

Cyprus Port & Marine Police Unit



Mission of the Port & Marine Police is the surveillance of the coastline and the territorial waters of Cyprus, with the aim of preventing and combating crime (especially drug trafficking, illegal immigration, smuggling and terrorism). It also aims to rescue persons, providing help and assistance to persons whose lives are in danger at sea.

The main duties of the Port & Marine Police are the following:

- Coastal patrol of the Republic of Cyprus. Inspections at ports, bays and anchorages, in cooperation with other competent authorities of the Republic, for preventing and combating any illegal activities.
- Surveillance of sea traffic in the territorial waters and the contiguous zone with the use of the Automated Coastal Surveillance System (ACSS).
- Inspection and investigation of any ship reasonably believed that its crew was involved in any illegal activities. According Cyprus and international law surge vessels can be stopped whenever considered necessary.
- Providing all necessary information to the Search and Rescue Coordination Center concerning any incident at sea.
- Cooperation with the Search and Rescue Coordination Center to which the necessary vessels and the personnel of the Port and Marine Police are made available in order to coordinate any search and rescue mission.

- Transporting or escorting V.I.P's after approval of the commander of the Port and Marine Police.
- Undertaking initial actions required for any offense committed in the territory of the Republic (territorial waters) until the investigation is taken over by the local police administration.
- Carrying out administrative and physical checks to vessels, crews and passengers at ports and marinas.
- Guarding passenger ships and inspections for crew and passengers during embarkation and disembarkation.
- Patrolling swimming areas during summer season.
- Policing of the ports.
- Performing special operations and other police duties at sea.
- Any other police duties that are assigned by the Chief of Police.

Due to increased responsibilities and duties during summer season the Port and Marine Police is working in a methodic and organized way with intensive efforts in order to carry out its mission with success. Furthermore, guidelines are provided to the citizens for a safer summer at the coasts and seas.

Instructions to swimmers

- Always swim in the prescribed swimming areas, as designated by the red buoys along the coast.
- Never use the channels designated specifically for vessels, located vertically to the beach.
- Never leave your children swim unsupervised. Especially for children five years old or younger, a close and continuous supervision is needed. It is also necessary for the children to always wear a life jacket or any other kind of personal floatation device.
- Prefer beaches supervised by lifeguards, especially when you are accompanied by children.
- Avoid swimming after eating or drinking alcohol, especially if less than three hours have passed from your last meal.
- Use caution when you dive. Diving headers should be avoided.
- Scuba divers should always use a designated red or orange surface buoy (colors that are visible from a long distance). The rope of the buoy must be in a vertical position to the diver.
- Windsurfers must always bear in mind that it is possible to be drifted by waves away from the coast, or be tipped over their windsurfing board.
- Port & Marine Police continually patrols swimmers areas, and is ready to provide any assistance whenever necessary.

For further information you can also visit the Police website at: www.police.gov.cy.



Contact Information Port and Marine Police

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General information to the operators of high speed small vessels

High speed small vessel is a mechanically propelled vessel of a length not exceeding fifteen (15) meters which can attain a speed of at least fifteen (15) knots.

- Jet ski is a high speed small vessel, which is propelled by an outboard engine or an inboard jet propulsion system and which can carry one or more persons either seated or standing up.
- Every person who is using a high speed small vessel must have a valid operator's license issued by the Department of Merchant Shipping after successfully passing the relevant practical and theoretical examinations.
- Every person who has completed seventeen (17) years of age may acquire a learner's license and may operate a high speed small vessel on the condition that they shall always be accompanied by a person who has a valid operator's license.



- All high speed vessels should have a valid circulation license when operated. This license is issued by the Department of Merchant Shipping after successful inspection of the vessel.
- Temporary visitors staying in Cyprus for a period of less than thirty days (30) and are not holders of the above licenses, can operate a hired high speed small vessel provided they have signed a binding declaration of competence with the owner of the vessel, who is responsible to examine whether the temporary visitor possesses the necessary knowledge for operating a high speed small vessel according to the requirements of the high speed small vessel regulations.
- Always carry with you the operator's license as well as the vessels' circulation license.
- Always comply with the instructions of the lifeguards and the officers of the Port and Marine Police.
- Any person boarding the vessel must carry a life jacket and be seated in a firm and stable seat.
- Any person operating a vessel has to sail in a way which does not endanger people's lives and property and must avoid causing annoyance to others.
- The emergency cut-out line of the machine must be always connected with the operator.
- The owner of the vessel must always carry with him a copy of the ownership title.
- According to the legislation, para-skiing must be performed far away from the coasts and its equipment must be checked meticulously, according to the law.

Instructions for the operators of a high speed small vessel:

- Never enter the swimmers area.
- Sail from and to the coast ONLY on the designated channels with speed less than 5 km/h (3 knots).
- It is strictly prohibited to anchor the vessel under any circumstances in the swimmers areas. In such case vessels will be towed away and the owners will be prosecuted.
- Always be informed and comply with all the relevant laws and regulations.
- Before using the vessel, make sure that the vessel as well as its equipment are mechanically in perfect condition (fuel, paddles, marine VHF, pharmacy, etc.).
- Do not use the vessel if the weather conditions are not good.
- Never operate a high speed small vessel while under the influence of alcohol.
- Jet skis are only allowed to operate:
 - For the period of May 1st - September 30th between the hours of 10.00-13.00 and 16.00-19.00, at a distance of 200-700m from the coast. Between the hours of 13.00-16.00 they are only allowed to operate at a distance of 500-700m from the coast.
 - For the period of October 1st - April 30th skiing is allowed from sunrise to sunset.
 - Skiing is not permitted at any time around the year when:
 - Severe weather conditions occur.
 - Wind speed exceeds sixteen (16) knots.
 - Visibility is less than one (1) nautical mile.



Instructions for scuba divers

- Any scuba diver must have a diving certificate from a certified training center.
- The type, depth, and difficulty of diving depend on the training of the diver and the certificate they obtained.
- During diving, a vessel and an extra diver for safety have to be present. Divers must always dive in pairs.
- Before diving, a diver has to be well rested and not have consumed any alcohol for the last 24 hours.
- Do not eat before diving.
- Do not dive if you feel tired.
- Scuba divers should always use a designated red or orange surface buoy (colors that are visible from long distance). The rope of the buoy has to be in a vertical position to the diver.
- Every scuba diver must have good knowledge of possible diving accidents and they have to be ready to provide first aid if necessary.
- Find out where a decompression chamber is located.
- Always carry with you a bottle of pharmaceutical oxygen.
- Have the proper and well maintained diving gear.
- Diving at a depth less than 40m has to be carried out with bottles of atmospheric air as long as scuba divers are trained to do so in accordance with the approved tables.
- Scuba diving should be avoided during the night, during severe weather conditions or in areas with strong underwater currents.
- Never forget that scuba diving is always performed for pleasure and never put yourself or others in danger.

The Port and Marine Police advises everybody to comply with the above instructions and take all necessary precautions for avoiding any accidents.

Always remember that sea can become your deadliest enemy rather than a friend.



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