

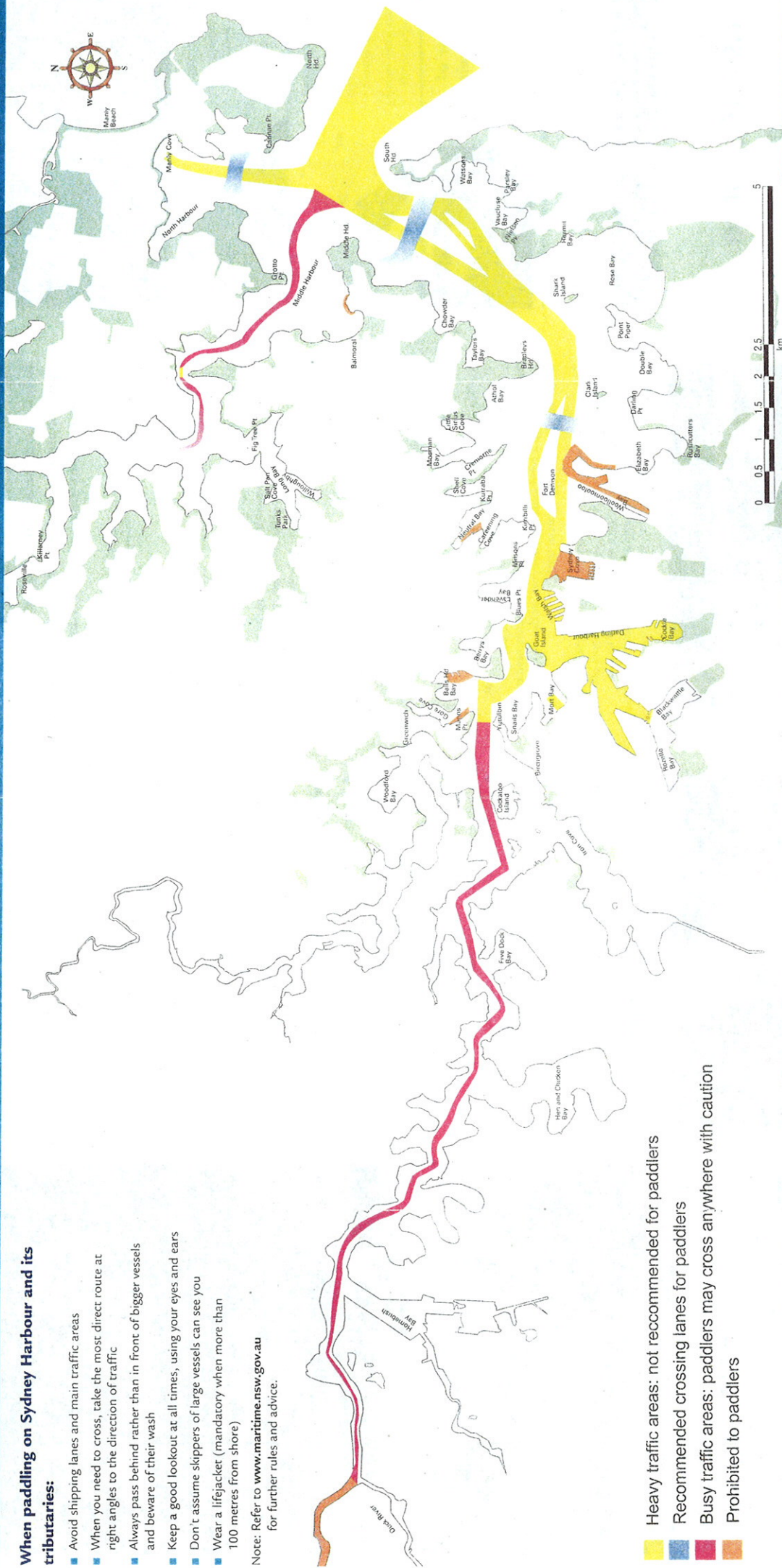
PADDLE SAFETY ON SYDNEY HARBOUR

When paddling on Sydney Harbour and its tributaries:

- Avoid shipping lanes and main traffic areas
- When you need to cross, take the most direct route at right angles to the direction of traffic
- Always pass behind rather than in front of bigger vessels and beware of their wash
- Keep a good lookout at all times, using your eyes and ears
- Don't assume skippers of large vessels can see you
- Wear a lifejacket (mandatory when more than 100 metres from shore)

Note: Refer to www.maritime.nsw.gov.au for further rules and advice.

