

More buoys placed on Kromme river



Owing to the silting up of the channels in the Kromme River the St Francis Bay Riparian Homeowners Association and the St Francis Bay Residents Association as well as a number of volunteers, have agreed that the placing of buoys has now become essential. It must be clearly understood by all boat users that this is done to assist people in identifying where the channels exist however, the two associations cannot be held liable in the case of any incidents of boat damage and personal injury.

NSRI Safety Tips - Beware of Rip Currents in the sea

This is the time of the year that the volunteers at National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI) are kept on their toes as they are continually called to help people in trouble at sea and on rivers or dams.

The NSRI urges recreational boaters, sailors, paddlers, bathers, fishermen, children, seafarers and anglers to exercise safety and caution around coastal waters, inland waters and swimming pools at all times. Do not drink alcohol and then go for a swim, drive a boat, paddle a paddle craft, surf, go angling off rocks close to shore, sail a sail craft or jump off rocks or from high places into any water.

Launching your craft in fine weather could see you fighting through a major storm only hours later. Anyone making use of the sea and on inland waters to check out weather forecasts before launching and to take all the necessary safety precautions into account in order to be prepared for the worse if weather conditions change suddenly or if you land up, unexpectedly, in a dire emergency situation. Also prepare yourself and your crew for an emergency. Don't try to handle an emergency situation for the first time in a real emergency!

Anyone launching any kind of craft to go to sea or on inland waters should keep safety top of mind always:

- Always let a responsible person know your time of departure, the route you plan to travel and your estimated return time and stick to your route and plans. Ensure the responsible person has an action plan well versed to contact the NSRI if you do not return as scheduled.

- Check your craft and equipment are in good working order and carry the correct safety approvals and certifications. Make sure your craft has your name and a land based contact number and your details stenciled on the craft.
- Have your nearest NSRI emergency phone number stored in your phone - 042 294 0131; 082990 5969 for St Francis - You can obtain

your nearest NSRI emergency phone number from NSRI's Head Office during office hours at 021 434 4011 or www.nsri.org.za. Other vital national emergency numbers are 10177 (from any phone) and 112 (from a cellphone).

- Plan for an emergency before launching onto water so that if you land up in a life threatening situation the steps you take to ensure your survival are well rehearsed.

- Life-Jackets are the safety belts when you are on water and should be worn at all times.
- Have your communications devices, a cell-phone or VHF radio, with fully charged batteries stored in watertight plastic sleeves.

- Carry red distress flares, a signalling mirror or CD disc, a reflexes whistle, a waterproof torch and wear the correct brightly coloured gear and a hat and sunscreen and keep yourselves well hydrated.

Rip-Currents are the greatest cause of drowning accidents along the coast. A rip-current is a river of water flowing fast out to sea against the incoming waves and can occur at different places along the coastline regularly throughout the day. Anyone caught in a rip-current will realize they are being swept out to sea faster than what they can swim towards shore. If you are caught in a rip-current:

- Do not panic and do not try to swim against the current. As hard as it sounds let the current take you out to sea. The current will slow down as it gets further out. Simply swim parallel to the beach and then use the waves on either side of the rip to help you get back to the beach. Or, if you are tired, float on your back and wave for help.

- Tread water by moving your arms and legs in circular movements to stay afloat and keep your lungs gently filled with air to aid in your buoyancy.

- Raise one arm in the air and shout for help to alert people on the shore that you are in trouble.

- When you can, swim parallel to shore to free yourself from the rip.

Guidelines for boating

Kouga Municipality (EC 108) rivers and St Francis Bay waterways

Please note that the following are guidelines. The full regulations may be obtained from Kouga Municipal offices refer by-law 284.



Registration:

- * motor driven boats and other boats over 4 metres must be registered with the council.
- * for boats with an engine of over 15hp a valid COF (Certificate of Fitness or seaworthy certificate) must be presented to register.

