

# NAVSTA GTMO Captain License Study Guide



**MWR Marina Office #: 2345**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday: 08:00 – 19:00

CLOSED WEDNESDAY

Saturday, Sunday & Holidays: 06:00 – 19:00

**Carlos Canales – Outdoor Recreation Director**

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**Marina Rescue: 757-577-2808**

**ALL SKIPPERS MUST BE FAMILIAR WITH THE  
1710.10C**

Vessel Skippers are solely responsible for the safe operation of their vessel and are ultimately responsible for the safety and actions of his/her crew/passengers/group.

**DEFINITIONS:**

Bow – Front of a vessel

Port – Left hand side

Starboard – Right hand side

Stern – Rear of a vessel

Draft – Depth needed by a vessel to float

Aft – At the back of the vessel

Right of way – Permission to go first

Wake – Track left in water behind a vessel

PFD – US Coast Guard Approved Personal Flotation Device (Life Vest)

Shipping Lane – All the water between the navigational buoys (red and green buoys) and extending from the southern boundary to the northern boundary. Also known as the International Channel.

**Rules of the Road:**

When two vessels are approaching each other in a head-on, or nearly head-on, situation that may involve risk of collision or will put the vessels in too close of proximity as to be safe for maneuvering, both vessels should navigate starboard immediately and pass on the port side. Vessels should identify themselves and any warning flags should be clearly displayed.

Naval Station Ferries and Utility Vessels, Naval Vessels, Foreign Vessels, Merchant Vessels, Sailboats, Kayaks, Canoes, Paddleboards, Paddleboats, and other non-powered craft have the right of way at all times.

**Mandatory Vessel Safety Equipment:**

- PFD for each person aboard (Parents are advised that minors and weak or non-swimmers must wear a PFD at all times.)
- One anchor with min. 150 ft. of line & chain
- Proper Fire Extinguisher
- First Aid Kit
- Min. of 3 Day/Night Flares
- Whistle or Horn with ½ mile audible blast
- Bilge Pump or Manual Pump
- VHF Radio
- Every vessel must have a white stern light, red port light, and green starboard light energized 30 mins. prior to sunset and de-energized 30 mins. after sunrise
- Throwable Life Ring (optional but recommended.)
- Anchor Ball (optional but recommended.)

**Vessels in Distress Should Signal By:**

- Waving arms at passing vessels
- Horn blasts, whistling, shouting, and/or yelling
  - Horn or whistle blasts should last at least 2 seconds and be audible for ½ mile, or for 1 mile for vessels over 26' in length
- Contacting Port Control by VHF radio on channel 73 or emergency channel 12 and/or 16
- Any passing vessel or vessel in the area must answer and render assistance to a distressed vessel.

**Overnight Stays at Hospital Cay:**

- Notify Port Control and Security
- Complete the location reservation form with MWR Marina shop
- Bon Fire/Campfire permit from Fire Department #1 – no less than 48 hrs prior
- Clean up after your stay.

**SKIPPERS MAY NOT CONSUME ALCOHOL BEFORE OR DURING THE OPERATION OF ANY VESSEL. YOU WILL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR ACTIONS AND THE ACTIONS OF THE INDIVIDUALS ABOARD YOUR VESSEL.**

### Float Plan:

All vessels must file a float plan with Port Control by calling #4188 prior to departing from your vessels homeport. Float plans may not be called in via VHF radio. Float plans must be closed out when you have returned to your vessels homeport.

### Information needed to file a float plan:

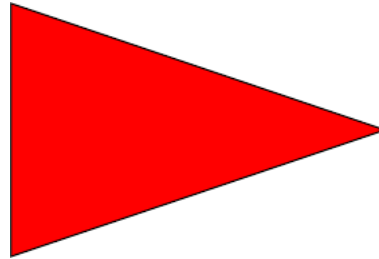
- Skipper's Name and license number
- Vessel name/number and type of vessel
- Number of passengers, including skipper
- Location you traveling to and any additional stops as part of your route
- Approximate time you will be returning to homeport.
- Cell Phone Number

