



## How to be a responsible watercraft user

### *Plan Your Trip*

Know the waters you want to travel in. Locate safe, environmentally-sound docking areas. Avoid environmentally sensitive areas, nesting grounds and wildlife.

### *Dock Cautiously*

Avoid docking where animals are on shore, and stay away from plant life.

### *Refuel Carefully*

Refuel your PWC on land, and mop up spills with an absorbent pad. Clean your engine away from the waterline.

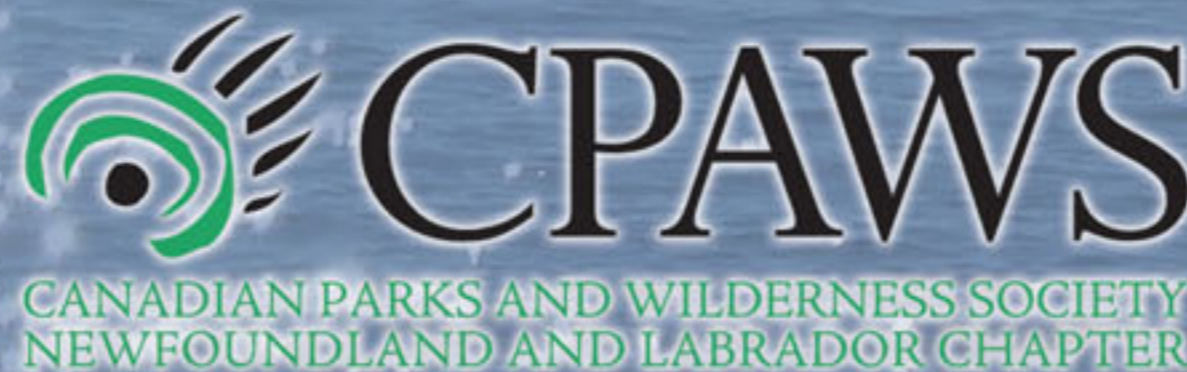
### *Stay In Main Channels*

Use your PWC in deeper waters to avoid turbidity (stirring up the bottom) and to protect plant life. Many species thrive in shallow water environments, and they are very sensitive to small changes in the system.

### *Respect Others*

Use idling speed to keep noise to a minimum near other people and near wildlife. Be aware of other watercraft.

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# CPAWS

CANADIAN PARKS  
AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY

*Newfoundland & Labrador Chapter*

## Personal Watercraft use



*Do your part for  
responsible eco-tourism!*



## Nature: project what you enjoy

Spending time on the water for employment and recreation is an important part of our culture.

But the natural beauty of Newfoundland and Labrador that we all enjoy is at risk.

We must work together to protect it.

## What can you do?

As a personal watercraft user, you can take action by doing the following things:

- Decrease pollution by using machines with four-stroke engines
- Increase your awareness of environmental issues and act responsibly

## Be a good example!

With thousands of personal watercraft operating in our waters each year, we risk causing irreparable damage to our coastal environments. If used indiscriminately, these watercraft can disturb nesting grounds, destroy crucial shallow water ecosystems, and frighten wildlife.

Some personal watercraft operators have been known to chase whales and other aquatic animals, or to ride close to seabird nesting areas, causing birds to take flight, exposing their eggs to the elements. This irresponsible behaviour gives all PWC operators a bad name.

Individuals and tour operators must take responsibility to protect the waters they explore.



## Stay in deeper waters!

## A natural legacy

If we want our children to enjoy our water environments, we need to take action.

### *Protect Coastal Areas:*

Personal watercraft can contribute to shoreline erosion and the destruction of shallow water species. Observe 'No Wake' zones, use idling speeds in shallow water, and avoid turbidity.

### *Protect Wildlife:*

Stay away from aquatic birds and their nests, and do not chase or harass whales and other aquatic animals. Keep wake and engine noise to a minimum.

### *Don't Pollute:*

Use four-stroke engines to minimize pollution and use caution when fueling or cleaning engines. Keep gasoline and oil out of the water.

### *Keep It Clean:*

Empty all possible water reservoirs, and clean your water craft after each trip to prevent transporting plant and animal species to new areas. Transferring species to a new area can disrupt the existing ecosystem and threaten the species within it.

