



Recreational Vessel Safety Information

Portland has access to picturesque coastlines and excellent waters for recreational boating.

Port of Portland is a busy regional port servicing large bulk carriers while the Glenelg Shire Council provide excellent facilities for recreational boating.

It is important when heading out on the water that you remember a few key points and ensure that your vessel is in working order, you have the required safety equipment and wear a lifejacket when required.

www.portofportland.com.au



Plan Your Day on the Water

Before heading out on the water make sure you check the following:

- Weather forecast
- Shipping movements
- Current weather

Shipping movements may occur at times other than the ones on the website, always be mindful of what's happening around you.

For information on shipping movements:

[!\[\]\(95b425611cbd2b8716a140cf67c81822_img.jpg\) Port of Portland - Shipping Movements](#)

For information on current weather:

[!\[\]\(4f6bf54ae7e4144a72d78316053e412d_img.jpg\) Port of Portland - Weather](#)

Safety Equipment

Based on the size and type of recreational vessel and where you are operating the vessel, you will be required to carry certain safety equipment as specified under the *Marine Safety Act 2010*.

For more information, please refer to Safe Transport Victoria:

[!\[\]\(19d44b37fb4fa155bf9d60c77a3d3cb2_img.jpg\) Safe Transport Victoria - Safety Equipment](#)

What lifejacket am I required to wear?

For information on the requirement for wearing a life jacket refer to Safe Transport Victoria:

[!\[\]\(23a2e9ddc7bb0ef55393d38b772a848d_img.jpg\) Safe Transport Victoria - Wear a Lifejacket](#)



Port Security Zones

All recreational vessels and those not engaged in port operations are required to:

- Remain 25 metres clear of a commercial vessel at all times
- Not to enter the dock basin near the grain silos (do not go between KSA1 and Berth 5)

These security zones are enacted under *Maritime Transport Facilities Offshore Security Act 2013* and can incur hefty penalties.

Anchoring in Designated Channels

It is prohibited under the *Marine Safety Act* to anchor in designated channels and fairways. When anchoring, always consider your proximity to a channel or fairway and do not anchor in the channel.

Safe Speed and Proper Lookout

It is the master of a recreational vessels responsibility to proceed at a safe speed and maintain a proper and effective lookout. Remember that others use the water for a variety of activities including:

- Swimming
- Paddle boarding, canoeing and kayaking
- Sailing
- Surfing

Make sure you keep a good lookout so you can take action to ensure everyone is safe and you are traveling at a speed where you have enough time to take action.

Diving

The master of a vessel for which recreational diving takes place shall comply with section 51.3.2 and 51.3.3 of Harbour Masters Directions.



Stopping Distance and Ability to Alter Course

Large vessels cannot stop quickly. Unlike a car, a ship does not have a break. It can be between 5 to 8 ship lengths to stop without assistance. So for a 200 metre vessel that is 1600 metres to stop it.



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Speed of Large Ships

The speed of large ships can be deceptive, and they may appear from a small vessel to be a long way away and moving slowly. In reality they are likely to be moving quicker than you expect. Always take action to keep clear of big ships early.

Visibility from Big Ships

Small vessels may not be visible from the navigation bridge of a large ship. Vessels larger than 55 metres long are required to be able to see 2 ship lengths ahead or not less than 500 metres, whichever is shorter. Even within this distance, due to the height of the bridge, the sea conditions and the size of the vessel, smaller vessels may not be visible.

 **Do not assume that large vessels have seen you, and keep clear of large ships.**

Keep Clear of Big Ships

When operating a boat within port waters and around commercial vessels it's important to remember a few facts:

- Large vessels cannot stop quickly
- Large vessels may not be able to safely turn away
- In a small boat you may not be visible from the bridge of a large ship

 **When you are on the water make sure you keep clear of big ships.**



Organising a Boating Event

The organisers of recreational boating events, within port waters are required under section 51.4 of Harbour Masters Directions to provide notification no less than 1 week prior to the event. Under the *Marine Safety Act 2010* the organiser of an event is required to eliminate the risks of safety.


Information on Recreational Boating Facilities

Glenelg Shire Council are the water way manager for the Local Port of Portland Bay. The council operate:

- Two 8 lane boat ramps
- The Portland Bay Marina and
- The Trawler Wharf



For additional information on recreational boating facilities please refer to the Local Port of Portland Bay:

 [Glenelg Shire Council - Local Port of Portland Bay](#)







Rules and Regulations to be Aware of

Victorian Vessel Operating and Zoning Rules (VOZR)

VOZR sets waterway rules for Victorian State Waters and individual waterways. Under VOZR the master of a vessel must not cause or allow the vessel to be operated on any State waters at a speed exceeding 5 knots:

- within 50 metres of a person in the water; or
- within 100 metres of a vessel or buoy on which a dive flag is displayed, or a rigid replica of that dive flag; or
- within 50 metres of another vessel except where both vessels are either:
 - engaged in competition or training; or
 - within an exclusive use or special purpose area prescribed in a Schedule to this Notice which is set aside for a specific activity under Clause 13 in which the width of water prevents the keeping of that distance.

Additional Resources

-  [Safe Transport Victoria - On the Water](#)
-  [Beacons](#)
-  [Victorian Fisheries Authority - Boat Safety](#)
-  [Victoria Police - Boat Safety](#)