

Maritime Safety Queensland

Marine Information Bulletin

Recreational boating in Queensland with the Home Confinement Direction

Issued 16 April 2020

In this pandemic, MSQ asks skippers to be responsible and support the Chief Health Officer and help stop the spread of COVID-19. Queensland's Chief Health Officer has been very clear – **if you don't need to be out then stay at home.**

That said, there are essential reasons along Queensland's long and populated coastline where people need their boat or personal watercraft (PWC) – like fishing, exercise, going shopping, or getting to work.

The current rules don't seek to stop boat/PWC owners using their vessels for essential reasons.

Some essential reasons you may need to use your boat/PWC could be to:

- (1) exercise (e.g. kayaking/sailing/paddling/waterskiing/wakeboarding etc);
- (2) fish;
- (3) get to and from work, where the work cannot reasonably be performed from home;
- (4) get groceries; and
- (5) provide assistance, care or support to an immediate member of the person's family.

Remember:

- Social distancing rules always apply – at the boat ramp and on your boat. Going boating creates a range of unnecessary contact points within the community such as refuelling or gathering additional stores to those in your household. There's also the risk you create to anyone who may have to come to your rescue if you get into trouble
- Boaties should only be with one other person, or with family from the same household.
- If you do need to go out, stick to your local waters.
- Unless you have an essential need to be out - stay ashore, stay home

If you're looking for a loophole to leave the home, then you probably shouldn't be heading out.

Boaties should be aware that the information below is subject to change based on the latest advice from the Chief Health Officer. Find the latest advice here: <https://www.covid19.qld.gov.au/>