Étacquerel. With the exception of St Brelade's Bay, these latter destinations tend to be used by more experienced surfers.

### St Ouen's Beach

This beach is 3.3 nautical miles long, measured from La Pulente to L'Étacq, the north and south end of the beach has reefs of rocks just offshore. Whilst swimming is possible at high tide the areas are not generally suitable for surfing or other beach-launched activities. There is a small area known as Secrets, which lies in the area north of Cutty Sark, north of Kempt Tower towards Le Laveurs slipway used by local families for swimming and surfing. The area is often used on neap tides or above half tide on springs.

The generally considered public usable area of the beach lies between Le Braye in the south and L'Ouziere slipway, by Big Vern's eatery in the north. This is about 1 nautical mile or 1852 metres in length. This stretch of beach can get very busy at peak times during weather conditions suitable for surfing. Six beach concessions currently offer surf lessons and surf school activities. Surf concessions are located at Le Braye, El Tico, Le Port Car Park, Watersplash and Big Vern's. Between April and October RNLI Beach Lifeguards are employed to keep the beach safe. They have fixed outlook stations at Le Braye slipway, and north side of Le Port car park, with their main station immediately north of El Tico beach café.

Beach Lifeguards set up mobile patrols and flagged areas just north of Le Braye Slipway and (approximately) in the area of El Tico. These areas comprise of a flagged swimming area (red and yellow flags) along with a flagged surfing (black and white flags) and they are moved on a daily basis up and down the beach depending on the state of wind, tide and the location of tide rips. The area between the flags ranges between 50 and 100m.

Ports of Jersey General Direction 1 Paragraph 4 prohibits any motorised vessel from operating within 200m of the water's edge or 50m either side of any flagged area<sup>7</sup>. In addition, the same Direction 2 (a) prohibits any power driven craft from operating at more than 5 knots closer

than 200m from the water's edge in any bay or adjacent to any beach. This Direction has been issued to protect swimmers and surfers who may, reasonably, be using the water up to that distance offshore due to the gentle sloping of Jersey's beaches. General Directions can be found online at: <http://www.ports.je/JerseyHarbours/regulationguidance/pages/generaldirections.aspx>



<sup>7</sup> Harbour Master General Direction No.1 under Harbours (Inshore Safety) (Jersey) Regulations 2012



## 2.3 ROYAL BAY OF GROUVILLE



A concession is located from a structure on the beach, directly in front of Fort William House. This concession offers the hiring of water ski/boat banana/boat, wakeboarding, motor dinghies, stand up paddleboards (SUP) and kayaks. They also offer speedboat trips and are confined to the area westward of the line between Seymour Tower and St Catherine's breakwater.

The 5 knot speed limit exists up to 200m from the water's edge at all states of tide. It also applies within Gorey Harbour Limits<sup>10</sup>.

<sup>10</sup> Air and Sea Ports (Incorporation) (Jersey) Law 2015 Schedule showing harbour limits

## 2.4 ST BRELADE'S BAY



Although the bay appears quite wide it narrows considerably between La Cotte Point and Les Jeteuses (headland between Beauport and Bouilly Port), with rock reefs off the end of the pier (Rocquet) and plateaus of rock by way of Fourniere du Havre and Plat Houmet. The bay is divided roughly in two but the rocky outcrop known as Point Le Grouin with the area east of this promontory called Ouaisné.

### Activities

Ouaisné is primarily used by families and there are no beach concessions in this part of the bay. The slipway is used by a number of fishermen, who launch their boats usually close north of the reef off La Cotte Point. It is popular with kayakers who launch to explore the inlets and coves between La Cotte Point and Le Fret Point. Open water swimmers often enter the water from the slipway at high water and like to swim across to St Brelades Jetty. This puts them well outside the 200m mark as they cross the bay diagonally.

There are two beach concessions operating from the main part of St Brelade's Bay. The concession furthest east operates from adjacent to Wayside Slipway and offers canoes, kayaks, wind surfers, sailing dinghies, stand up paddle boards (SUP) and speedboat trips.

The concession located in the western end of the bay offers water ski, banana boat, speedboat trips, canoes/kayaks and stand up paddle boards (SUP). They launch to the west side of the bay. There is a small community of fishermen who keep their boats on the west side of the bay. They launch and recover their vessels in this area.

RNLI Beach Lifeguards patrol the beach during the summer months and have a flagged area in the centre part of the bay in front of L'Horizon Hotel.

### Changes in the Bay

Using the line between La Cotte Point and Les Jeteuses as a reference a line of buoys are being laid each marked with the words 5 knot limit.

North and east of this buoyed line no vessel is permitted to operate above 5 knots with the exception of Licenced and Permitted Beach Concessions that will use an agreed course line for their operation. In the west side of the bay, including the approach channel towards the breakwater, Bouilly Port and Beauport, the normal 200m 5 knot speed limit applies.



