

SAFETY

In the interest of safety:

- All operators **MUST** hold a Personal Watercraft operator's license from the Authority.
- Operators must not operate outside areas designated by SLASPA, and will provide persons riding with an approved personal floatation device.
- All operators must maintain 5 knots speed, or slower so as to comply with no wake zones as determined by the Division of Maritime, within 150 feet from another vessel, shore, docks, piling or any structure.
- All crafts must maintain a distance of 100 feet from any divers-down flag, and 200 feet offshore only approaching the shore in a designated staging area.
- A person shall not operate a personal watercraft carrying more persons than the personal watercraft is designed to carry.
- A craft shall not be operated from sunset to sunrise.
- A craft shall not be operated in weather and sea conditions which may prove hazardous.
- embarkation and disembarkation must be in an area authorized by the Department.
- Operators will not operate in a reckless and /or negligent manner, and will not operate if under the influence of alcohol, illicit or prescribed drugs, that impair judgement or capacity to operate safely.
- In the event of an accident any person operating a vessel involved in a boating accident shall make every reasonable effort to provide aid to the involved persons and report the accident to the proper authorities.
- every operator must aid, whenever possible persons in distress at sea.

ORIENTATION

Before renting out crafts the owner is to administer a fifteen minute orientation training on the use of the craft and safety procedures.

An owner who fails to comply with the orientation training will be guilty of an offence and liable to a penalty fee and imprisonment.



GET IN TOUCH

MOBILE NUMBER:
(758) 457-6152

EMAIL ADDRESS:
maritime@slaspa.com

WEBSITE:
www.slaspa.com/maritime



DIVISION OF MARITIME AFFAIRS

GUIDELINES FOR JET SKI OPERATIONS



BACKGROUND

The Saint Lucia Air and Sea Ports Authority (SLASPA), in seeking to fulfill its mandate to regulate marine and maritime activities in Saint Lucia's waterways, recognized the need for the development of a national policy on personal watercraft (PWC). It is intended that this policy will strengthen the current policy framework and enable a safe operating environment for riders, bathers, boaters and others sharing the same operating space.

OBJECTIVE

We aim to:

- Create and maintain a safe beach experience for all users, especially popular beach locations which offer personal watercraft rentals and other touristic services.
- Facilitate the expansion and further development of personal watercraft rental services, as a tourism product and soft adventure experience in Saint Lucia.
- Ensure the issuing of personal watercraft licenses are done in an equitable, transparent, simple and efficient process.
- Provide a strong legal framework to police and monitor all personal watercraft activity within the coast of Saint Lucia.



IMPORTATION OF PERSONAL WATERCRAFT

To facilitate the smooth and efficient importation of personal watercraft into Saint Lucia, an MOU will be signed between SLASPA and Department of Customs and Excise. This MOU will facilitate the following:

1. An application for the importation of a personal watercraft must be made to SLASPA before ordering.
2. Once this application is received, the applicant/operator MUST complete full training and certification by all relevant agencies: Marine Police and Division of Maritime Affairs.
3. Upon arrival of the personal watercraft into Saint Lucia and when it is being cleared from Customs, a registration number will be issued by SLASPA. The stipulated registration fee MUST be paid to SLASPA before the importer can clear and pay the import duties to the Customs Department. Submission of supporting documents for registration prior to arrival is required.
4. A formal registry of personal watercraft should be kept by Customs and SLASPA. As such, both personal/private and commercial personal watercraft should be registered with the relevant Authorities.
5. The importer/owner must insure the personal watercraft prior to clearing it from the docks at SLASPA.

This will ensure all imported personal watercraft are registered with SLASPA and all operators, whether commercial or private, are certified and licensed.



APPLICATION FOR LICENSE AND REGISTRATION

A person desirous of operating a personal watercraft MUST be at least 16 years of age, and has to apply to the Division of Maritime Affairs. A completed application form along with a valid police record, first aid certificate and medical certificate must be submitted for approval.

Licenses issued are renewed annually

The Department shall not register or issue a license to an operator of a craft unless the operator is certified by the Division of Maritime Affairs, having successfully completed training in:

- Rescue procedures and First Aid
- Rules of the Road
- Security, Use of personal flotation device
- Swimming competency
- Vessel maintenance
- Customer Service,
- Noise and nuisance avoidance
- Re-boarding of craft in the event of accidental fall off
- Environmental concerns
- Location and content of warning labels
- Geographical boundaries of operation including access points.
- Any other training as the Department may specify from time to time.

INSPECTION

- Every craft that is registered has to be inspected by the Division of Maritime Affairs, who will decide the seaworthiness of the craft.
- Any alterations of the craft that would affect the terms of license and safety has to be submitted for inspection, 14 days post alterations.
- After passing inspection, the registration number assigned by the Division MUST be affixed on the craft.