Nelson Mandela Bay Southern Beaches: Proposed Beach Aquatic Safety Zones (B.A.S.Z.)

Humpback Dolphin (Sousa chinensis) habitat of the Algoa and St Francis estuaries is demarcated by buffer zones of 300m. No person, except on the authority of a permit, shall approach closer than 300m to any whale or dolphin or fail to proceed to a distance of 300m should the whale or dolphin surface within 300m.  Contravention is punishable by fine or imprisonment. 

PROPOSED HUMPBACK DOLPHIN/BURMESE WHALE PROTECTION ZONE

An exciting proposal is the formation of a Humpback Dolphin Marine Sanctuary to protect the rare and endangered Indo-Pacific Humpback Dolphins (Sousa chinensis) which use the shallow water (depth < 4 m) of the Bay for breeding, calving, nursing and suckling. Contrary to popular belief, Humpback dolphins do not mimic whale song. They make complex, structurally rich echolocation clicks, similar to those used by dolphins of the genus Delphinus. The Cape has proven to be an ideal breeding ground for Humpback dolphins. Female Humpback dolphins are known to more than 300 km offshore and can remain at sea for over a year, with their calves. Calvings are particularly active around the month of May, with calves remaining with their mothers for 20 months. Humpback dolphins are commonly observed in Nelson Mandela Bay from June to September, with calves remaining with their mothers for 20 months. Humpback dolphins are commonly observed in Nelson Mandela Bay from June to September, with calves remaining with their mothers for 20 months.

PROPOSED BEACH AQUATIC SAFETY ZONES

Inflatable Boat/PWC Play Areas

Three play zones have been identified: 1. Kings Beach, in front of the existing beach access. 2. Hobie Beach, to the north of Launch Zone 1 and south of Launch Avenue (No Wake Speed). 3. Flat Rocks, south of Kings Beach. PWC operators wishing to make use of the PWC play area (B) must use the demarcated PWC avenue when entering or exiting the play area (B), PWC operators must travel at slow speeds (no wake) through these designated launch zones:

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<tr>
<th>Bays</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flat Rocks</td>
<td>Kings Beach</td>
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<td>Kings Beach</td>
<td>Flat Rocks</td>
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LAUNCH AREAS FOR MOTORISED CRAFT

Two launch areas are available for motorised and sail craft users, only registered seaworthy vessels and licensed skippers are allowed to launch. For safety, operators of unlicensed craft are requested to travel at slow speed (no wake) through designated launch areas:

1. Kings Beach, directly in front of the existing beach access.
2. Hobie Beach, to the north of Launch Zone 1 and south of Launch Avenue (No Wake Speed).

The following rules regarding parking are to be observed at the demarcated launch sites at Kings Beach: No vehicles are permitted to park inside the buffer zones on the grass, at Kings Beach trailers may be parked inside the launch area but vehicles except those authorised by the local authority are not permitted outside the area at any time.

INFLATABLE BOAT/PWC PLAY AREAS

These play zones are to be utilised by water sport users, and are identified in the diagram. No Stand Up Paddling is permitted in the area of Algoa Bay. Kings Beach is a designated Stand Up Paddling area. 

COMPLIANCE

All zones

ENFORCEMENT

Enforcement and apply local police, the saving, research staff and volunteers during organised water sport events with permission from the Beach Office. Members of the public can report suspicious activity to the beach office.

Beach Office: 044 589 0541 Emergency: 10911