## 2.5 ST AUBIN'S BAY - WEST SIDE

St Aubin's Bay can be extremely busy for boating when the tide is high. This is particularly relevant when St Aubin's Harbour is open and the access from Elizabeth Marina over the castle causeway is navigable.

### Concessions

A beach concession is located at La Haule Slipway. This concession offers water skiing, banana boats, wake boarding, jet skis, motor dinghies and stand up paddle boards (SUP's). The area is also available for the general public to launch vessels from. It is popular with private PwC users.

### Speed Limits

The statutory 5 knot speed limit applies to all areas within 200 metres of the water's edge<sup>8</sup>. In addition, a speed limit of 5 knots applies to PwCs in an area west of a line joining La Haule slip, Platte Rock East Cardinal Beacon, and towards the land westward at Point de Bût<sup>9</sup>. This is to ensure water safety in and around the moorings outside St Aubin's Harbour and Belcroute Bay.

### Designated areas

There are four lines of buoys laid from the water's edge to seaward immediately east of La Haule slip. They mark an ingoing and outgoing water ski lane for private individuals. Immediately next to the slipway is an area designated for private individuals to launch and recover PwCs. Due to the boating activity close inshore, swimming in these areas is not recommended.

### La Haule Area (in detail)

A beach concession located at La Haule slip offers jet ski rides, water-skiing and other towed rides. They operate to seaward from the slipway. They are required to remain to the east of the line extending from the slipway towards Platte Rock Beacon. There are additional lanes marked with yellow buoys for private jet ski launching and water ski activities. The lanes are marked with yellow buoys and there are painted marks on the sea walls to correspond to the shore limits.

Care should be taken when transiting this area from shoreward to avoid conflicting with traffic entering and leaving St Aubin's Harbour via the main buoyed channel. In any case this area usually falls within the five knot speed limit for all vessels.



<sup>8</sup> Harbour Masters Direction No. 1 (2) (a) made under Harbours (Inshore Safety) (Jersey) Regulations 2012

<sup>9</sup> Harbour Masters Direction No. 1 (3) (a) made under Harbours (Inshore Safety) (Jersey) Regulations 2012



## 3.1 CHARTER BOAT PERMITS



Under Regulation 6 of the Harbours (Inshore Safety) (Jersey) Regulations 2012, every vessel that plies for hire. Regulation 6 (2) (a) requires that the vessel carries appropriate insurance. Regulation 6 (2) (c) requires that the vessel is the subject of a current survey. Regulation 6 (3) (a) requires that the person in charge of that vessel is a fit and suitably qualified person to do so. Applications for such permits must be made in writing to the Harbour Authority. A certificate of insurance must be provided as well as a Small Commercial Vessel Certificate (SCVC) from a recognised certifying authority. The SCVC usually lasts for five years and during interim years most CAs issue an annual decal of compliance.

Permits issued under this regime last for up to 12 months and are renewed annually on production of the above mentioned documents.

Vessels that operate regularly to outlying reefs are required to recognise and operate by the Codes of Conduct issued by each of the residents' associations in respect to private property, the environment, wildlife and toilet facilities.

some means of communicating between base and the water's edge activity being provided. In addition, the concession must carry out a suitable vetting process on all hirers before allowing them to go to sea on their equipment. This vetting process includes the following:

- Experience in open water
- Any medical conditions, including allergies and medication being taken

- Emergency contact details
- Details of safety briefing given prior to entering the water

## 3.3 OTHER BEACH CONCESSIONS

The process of application for and renewal of a Beach Launch Concession Permit is similar to the surf concessions. The following activities are offered here in Jersey:

- Hiring of, canoes, kayaks, surf boards, wind surfers, sailing dinghies stand up paddle boards (SUP's) and speedboat trips – Midbay Slipway, St Brelade's Bay
- Hiring of water ski/boat banana/boat, canoes, kayaks and stand up paddle boards – west side of St Brelade's Bay
- Hiring of water ski/boat banana/boat, wakeboarding, jet skis, motor dinghies, and stand up paddleboards (SUP) – La Haule Slipway St Aubin's Bay
- Hiring of water ski/boat banana/boat, wakeboarding, motor dinghies, stand up paddleboards (SUP) and kayaks
- Kayaking – round island locations
- Kite Surfing – round island locations

The standards of each activity offered are set by various national and international recognised sports governing bodies. The qualifications of instructors are similarly specified. Each beach concession should be supervised by a suitably qualified person as defined by the activity offered. This will comply with the definition of a fit and qualified person.

