



PWC Newsletter - July 2022

Welcome to the first edition of the PWC e-newsletter. We hope to be able to bring you interesting information which may enhance your enjoyment of this amazing craft. We aim to cover various topics such as cruising on your PWC, fishing, towing, Jetski Tas updates and safety tips.

In June 1998 there were just 105 Personal Water Craft registered in Tasmania. There are now 1,546 registered PWC, an increase of 1,489%. This now represents 5% of the Tassie recreational fleet.



PWC

Gone now are the majority of the noisy old two strokes, which were lighter and smaller. In 2006 manufacturers were forced to produce the quieter 4 strokes due to environmental restrictions. Many PWC now have a seating capacity for three people and have developed into "luxury" vessels with a variety of options available to be fitted.



What's best for you

There are many different models available and knowing how you intend to use the PWC will influence the type you choose. You may be looking for speed, or towing the children behind on skis or a biscuit. Some are built for cruising with family or friends.

PWC being fitted specifically for fishing is also becoming increasingly popular. Some models now have swivelling seats and are fitted with live wells, fish finders and other features normally limited to boats.

Whatever you wish to do, there will be a model specific to your needs!

PWC Safety - MAST Website





Fishing from a PWC

This may not be for everybody and it is just not a matter of simply heading out and dropping a line. The following article from Wesley van den Herik highlights the need for preparation of your craft for specific purposes. Wesley and Reg Turner from Maynes Marine have customised their craft for offshore fishing. Contact Reg at Maynes with any queries you may have regarding customising your PWC.

Type of PWC

It's possible to catch fish from any PWC, however specialised fishing jet skis like the Seadoo fish pro come with great features such as a chart plotter, cooler, cruise control for trolling, rod holders, and a flat seat to make it easier to sit sideways and fight fish. It's also larger, which gives more room for the accessories.

Customisations

Having enough fuel is key for any type of vessel. Personal Water Craft usually have a 50-70 litre fuel tank which is not enough for a full day of trolling for tuna and having enough fuel to travel to the fishing spots. It's very common to use 40-70 litres in a day, so extra fuel tanks should be considered. A spare tank of 45 litres is recommended and Maynes Marine is able to connect this to the main tank so you don't have to pour fuel while on the water, which is inconvenient and there is an increased risk of fire or spilling.

Most boats run a dual battery system with an isolator. PWC come standard with a single battery and because of this have a higher risk of having to be rescued in case of a broken or empty battery. It is recommended to have a professional install a fuel battery system with isolator and keep both batteries charged and in good condition. Even if you fish close to the shore, you can get into trouble when the wind is blowing towards the rocks and you can't get the ski started. I wouldn't fish on a ski anymore without this set up.

I also installed extra rod holders made out of metal because of the heavy drag used for tuna. Plastic rod holders are not durable enough.

Another safety feature common on boats are bilge pumps. PWC don't come with this by default either, so I had a high speed pump installed to give me more time to reach the shore in case of a leak in the hull.

Safety equipment

Besides the standard equipment required by law, I use some extra safety equipment; a second VHF radio and a second Personal Locator Beacon, which I always have connected to my life vest. It's easier to fall in the water from a PWC compared to a boat. The PWC will keep moving forward if you forget to connect the kill switch while trolling and fall off and you don't want all your safety equipment to be in your PWC at that point.

How to catch tuna from a PWC

Be prepared for a challenge! Tuna fishing from a boat is already spectacular and fishing solo from a PWC is definitely next level difficulty. I often run two and sometimes three rods. Imagine hooking two or three fish with reefs close by and other predators trying to steal your catch! Don't forget you need to focus on operating the ski as well and the most important thing is to make sure you don't suck up any line or kelp in the intake. The jet intake is definitely the Achilles of this type of fishing and can leave you stranded if you don't manage to get the object out. Start fishing with one rod if you are new to this type of fishing and add a rod when you are comfortable. The basics of tuna fishing are the same as on a boat. It helps if you have a chart plotter showing your speed and ensure you are fishing 6-8 knots. PWC like the Seadoo fish pro come, by default, with a chart plotter and fish finder.

Make sure you have it worked out in your head how to deal with a big fish before you hook it. I have been able to catch big tuna up to 97kg, but it is only because of meticulous planning that I was able to do this successfully.

Clothing

The unobstructed 360° view from a PWC is great and it's much easier to spot birds, seals or tuna. You definitely get wet on the rougher days so wearing a two piece neoprene wetsuit or two piece sharkskin clothing keeps you warm if you get wet. I find with another windproof layer on top it's most comfortable even in the winter. Bring tough gloves with Kevlar to be able to leader tuna.



Jetski Tas

The Tasmanian Jet Sport Boating Club is Tasmania's only PWC Club. The Club aims to provide a safe and fun environment for all personal watercraft users around the state, while respecting other water users. The following article has been supplied by Committee Member, Dean Haley.

Throughout the year the Club conducts social local rides, remote tours, time trials and family events. Although most events are spread around the state's towns and cities, we also head to some of the most remote and isolated areas of Tasmania including places like the Pieman River and Tasman Island, just to name a couple.

Usually we have a group of between 10 – 20 PWC, with members of all ages.

Club members have all types of PWC, from stand-ups through to luxury 3 seaters, supercharged and non-supercharged, and all

brands and models.

This year we have seen a large number of stand-up jet skis being purchased, both new and from the second-hand market. Although a lot harder to ride, it's great to see people still enjoying the traditional stand-up style of PWC.

The Club has some of the most knowledgeable PWC riders in the state and they are always lending a hand, helping out wherever they can. Don't feel that you may not know enough to tag along on our rides - this is completely the opposite of what we are about. If you are a complete PWC novice and just purchased your first craft, then please join JetskiTas. Come along to our events, meet like-minded people and get the most out of your new purchase. We have not come across any new member who hasn't had a positive thing to say about the Club and they are really enjoying the organised events that we run throughout the season.

Annual membership is only \$45 for individuals and \$60 for families. We also welcome new sponsors who are willing to support the Club's intentions and join in where possible.

See our website jetskitas.com for more information, membership and sponsorship forms.

Our new ride calendar for 2022 -2023 will be released at our AGM dinner on 30 July 2022 at the Eastcoaster Resort in Orford. The AGM starts at 4.45 pm with club dinner to follow. All are most welcome to join.

Follow us on Facebook at jetskitas.com for all up-to-date details and ride briefings for coming events.

Jetski Tas



Marine and Safety Tasmania, Level 1, 18 Hunter Street, Hobart
7000

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