- * pwc's (commonly known as 'jet-skis') may only register for the st francis bay canals, and
- * all vessels must display same sfb registration numbers as well as current kouga river and st francis waterways permits on both sides.

Rules of travel:

- the general safety rule of 'keep right' is applicable.

Operation of boats:

- * a coc (certificate of competency) is required for operators of all boats and pwc's with an engine over 15hp.

- * travel at non-wave speed on the st francis waterways, upper reaches of the geelhout river and within 10 metres of jetties and other boats on kouga rivers.

- * no person under 16 years may control or operate a registered power-driven boat including a pwc.

- * no person in charge of a boat may use such a boat in a negligent, reckless manner, or whilst under the influence of alcohol.

- * children under 5 and non-swimmers to wear life jackets.

- * after sunset no boat shall move without a forward facing red port light, green starboard light and a white navigation light.

- * a boat at anchor after sunset shall have a white light visible for 360°.

- * no commercially registered boats may use the river without written permission from the council.

- * no pwc's (jet skis) may be used on kouga

rivers.

- * no jet boats are allowed on the geelhout river.

- * no person may reside on a boat on the waterways or river.

Environment and conservation:

- * no person may willfully or negligently pollute or foul the waterways or the river.

- * no person may disturb any plant, animal or bird life on the waterways or the river.

Angling:

- * legislated limits for fish and bait must be strictly adhered to. Obtain fishing and bait permits at post office.

- * no person shall fish from any bridge over the st francis waterways or the river.

- * no person shall impede any navigational channel in the river or waterways with a fishing line.

- * no person shall have a fishing line unattended in or near a navigational channel.

- * Skilling and towing: (skis, Boards, tubes, snakes etc)

- * only permitted in demarcated zones between sunrise and sunset.

- * no person may tow a skis within 10m of a jetty or stationary boat except when "dropping off" a skier.

- * the towing boat must keep to the right and follow a circuit in an anti-clockwise direction.

- * the person in control of the boat must ensure the skier has adequate personal buoyancy.

- * a red flag must be raised when the skier falls and is in the water.

Zones:

- * various zones exist on rivers. They are marked with signs, arrows or buoys. A map is shown below.

- * nbl! No sking on the gamtoos river, upper reaches of the geelhout river or st francis waterways

Safety:

- * please remember that sand banks and hazards change regularly. Exercise extreme caution in hazardous areas.



ST FRANCIS FUN BOAT



St Francis Marine

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St Francis Bay

Cell: 082 653 9404

www.stfrancisfunboat.com



Multi-functional boat
Ideal for fishing river &
sea, skiing, diving, can
also become a house boat

SFB Riparian HOA

Email: harbour@stfrs.co.za

Telephone: 073354532

NO CANAL LICENSE - NO LAUNCH

CANAL PERMITS, RIVER PERMITS & MOORINGS

CANAL PERMITS

FULL YEAR (1st July 2015 to 30th June 2016)

R 1,150

TEMPORARY CANAL PERMITS

One Day

R 115

Seven Days

R 800

RIVER PERMITS from 1st July 2015 to 30th June 2016

River Full Year	Commercial	Multi river	Single river
Up to 15hp	R 309	R 342	R 244
16hp to 120hp	R 637	R 506	R 408
Greater than 120hp	R 1073	R 724	R 626

MOORINGS AT CANAL HARBOUR & SHORE ROAD

Full Year (1 st July 2014 to 30 th June 2015)	R 5,300
½ Year (1 st July 2014 to 31 st December 2014)	R 3,340
½ Year (1 st January 2015 to 30 th June 2015)	R 3,340
Weekly (minimum 7 days Monday to Sunday)	R 840

Permits and moorings available from:

Canal Harbour Office, La Digue Place, St Francis Bay (tel: 073354532)
Tuesday to Saturday from 8am to 4pm & 7 days a week in holiday season

Notes

COF (certificate of fitness) is required for all boats with an engine in excess of 15hp and for all Jet Skis.

No Jet skis are permitted on the Kromme River.



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