### Additional Information:

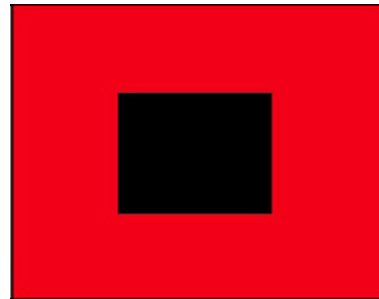
- Leave a complete list of passengers with the MWR Marina if using a rental vessel, include the name and contact number for the skipper.
- If you need to extend your float plan, contact the MWR Marina to ensure your vessel is still available and then contact Port Control to adjust your float plan
- If you choose to leave your originally reported destination and/or change your plans in any way relay these location changes to Port Control prior to the change in location/course.
- ALWAYS strictly adhere to the live fire boundaries when ranges are hot.

### Warning Flags:

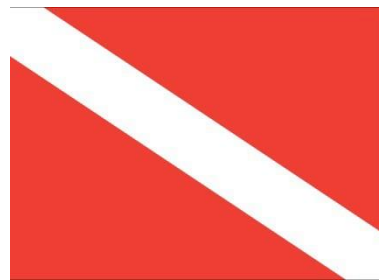
Flags are flown on the flag pole at MWR's Pelican Pete's Marina during normal hours of operation only. Please ensure you verify bay conditions when you file your float plan.



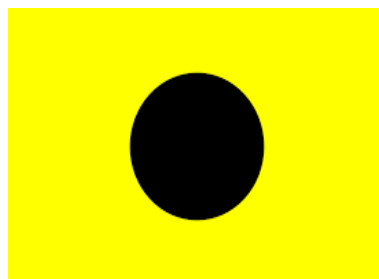
SMALL CRAFT WARNING  
(WINDS UP TO 33 KNOTS)



STORM  
(RETURN TO HOMEPORT)



SPORT DIVER  
(KEEP CLEAR 100 YARDS)



INDIA  
(BAY CLOSED)



PENNANT 6  
(LIVE FIRE RANGE HOT)

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### **Docking and Mooring:**

- Vessels may only dock/moor at the MWR Marina, MWR Leeward Manatee Landing (4hr. max) and MWR Long-term Boat Slips for which they are assigned, authorized private docks or buoys placed specifically for the purpose of mooring.
- Cannot tie up to navigational aids, use government piers or docks, including ferry landings, nor may you drop anchor in a shipping lane.
- Military vessels may ask you to move at anytime and you must comply immediately

### **Restricted Areas:**

- The Guantanamo Bay River is secured from Sunset to Sunrise
- The Industrial Area is restricted to all MWR vessels and personally owned and operated vessels
- Mohomilla Bay is restricted to all MWR rental items and motorized and sail vessels – this area is open to paddle vessels only.
- The Exclusion Zone is restricted to all MWR vessels and personally owned and operated vessels
- Within 100 yards of Phillips Dive Park
- Jet Skis and sailboats are not permitted in St. Nicolas Channel or the GB River.
- All vessels must stay >300 yards away from Naval Station ferries and utility vessels, naval vessels, foreign vessels, and merchant vessels transiting the bay. These vessels are considered to be in a restricted channel at all times.
- MWR vessels are not permitted past the Northern/Southern Boundaries (including the Tackle Box area).
- Within 100 yards of any vessels displaying a dive flag or any dive buoy
- Within 100 yards of any beach/shoreline

### **No Wake Zones:**

- Marina & Sailing Center (Only entered and exited southwest of the small mangrove island and northeast of the Sailing Center between the red and green buoys)
- Passing non-motorized craft or docked/moored vessels
- 100 yards of any shoreline, diving operation, or anchored vessel
- St. Nicolas Channel
- Mahomilla Bay
- The entire industrial area
- The whole of the Guantanamo River
- North of the derelict crane barge (Command Hill area)
- Romance Cove
- Manatee Conservation and Marine Replenishment Zone

### **Anchoring:**

- A 360° white light must be displayed when a vessel is anchored 30 mins prior to sunset and up to 30 mins after sunrise
- Anchoring in the international channel is strictly prohibited
- If an anchor becomes stuck the vessel operator is authorized to attach the provided anchor ball and cut the anchor line. After an anchor is cut, you must immediately return to the MWR Marina and inform a staff member. If the anchor cannot be retrieved, you will be charge for the lost anchor and rope package
- Anchoring is permitted for swimming, diving, snorkeling, and going ashore of Hicacal Beach
- One person, with a Skipper's License, must stay aboard the vessel at all times or two anchors must be used when swimming, diving, snorkeling, and going ashore.