- Heavy traffic areas: not recommended for paddlers
- Recommended crossing lanes for paddlers
- Busy traffic areas: paddlers may cross anywhere with caution
- Prohibited to paddlers



Paddle Smart

When Paddling You Must

Keep safe, stay right

Where possible paddle outside the channel
Don't paddle in the centre of the channel or river



Keep a proper lookout

Use your eyes and ears to keep a good lookout
Take care when entering or crossing channels



Keep clear of larger vessels

Cross behind, not in front
Remember powerboat wash can capsize small craft



Wear a lifejacket

When more than 100m from shore or on open (ocean) or alpine waters

ALL REGULATIONS FOR AVOIDING COLLISIONS APPLY. SHOW REQUIRED LIGHTS AT NIGHT.



Info line 13 12 56
www.maritime.nsw.gov.au

WAT0879_7/11

Sydney Harbour is one of the world's and tributaries is one of the world's premier waterways, providing unmatched opportunities for all forms of boating, from powerboats and yachts to canoes and kayaks.

It is also one of the world's busiest harbours, with canoes and kayaks sharing the water with large commercial ships and ferries.

An understanding of the safe boating rules that apply to all vessels, as well as the specific rules for canoes and kayaks, will help paddlers to enjoy their sport in safety.

Lifejacket wear requirements

Lifejackets must be worn when paddling more than 100 metres from the nearest shore on enclosed waters, and at all times on open waters. It is strongly recommended that you wear an approved lifejacket at all times when enjoying Sydney Harbour.

Navigation lights

Between sunset and sunrise a torch is a minimum requirement, but it is strongly recommended that the craft has an all-round white light visible in every direction.

General safety and traffic flow

Conflict between canoes and kayaks and larger craft can occur in confined waterways which are often busy with powerboat traffic, as is the case around Sydney Cove, Walsh Bay and Darling Harbour. When using these areas, paddlers need to be alert and keep a good lookout at all times, as the areas listed are all very busy with commercial traffic.

To alleviate potential conflict when paddling in these areas, it is recommended that you stay on the northern shore of Sydney Harbour. This will reduce the possibility of further conflict with larger vessels, while also raising general awareness of paddlers operating along the northern shore.



The map of Sydney Harbour in this brochure shows orange shaded areas which are prohibited to paddlers. The yellow and pink shaded areas are commercial and high traffic shipping channels, where paddlers must operate with extreme caution. The blue shaded areas should be entered only for the purpose of crossing from one side of the shipping channel to the other. When crossing these channels, paddle as nearly as practicable at right angles to the general direction of the traffic flow.

It is important to be clearly visible while on the water. Suggested precautions are to:

- Dress brightly
- Paddle in tight formation
- Keep a proper lookout
- Paddle during daylight hours or adhere to the night lighting requirements for canoes and kayaks
- Stay close to the shore line
- Keep to the starboard (right-hand) side of the channel

Conduct a safety check before heading out:

- Check the latest weather and wave report, and plan your trip accordingly
- Check your equipment is in working order
- Advise friends or family of your time of departure, return and proposed route
- Carry a mobile phone in a waterproof pouch
- Carry sufficient drinking water and sun protection
- Dress appropriately for the conditions
- Use a paddle or leg leash in windy conditions
- Find out as much information as possible about the area you are going to paddle.

To learn more about the boating rules and lifejacket requirements, and for links to paddling organisations, visit www.maritime.nsw.gov.au and www.paddlenewsw.org.au

SAFETY PARTNER



PADDLE SAFETY ON SYDNEY HARBOUR

