

BEADNELL BOAT LAUNCH

Rules for the launching of vessels

Rules for launching vessels and the operation of said vessels from the launch site at Beadnell Bay

N.B. Vessels are those that are capable of supporting one or more persons on water and having a mechanical device capable of giving propulsion

OR

Any vessel capable of supporting one or more persons on water that is greater in size than a Topper style dinghy, windsurfer board or small inflatable

Prior to launching

1. Vessels may only be launched from the beach with the permission of the launch operator who shall have complete discretion as to whether any vessel may or may not be launched. In particular NO vessel will be allowed to launch:
 - 1.1 If it is considered to be unsuitable for sea usage
 - 1.2 If it is not equipped with the mandatory safety aides
 - 1.3 If the weather conditions are deemed unsuitable or small craft warnings by HMCG have been issued
 - 1.4 If an excessive number of passengers are to be carried
 - 1.5 If the person in charge appears to be incapable of operating the vessel
 - 1.6 If the trailer carrying the vessel is no longer, because of deterioration, capable of transporting the vessel in a safe manner
 - 1.7 If the person in charge is below the age of seventeen (document to be shown when in doubt)
 - 1.8 If the launch fee or permit has not been paid
 - 1.9 If the person in charge has been previously in breach of the launch conditions or Bye Laws (see attached) relating to water safety
 - 1.10 If a photocopy of a valid certificate of insurance has not been handed in to the operator

Furthermore vessels will not be launched if the beach surface is considered to be dangerous by the launch operator.

The person in charge of the vessel shall grant the launch operator all reasonable facilities to inspect the vessel and any equipment therein.

The decision of the launch operator shall be regarded as final

2. Notwithstanding the authority of the launch operator to prevent launching, it is stressed that the personal responsibility for ensuring the vessel is sea worthy, has the required safety equipment on board and is not overloaded with excess passengers, lies with the person in charge of the vessel. Due regard must be given to all advice by the launch operator of potential or actual hazards to mariners (salmon netting berths, buoys, exclusion area etc.) and weather forecasts.
3. All seasonal launch permit holders must clearly identify their vessels with the identification mark (numbered board) allocated by the launch operator. The board should have numbers at least 15-20cms in height and should be positioned promptly on the vessel, preferably on the bow and be visible to other boat owners whilst at sea.
Boards must be handed back to the launch operator on return to the launch site.

Safety Equipment

4. Mandatory Safety Equipment is required on all vessels:
 - 4.1 Life jackets meeting British Standard Specification for each person on board. Buoyancy aids to SSBNF approved may be worn when operating at a minimum distance from the tide edge and not intending to cruise to deep waters. Whilst on board children must wear life-jackets at all times.
 - 4.2 Suitable anchor attached to a chain and a minimum length of 25 fathoms (150feet) of rope.
 - 4.3 Flares, hand held type. At least 2 of which must be within the expiry date shown. Mini flares are acceptable, but we strongly advise that hand held type are available on the vessel
 - 4.4 Compass – fixed or hand held
 - 4.5 Bailer – if not equipped with a self bailer
 - 4.6 Whistle on lanyard- preferably on each life-jacket
 - 4.7 Fire extinguisher – Power Boats
 - 4.8 Paddles or spare engine
5. No vessel shall be launched or used from the Beadnell Bay launch facilities unless there is in force, in relation to the vessel, **an Insurance Policy covering third party risks**, either unlimited in amount, or with a limit not less than fixed per accident by the major marine insurance companies, when registering to launch, **a photo copy of insurance cover** will be left with the operator as proof of cover and can be inspected by any relevant authority.
6. The vessel when in use must be in the charge of a competent person, not under 17 years of age, who shall at all times

operate the vessel in a careful and prudent manner and not cause nuisance or danger to any person or vessel. Due regard must be given to the Rules of Navigation at Sea, the diving clubs Code of Safe Practices and the local Bye-Laws governing speed restrictions.

