

Boating is a popular activity for many Southlanders and we have a number of areas ideally suited to boating activities. We want everybody to enjoy their time on the water, but there are a few navigation safety rules that apply to ensure everyone stays safe.

Safety information

Wear a lifejacket

All vessels must have suitable lifejackets, easily accessible, for each person on board. They must be worn at all times on vessels 6 metres and under and at times of increased risk on all other vessels.

Communication

Make sure somebody knows where you are going and when you are expected back. Contact Bluff Fishermen's radio on VHF Ch 61.

Take at least two forms of communication with you – VHF radio, flares, cellphone in a waterproof bag, EPIRB.

Be prepared

Make sure you have the necessary equipment – anchor, bailer, oars, spare fuel, torch, first aid kit and warm clothes.

Take care

Use caution and ensure you have plenty of room on the water when towing. Watch out for anyone in the water.

Avoid alcohol when boating.



Know the rules

- ▶ All vessels, including jet skis, cannot exceed 5 knots within 200 metres of shore unless in a speed uplift zone.
- ▶ It takes three to ski – boat skipper, skier and an observer (who must be 10 years or older).
- ▶ A person under 15 years of age is not permitted to operate a vessel capable of exceeding 10 knots unsupervised.
- ▶ Keep to designated ski access lanes. Move in an anti-clockwise direction in the ski access lanes.
- ▶ To ensure the area is kept free for everybody to enjoy, don't park your vessel in the ski access lane.
- ▶ If you are involved in a collision or accident, you must notify the harbourmaster and Maritime New Zealand.
- ▶ Keep to the starboard (right) side of a river channel and if going upstream give way to a vessel coming downstream.
- ▶ It is your responsibility to ensure you know the navigation safety rules. You may be subject to an infringement fee for offences against the *Southland Regional Council Navigation Safety Bylaws 2009* (reviewed 2015) for breaching any of the rules.
Full details can be found at www.es.govt.nz

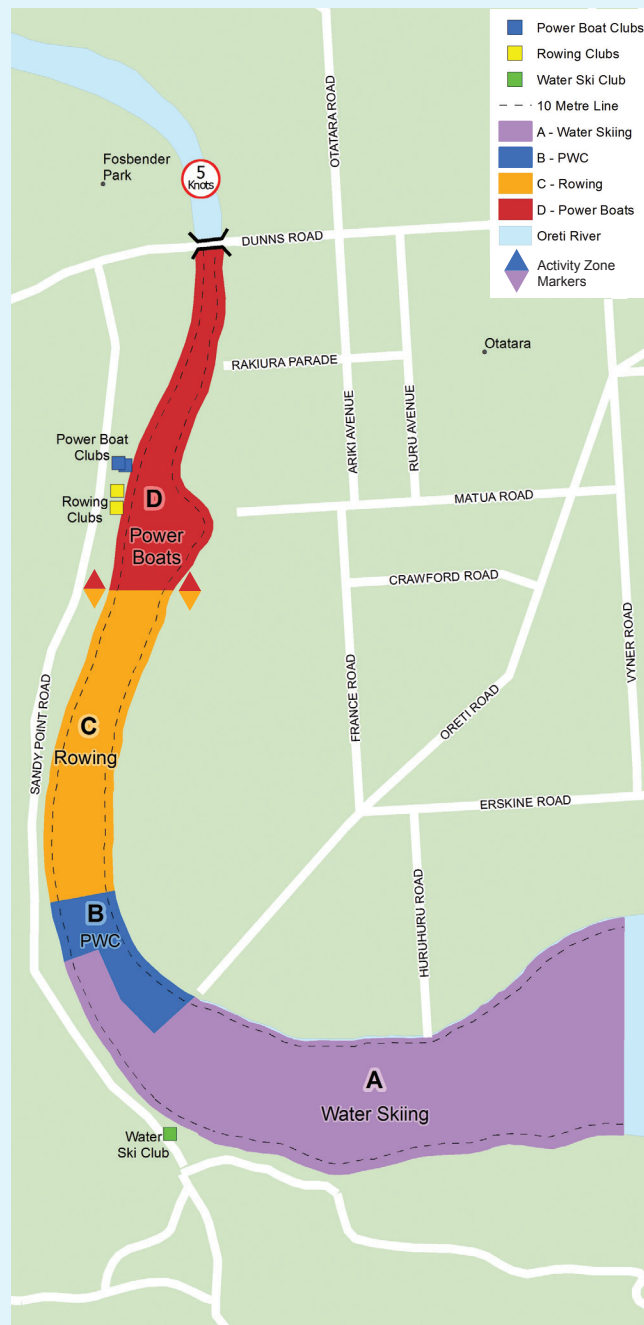
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Navigation Safety Guidelines

Lower Oreti River

Lower Oreti River boating activity zones



To minimise conflicts between boating activities on the lower Oreti River the following zones and restrictions are in force. Markers on-shore define the boundaries of the activity zones.

Area A – Water skiing

- ▶ Water skiing is permitted in Area A only.
- ▶ Only boating activities (no fishing or swimming) are permitted within 10m of the shoreline, from 120m south-east of the Southland Water Ski and Runabout Club control tower to 160m north-west of the same tower.
- ▶ Speed limit of 5 knots within 10m of the shoreline or 50m of any ship, raft or person in the water.
- ▶ Unrestricted speed limit beyond 10m of the shoreline for all craft.

Area B – Jet skiing

- ▶ Jet ski activities are permitted in Area B only.
- ▶ Speed limit of 5 knots for all boats, including jet skis within 10m of the shoreline or 50m of any other boat, raft or person in the water.
- ▶ Unrestricted speed limit beyond 10m of the shoreline for all craft.
- ▶ Any boat other than a jet ski must use Area B only for passage through that area.
- ▶ Special conditions apply during rowing regattas.

Area C – Rowing

- ▶ Speed limit of 5 knots for all boats within 10m of the shoreline or 50m of any other boat, raft or person in the water.
- ▶ Unrestricted speed limit beyond 10m of the shoreline for boats only associated with rowing activities. Speed limit of 5 knots for all other craft.
- ▶ During rowing regattas and rowing race days, only boats associated with rowing activities are permitted in Area C.

Area D – Power boats

- ▶ Speed limit of 5 knots within 10m of the shoreline or 50m of any other boat, raft or person in the water.
- ▶ Unrestricted speed limit beyond 10m of the shoreline for all craft.

Upstream of Dunn's Road Bridge

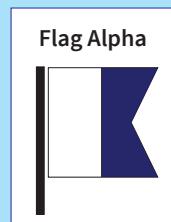
- ▶ Speed limit of 5 knots upstream of the Dunn's Road Bridge.

Speed limits



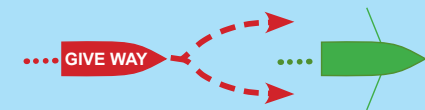
Watch your speed near the shore, wharves and jetties. Do not exceed 5 knots within:

- ▶ 200m of the shore or any structure
- ▶ 200m of any vessel flying Flag Alpha (diver's flag)
- ▶ 50m of another vessel
- ▶ 50m of a person in the water

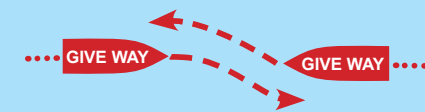


Boating navigation tips

Vessels overtaking: Every overtaking vessel gives way, including sailing boats.



Power vessels head on: Both alter to starboard.



Power vessels crossing: Power vessels give way to others on their starboard (right) side. Give way boats should cross behind (sailing boats have different rules).

