



Wick Harbour Authority

MARINE RECREATIONAL & LEISURE ACTIVITY POLICY STATEMENT

Wick Harbour Authority (WHA) as a Statutory Harbour Authority, act as a regulator and enforcer regarding a range of legal duties and powers conferred within Acts of Parliament and within full compliance of the Port Marine Safety Code for safely managing marine operations within statutory harbour limits.

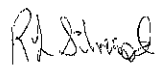
The scope of the Marine Recreation & Leisure Activity Policy is to formally recognise the growth and diverse range of leisure activities undertaken within Wick Harbour's statutory harbour limits.

This policy will regulate the safe and efficient use of the harbour and all who navigate and operate upon its waters and will provide direction, guidance and support to those organisations, associations and individuals who may promote or undertake marine based leisure activities within the statutory harbour limits.

In order to comply with marine safety regulatory standards and legislation all marine leisure activity will comply with the following safety directions as required:

- All marine leisure activity will be considered/assessed on a risk mitigation basis in compliance with the Port Marine Safety Code. All clubs, associations and event planners will be required to submit a formal risk assessment of proposed marine leisure activity to WHA for approval.
- All marine leisure activity will comply with national legislation & regulatory standards and Wick Harbour General Bylaws and will be subject to the WHA Marine Enforcement Policy as necessary.
- All marine leisure craft operators will comply with any General Direction made by WHA and any Special Direction made by the Wick Harbour's Harbour Master or their delegated marine assistants.
- Jet skis, paddle boards, inflated leisure equipment or any other similar floating or towed leisure equipment will be prohibited for use within the operational harbour, navigable channel and immediate port entrance which may obstruct, interfere, or cause nuisance with other harbour users.
- No leisure craft or leisure activity shall obstruct or interfere with the safe navigation of commercial vessel operations on any occasion whilst underway or alongside whilst within the statutory harbour limits or obstruct/interfere with any commercial activity or commercial development taking place.
- It is a requirement before any marine leisure activity can proceed to request approval to proceed from the Harbour Master's office and notify again upon completion of such marine leisure activity.
- WHA is committed to engaging in full stakeholder consultation when formulating operating policy, safety guidance and safe operating procedures.

The above guidance is not exhaustive and operates in conjunction alongside the extant Wick Harbour Marine Safety Policy, the Marine Enforcement Policy, and the Port Marine Safety Code guide to good practice.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Silverwood'.

Robert Silverwood – Chair Wick Harbour Authority

April 2024