7. ALL VESSELS MUST RETURN TO BEADNELL BAY AT LEAST 45 MINUTES before the launch site closes.

Failure to do so WILL invoke the Coastguard mounting a search and rescue operation. It is essential to get a search underway before nightfall. Should it be necessary to beach or seek shelter elsewhere the launch operator at Beadnell or the H.M. Coastguard (999) MUST BE NOTIFIED of the whereabouts of the vessel and crew

8. Motor vehicles are not allowed on to the beach without the launch operator's permission. All vessels will be launched by the site tractor operated by the launch operator. If the launch tractor is out of service then, with the permission of and, under the supervision of the launch operator, seasonal launch permit holders only will be granted permission to use their own vehicle to launch and retrieve their own vessel. Only one vehicle will be allowed on the beach at any one time and immediately after the vessel has launched the trailer must be returned to the trailer park and the vehicle to the car park.

GOING TO SEA

9. All vessels should proceed directly out to sea at not more than 8 knots following the white dot route through the restricted area shown on the site map, until well clear of bathers. A sharp lookout for persons bathing, paddling or using the sea must be kept at all times and in particular when approach the beach, the vessel should approach the beach with only sufficient speed to maintain steerage. Extreme caution should be displayed with a readiness to take avoiding action given the circumstances warrant it. Except when launching or approaching the beach via the authorised launching channel – NO PERSON IN CHARGE OF OR HAVING CONTROL OF A VESSEL MAY ALLOW THE VESSEL TO ENTER THE PUBLIC SAFETY ZONE (within area marked by black dots on the map available at the site office).
10. JET SKI'S MUST ALSO KEEP OUT OF THIS AREA EXCEPT WHEN LAUNCHING
11. **All vessels when towing a water skier must have two occupants, one to act as a helmsman and forward out look, the other to watch the skier.**

GENERAL INFORMATION

12. All divers are required to read, familiarise themselves and adhere to the instructions given in the information leaflet (incorporated within this booklet) provided for divers operating within the vicinity of the Farne Islands.
13. All users of the launch site are required to read, familiarise themselves and adhere to available Beadnell Bay safety leaflets (incorporated within this information)
14. All users of the launch site are required to read, familiarise themselves and adhere to the relevant Byelaws contained within this information.
15. Persons using the Beadnell Bay Launch Site do so at their own risk and the Operator accept no liability for claims, proceedings, damages, charges and costs how so ever arising and how so ever caused, whether in relation to property or the death or injury to any persons whether contract or tort in another manner, directly or indirectly as a result or in connection with the boat launching facilities at Beadnell Bay except insofar as the same results from the negligence of the Operator.
16. These conditions may be suspended, varied or withdrawn at any time by the Operator. Any permit issued may be withdrawn or cancelled forthwith should the person to whom it is issued be in breach of any of the conditions set out in this document.
17. Vessels may not be launched before 0800 hrs.
18. The site will be open from March 1st until 31st October each year

NOTES FROM THE INTERNATIONAL MARATIME REGULATIONS FOR USE IN CROWDED WATERS

1. Two power boats head on shall alter course to "starboard"
2. Two power boats crossing; the vessel which has the other on her Starboard side shall give way
3. Powered boats & other vessels; the powered boat shall give way to any boat or vessel which is not mechanically propelled
4. Vessels to keep course & speed; the vessel with right of way shall keep her speed & course
5. Vessels overtaking shall keep well clear of an overtaken vessel
6. Vessels in narrow channels: every powered boat shall, when it is safe & practicable, keep to the side of the channel which lies on her Starboard side

7. Powered boats when launching from slipway or beach must proceed directly to sea at low speed – no warming up is permitted
8. Special circumstances: In obeying & interpreting the rules, due regard shall be given to all dangers of navigation and collision, and to any special circumstances which may render departure from the above ruled necessary to avoid immediate danger

Sound Signals

- 1 short blast – alerting course to starboard
- 2 short blasts – alerting course to port
- 3 short blasts – going astern

starboard - right
port - left

The above are notes only – it is the duty of the person in charge of any vessel to observe all statutory regulations and the Rules of the Sea

SAILING CRAFT

1. When two sailing craft are approaching each other:
 - 1.1 When each has the wind on a different side, the one which has the wind on the port side shall keep out of the way
 - 1.2 When both have the wind on the same side, the windward vessel shall keep clear of the leeward vessel

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BEADNELL BAY
BEADNELL
NORTHUMBERLAND.

Richard Patterson,
Operator