

Lagoon Boating Protocol for Palmyra Atoll

In order to insure your safety and the safety of the environment we ask that you observe the following procedures when operating boats within Palmyra's Lagoons.

The Chief of Marine Operations (CMO) will give a boating clinic on the use, handling and storage of our Lagoon Vessels and approve all users. We have 3 Lagoon boats and 2 Lagoon chase boats. If you are new to the Atoll you will be given a tour of the lagoons to help familiarize yourself with the area. If you do not have boating skills or are determined to need additional skills you will not be allowed to operate a vessel and other arrangements will be made for your transit around the Lagoons.

Palmyra is for experienced boat operators only and as the boat captain you are responsible at all times for the safety of your vessel, crew, passengers and the environment.

Before departing the dock be sure the boat is equipped with:

1. Life Jackets (One per passenger. ***A Life Jacket only works if you wear it!***)
2. First Aid Kit
3. Safety Bucket (Which includes-flares, day marker, whistle, signal horn, throw rope, start rope and a mini chart.)
4. Complete anchor system-anchor, chain and line.
5. Fuel
6. Fire extinguisher
7. Paddle
8. **Drain plugs that are securely in place**
9. **Radio**
10. **Check fuel level before departing dock.**

- **Radio Checks.** Check to see if the radio is working and do a radio check. We monitor channel 16. Set up a check-in schedule with the Island Manager prior to departure. *See Radio Use Protocol for more information.*
- **No Wake Zones.** We have established several "No Wake" (4 knot) Zones within the Lagoons. No wake in the Main Lagoon from the forward range mark (along the warehouse and camp area) to the steel pile dolphins at the West end of the runway. The channel through the causeway into the East Lagoon. The entire area East of the East Lagoon out to Barren Island. When transiting the main ship channel 8 knots maximum. Areas not mentioned should be transited at a maximum speed of 12 knots to help preserve the environment and conserve fuel.
- **Watch for Sea Life.** Drive with CAUTION, the Mantas and Turtles are not accustomed to motorized traffic and will not get out of the way. Passing boat traffic can also disturb nesting birds. Please keep a distance of 50' from any Island and 100' from highly sensitive areas. *See maps for more detail.* Any area close to land should be transited at a no wake speed.
- **Accessing East Lagoon.** The area East of the East Lagoon out toward Barren Island can only be transited with a high tide of 12" or more. Check with the CMO and/or The Island Manager before heading to this area. They are happy to assist you in planning your voyage.
- **Follow Transit Buoys.** Buoys have been placed in transit areas around the Lagoons. These buoys mark the course you must drive to lessen impact of transiting vessels on the Lagoon systems. The CMO will point these out during your Lagoon tour.
- **No Offshore Use.** Lagoon boats are not to go offshore or leave the protected waters of the Lagoons. They are allowed out the main ship channel in an area bounded by the outside channel mark, the Longline wreck and then to a point due North to the North surf line.
- **Night use.** Due to the lack of navigation lights within the Lagoon and on the Lagoon vessels, night operations are not recommended. Any night operations are dependent on Weather/Sea State and need to be approved by the Island Manager and the CMO. Upon approval, rigorous check in schedules will be established and adhered to.
- **Alcohol.** Alcohol is not allowed on the Lagoon boats at any time.
- **Defective Equipment.** If you experience a problem with any of the equipment please let the CMO or Island Manager know so repairs can be effected.
- **After Use.** At the end of the day it is your responsibility to make sure the boat is fueled, hauled from the water, drain plugs pulled, First Aid Kit put into the dock shelter, boat and trailer rinsed with fresh water and stocked for the next trip. If you need assistance with trailering the boat please contact the CMO or Island Manager on VHF16. All vessels should be at the dock by 5:30.