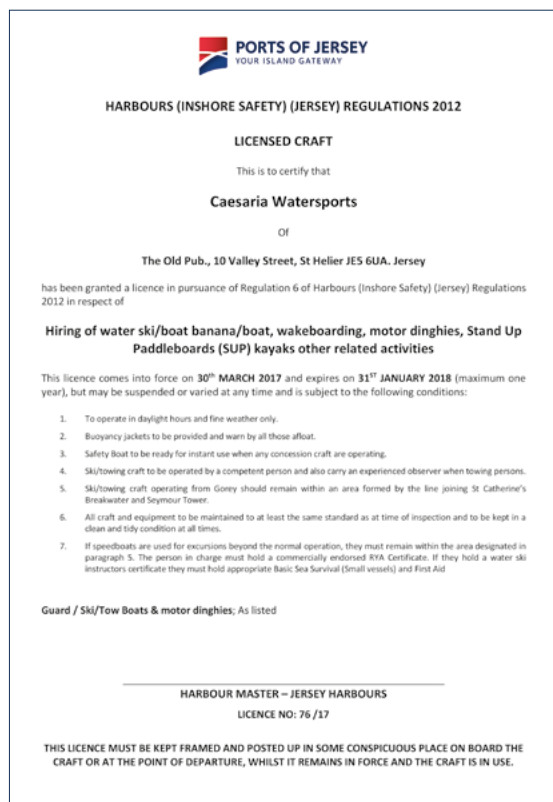
The vessel will be inspected to determine that they are fit for purpose and meet specific standards as laid down by the various governing bodies.

Staff engaged as instructors, persons in charge of vessels or other support staff must have sufficient local knowledge for the activity offered.

The concession should have in place, adequate normal operating procedures and emergency operating procedures for each activity. Copies of these should be supplied to an inspector when annual checks are carried out.

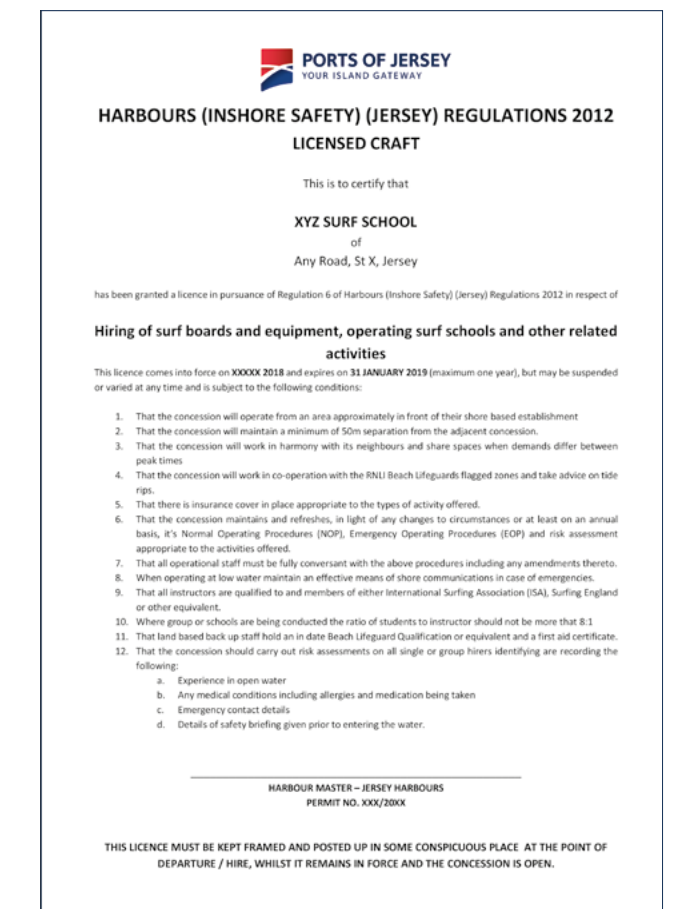
Each concession should have in place adequate insurance cover for all the activities offered.

## 3.2 SURF SCHOOLS AND SURF CONCESSIONS



Following the introduction of the Harbours (Inshore Safety) (Jersey) Regulations 2012 the definition of a ship includes every description of water craft that is used, or capable of being used as a means of transportation on, in or under the water. Unlike the United Kingdom this definition includes Personal Water Craft and surf boards of more than 1.54m in length fitted with a fin for steering purposes. It excludes a body board.

Any concession wishing to hire or give surf lessons on a "long board" is considered to be plying a ship for hire and must comply with the requirements of Regulation 6, in so far as the vessel (s) must be insured, fit for purpose and the person in charge (in this case the hirer or instructor) is a fit and qualified person to do so. In this instance the surf boards must be inspected annually, the concession carry adequate insurance and the instructors duly qualified to the appropriate standards depending on the type of activity offered. Such concessions should also have in place Normal Operating Procedures (NOPs) and Emergency Operating Procedures (EOPs) and have in place, in case of emergencies,







IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY  
CALL 999 OR CONTACT JERSEY  
COASTGUARD ON 01534 447705  
AND VHF CH16.

