

PWC CO-OP
AND
KEY WEST ANGLERS

USER CONFLICT RELIEF REQUEST

KEY WEST FISHING GUIDES, FISHERMEN AND LOWER KEYS PWC CO-OP TOUR OPERATORS

- * The PWC CO-OP has reached out to work together with the Key West area Anglers.

Goal of the Lower Keys PWC CO-OP

1. To work together to minimize user conflict.
2. Promote safety and respect.
3. To preserve the integrity of our shared resources.
4. To continue meeting and educate both user groups.
5. To better understand the needs, concerns and impact on our shared natural resources.
6. Work together to develop the best routes and riding areas for PWC tour operators to eliminate user conflict.

FLORIDA KEYS PWC CO – OP RULES - CODE OF ETHICS:

1. Zero tolerance for customers drinking alcohol.
2. 1-7 PWC 1 guide, 7-14 skis (2) guides.
3. Qualify the riders, if they cannot keep up with the tour; take them to a free ride area or back to dock.
4. Stay out of wildlife refuge and Military areas.
5. 300 feet between skis
6. Idle through bridges and in and out of sub pits
7. Control speed of tour w/ rear guide (AKA the HAWK)
8. Slow tour to accommodate boats, go around stern if they are under way; when in doubt stop the tour and assess the situation.
9. CPR Certified
10. Blue Rider Certified
11. State of Florida FWC Livery test / Certified
12. If there is a storm approaching go to port immediately.
13. Sealed case for cell phones. Communication is essential.
14. Respect other tour companies. Keep your distance.
15. Report all discrepancies to the owners.
16. Help other company tours if needed.
17. All tour guides carry VHF hand held waterproof radios and maintain a channel open to communicate between other tours and for safety.
18. If tour guides screw up they **will not be hired by any PWC companies in Key West.**
19. All PWC's customers must be part of a guided tour or be escorted to a ride free area. Rental companies at the Reach and Casa must escort and monitor their PWC riders to the Ride-Zone south of the coral/swim area south of Key West.

REQUEST TO OPEN UP A SMALL AREA OF WATER FOR PWC'S TO SAFELY OPERATE AWAY FROM ANGLERS AND BOATING TRAFFIC

- * Purpose:

- * To preserve our natural resources.
- * To reduce contact between the Key West Anglers and PWC operators.
- * To increase the safety of PWC operators.

TO PRESERVE OUR NATURAL RESOURCES.

- * The area is deep water and includes the main shipping channel.
- * By opening the proposed area of water there would be less contact between PWC's and wildlife that migrates down Calda Channel and the Pearl Banks to Demolition Key cut.
- * The waters south of the Pearl Banks are deeper.

To Reduce Contact Between The Key West Anglers and PWC Operators.

- * The Key West Anglers we met with would like to see a PWC ride area south of the Pearl banks. This would move the PWC's away from the fishing grounds near the east side of Frankfort Banks and Demolition cut.
- * By allowing the PWC operators to go to the G "WR5" marker it would give room to go around Anglers fishing off Ft Zachary Taylor.


To Increase The Safety of PWC Operators.

- * This would allow the PWC operators to navigate the west side of Sunset Key and avoid Key West Harbor traffic and cruise ships.
- * PWC operators need a reasonable area to operate to avoid one another.

The Area Being Considered Is: 81°49.6W by 24°32.5N to 81°49.6W by 24°34.9N

- * The area being considered is dotted in red.
- * The area outlined in black was the original area being requested.



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- * There are 4 down town Key West PWC Operators and 3 Watersport companies that have used this unmarked area for the past 22 years without incident.
 - * It is out of the way of other user groups.
 - * It has helped preserve wildlife and environment.
 - * It has proven to be a safe area for PWC to ride in.
 - * Rotary International 4 Way Test
 - * Is it the TRUTH?
 - * Is it FAIR to all concerned?
 - * Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
 - * Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?"

Personal Watercraft TODAY

Technology

- **All recreational PWC have four stroke engines**
- Some of quietest and lowest emissions vessels on the water
- Most PWC are 3 passenger, no recreational one passenger PWC are manufactured
- PWC have off throttle steering, reverse, and some have a braking system
- Some PWC have two sets of keys to govern speed, cruise control, no wake speed setting

Demographics

- Average age of PWC owner is 40 years old
- 72% of PWC owners currently own other types of powerboats
- Average PWC owner has 15 years experience of operating a powerboat

Environment

- Studies have proven: (copies of studies available)
 - o Less bird disturbance than outboards
 - o Set 100' buffer for all boats around bird colonies
 - o No seagrass impacts when operated in 2' or greater depth
 - o No manatee deaths from PWC

Economics

- PWC income from sales, use and livery rentals in Monroe County was approximately \$41 million in 2011, generating a total economic output valued at \$73 - 91 million.
- Sales tax on this total economic output from PWC sales and rentals generated \$5.75 - \$6.8 million to the state and Monroe County.
- PWC dealers and liveries provide more than 300 full-time jobs.