



Operation of Fast Rib Rides and Jet Skis in St Ives Bay

The harbour authority does not grant licences for passenger vessels, these are licensed by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA). All vessels have to abide by the harbour speed limits and follow harbour rules whilst within the harbour limits – St Ives harbour limits run from Porthminster Point to the Island. Their speed is not restricted whilst at sea i.e. outside harbour limits.

All vessels are subject to the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGS). Amongst the rules, COLREGS specify that “every vessel shall at all times maintain a proper look-out”

The jet skis are being operated as part of a guided tour, not individual self drives. The company operating them has agreed a code of conduct with me that ensures a safe operation whilst causing the least disturbance. The hirers will be trained before departure, and will be led by a qualified instructor, any individual breaking any rules will be escorted back to the harbour and their trip terminated.

The tour leaders are fully trained and qualified, the jet skis will operate a prescribed route taking them away from the harbour and beaches. Their speed is limited, and the machines are brand new, so conform to the latest environmental standards.

The jet skis are not operating directly from the harbour, the pontoons will be towed out, and the jetskis will be boarded and depart from outside the harbour. The code of conduct requires them to keep a minimum of 200 metres from any coastline, and the operators are all trained, or in the process of being trained to the WiSE accreditation, this is the nationally recognised training to minimise wildlife disturbance.

Mike Ridgway
Harbour Master St Ives and Newquay
Maritime Section
Tel: 01736 795018
Email: michael.ridgway@cornwall.gov.uk

