

This leaflet was prepared in consultation with the following organisations:

Brue Yachts

BARB (Rescue Organisation)

Burnham Berrow & Brean Sea Angling Association

Burnham Boat Owners & Sea Anglers Association

Burnham-on-Sea Motor Boat & Sailing Club

H M Coastguard

Combwich Cruising Club

English Nature

Hinkley Point Sailing Club

Royal National Lifeboat Institution

Royal Yachting Association

U K Jet Ski Association

Wessex Fisherman's Association

Useful Telephone Numbers

**Burnham-on-Sea
Tourist Information Centre
01278 787852**

**Burnham-on-Sea Hospital
(07.00 - 22.00 Casualty)
01278 773100**

**Weston-super-Mare Hospital
(24 Hour Casualty)
01934 636363**

**Marinecall Local Weather Forecast
Current Weather 09068 226459
5 day forecast 09068 500459**

**Weston Recovery Service
01934 517021 (24 Hours)**

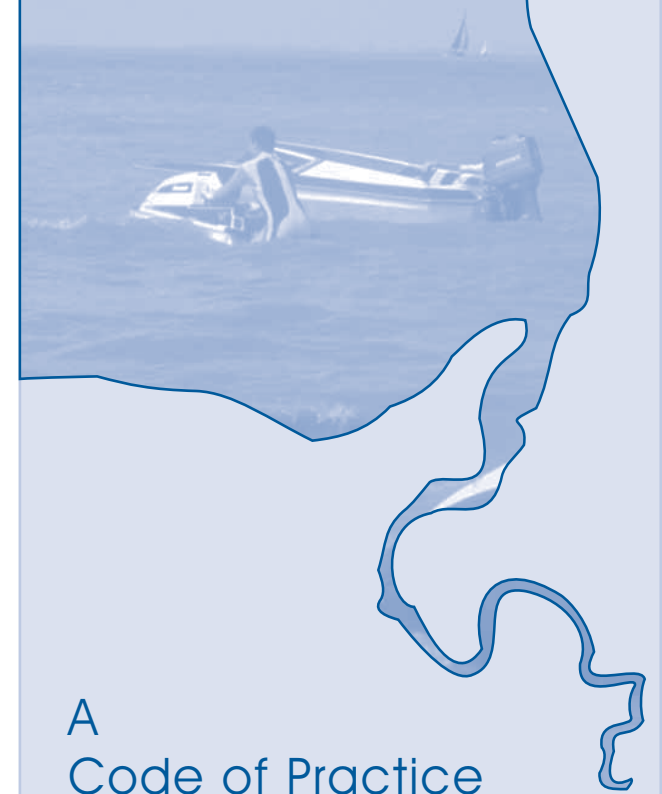
**Burnham Marine Charter
Boat Repairs
01278 794988**

**English Nature
01278 652426
01823 283211**

Please remember

**H M COASTGUARD
are responsible for dealing with
Marine Emergencies
Dial 999 and ask for the Coastguard
or call CH.16 VHF**

Bridgwater Bay & the Parrett Estuary



**A
Code of Practice
&
Information
for Small Craft Users**

Introduction

This Code of Practice has been drawn up to promote the safe use of the waters of Bridgwater Bay and the Parrett Estuary, particularly off Burnham-on-Sea.

Masters of all Pleasure Craft

Comply with Sedgemoor District Council Byelaws controlling pleasure boats to prevent danger to persons bathing. Copies of the Byelaws are available for inspection at Burnham-on-Sea Tourist Information Centre.

Maintain slow speeds to avoid wash when passing through boat moorings or when passing close to boats anchored for fishing.

Comply with International Regulations for prevention of collision at sea.

Keep well clear of all merchant vessels and avoid passing ahead of them. Such vessels are constrained by their draught.

Follow safety advice given in various publications available from Burnham-on-Sea Tourist Information Centre.

Ensure that their vessel carries adequate third party insurance cover.

Keep well clear of the wreck on Berrow foreshore which is clearly shown on Chart 1152.

All Main Jetty Users

Purchase a jetty permit from the Tourist Information Centre or Jetty Attendant.

Do not park vehicles or trailers on the jetty or beach and remove them as soon as possible after boat launch or recovery; where possible park trailers in marked spaces in the car park.

Follow instructions from the Jetty Attendant and Lifeguards.

Keep well clear of the jetty area unless launching or retrieving, and then navigate at slow speeds.

Launch between the jetty and yellow posts to the north. Please drive slowly on the jetty and beach.

Jet Ski (Personal Watercraft)

Keep well clear of jetty end and beach area where other craft are launching

Keep well clear of swimmers and paddlers

Follow procedures recommended in safety publications available in the Tourist Information Centre.

Angling Boats

Anchor clear of shipping channels when merchant vessels are navigating in the area.

Net Fishermen

Place nets to avoid impeding navigational safety.

Leave main channels clear.

Ensure that nets are clearly marked with buoys and flags.

Water Ski Users

Should have at least two persons on the tow boat, one to steer the boat, one to watch the skier.

Do not pass ahead of merchant vessels.

Please Note the Following

The rise and fall of sea levels of up to 12 metres off Burnham-on-Sea causes strong tidal currents. Visitors should study the tide table and local chart carefully and obtain knowledgeable local advice before proceeding to sea. Sand and mud banks in the whole area alter considerably, and sometimes rapidly, in both height and position.

Shore based anglers may have lines and tackle 200 metres out from shore. Monofilament line can foul a propeller driven craft.

Netting with fixed nets occurs in some parts of Bridgwater Bay, particularly off Stolford. Navigate very slowly in shallow water throughout the whole Bay as old stakes used for fishing may protrude up to a metre or so above the foreshore in places.

Local clubs such as Burnham-on-Sea Motor Boat and Sailing Club, Burnham Boat Owners Club and Sea Angling Association and Burnham, Berrow and Brean Sea Angling Association (mainly for shore anglers) have members with many years of experience and considerable local knowledge. The name and address of the Secretary of each club may be obtained from the Burnham-on-Sea Tourist Information Centre.

On large spring tides, flood gates on top of the jetty will be closed near high water to prevent flooding.

Anglers taking paying boat trips should ensure that they use boats that are properly licensed.

The slipway entering the River Parrett at Combwich only provides access to fenced private land.

The RNLI and BARB Boathouses are not continuously manned. In an emergency dial 999 and task for the Coastguard who will call the crew by pager, if required.

Landing on Fenning Island is not permitted. Landing on Stert Island is by permit from English Nature only.

A large proportion of Bridgwater Bay is a National Nature Reserve of International Importance and byelaws are available from English Nature.