



ROADS & INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

MARINE DEPARTMENT

ROTHESAY HARBOUR

LOCAL NOTICE TO MARINERS

Number 7 of 2026

INTRODUCTION OF M.S. WATERCRAFT ORDER 2023

The above Order is designed to ensure that Owners and Operators of watercraft (including jet skis and other small craft) in use in UK waters are **held accountable for their acts or omissions whilst using their craft.**

The Order states that the Sections of the Merchant Shipping Act which are designed to keep all persons in the water safe from accidents now apply to **ALL** powered watercraft as well as fishing vessels and ships.

In the Order the definition of a “watercraft” is any type of craft which:

- Is capable of moving under its own mechanical power.
- Is used, navigated or situated wholly or partly in or on water, and
- Is capable of being used to carry one or more person(s).

The applied provisions include Sections 58 and 100 of the Merchant Shipping Act. As a result, unsafe use of watercraft could result in prosecution under the Act with the owner, user or operator of such craft being liable on conviction on indictment to imprisonment of up to 2 years or an unlimited fine, or both.

More information on the M.S. Watercraft Order can be found on:

[The Merchant Shipping \(Watercraft\) Order 2023](#)

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