

Personal Watercraft Prohibited

Personal Watercraft, (PWC) as defined below, are prohibited on all waters under the legislative jurisdiction of Canaveral National Seashore.

This prohibition shall not apply to the use of personal watercraft for emergency search and rescue missions for law enforcement operations carried out by National Park Service, U.S. Coast Guard, or other federal, state, or local jurisdiction.

Personal watercraft refers to a vessel; usually less than 16 feet in length, which uses an inboard, internal combustion engine powering a water jet pump as its primary source of propulsion. The vessel is intended to be operated by a person or persons sitting, standing or kneeling on the vessel, rather than within the confines of the hull. Personal watercraft includes, but is not limited to vessels referred to as jetskis, sea-doods, waverunners, wavejammers, wetjets, wetbikes, and surf jets.

This prohibition is necessary to prevent adverse impacts and disturbances to wildlife such as waterfowl, sea birds, and marine mammals. The loud, high speed nature and maneuverability of personal watercraft creates impacts to wildlife including interruption of activity, alarm and flight; avoidance and displacement; interference with movement; alteration of behavior, and nest abandonment. This prohibition is also necessary to avoid conflict with other visitor uses such as fishing, boating, kayaking, and boardsailing. The loud engine pitch and volume of noise are also disturbing to park visitors and intrude upon the opportunity for a peaceful park experience. The degradation of water quality due to emissions from the two-stroke engines is also a concern.

The prohibition is consistent with the closure of 40,000 of the 58,000 acres in Canaveral National Seashore by Fish and Wildlife Service to personal watercraft. Personal watercraft may launch from the North Apollo boat ramp and proceed north to the northern most seashore boundary, west along government cut to the intracoastal waterway.

Authority: Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Part I, Section 1.5
Regulatory reference: [Superintendent's Compendium](#)