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**MWR Vessel Checkout:**

It is the renters' responsibility to complete the Boat Rental Checkout List that is provided to you when completing your rental contract. You are also required to provide a complete list of all passengers/those in your party/group to Marina Staff.

**MWR Vessel Check-in:**

You are liable for any loss/damage found during or following your check-in at the MWR Marina – including anchors and use of boat box gear. You are also liable for any loss/damage that may have been done by a member of your group. The cleaning of rental vessels is the responsibility of the renter upon return to the MWR Marina. Renters that leave their vessels dirty will be charged a cleaning fee.

**Damage and/or Loss:**

Vessel skippers are solely responsible for the condition of MWR equipment during their rental period. Skippers will be held responsible for any lost/damaged Marina equipment and responsible for replacement at current resale price.

**Vessel Capacities:**

Key West – Six people including the skipper

Papa – Ten people including the skipper

Hurricane – Seven including the skipper

Sea Chaser – Seven including the skipper

Hunter 17 – Four people including the skipper

Hunter 25 – Six people including the skipper

Hobie 16 – Four people including the skipper

Listed capacities are maximum load per vessel with no loaded equipment. Loading equipment for various water activities must be accounted for by the skipper and capacity adjusted accordingly. For questions or guidance on load adjustments please consult with MWR Marina Staff.

**Heavy Weather:**

MWR vessels are not available for rent during Thunderstorm Condition 1 and threatening hurricane conditions. MWR Marina staff members can recall any/all vessels due to small craft warnings and/or heavy weather.

**Hurricane Ski Boats and Other Towing:**

Hurricane Ski Boats are only permitted within the Hurricane Ski Boat area on the provided map. There is a separate test and endorsement to drive the Hurricane or to operate any vessel (MWR rental or personally owned) while towing a person (on skis, knee board, wakeboard, tube, etc.) For more information, please contact an MWR Marina staff member.

**Tackle Box:**

Only personally owned, operated, and qualified vessels are permitted in the Tackle Box. This is a separate test and endorsement. For more information, please contact an MWR Marina staff member.

**IT IS PROHIBITED TO BEACH ANY MOTORIZED OR SAIL POWERED MWR RENTAL VESSEL**

**ONLY FUEL DISPENCED AT THE MWR MARINA CAN BE PLACED IN MWR VESSELS**

**MWR Long-term Rental Slips:**

Long-term rental slips are for the slip rental customers only. These slips are Dock of the Bay, Post Office/Fleet Landing, Pier 33, and Yacht Club Jet Dock/Sailing Center. Contact the Outdoor Recreation Director for more information.

Slips sharing, subletting, or other non-contracted uses **ARE NOT AUTHORIZED** in MWR Long-term Rental Slips and may result in fines and/or the cancellation of a long-term rental slip contract.

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**Non-powered vessels may ONLY be used from 30 mins after sunrise to 30 mins prior to sunset.**

**Beaches:**

Hicacal Beach is designated as a “Manatee Conservation Zone”. Boating is allowed in the Manatee Conservation Zone; however, this area is a no wake zone.

Areas offshore from Hicacal Beach, Conde Beach, and St. Nicholas Point are unpredictable. Exercise extreme caution when approaching these areas, especially when small craft warnings are posted.

**Vessels are not permitted within 100 yards of any public beach.**

**Fishing:**

Fishing, from shore or boat, with a pole, spear, bow, or other means, is permitted by all Guantanamo Bay residents and guest, in accordance with seasons and limits in the instruction. Ask a staff member for more info.

**Boundaries:**

All recreational users of the bay – to include but not limited to boating, sailing, paddling, swimming, etc. – will strictly adhere to the northern and southern boundaries of the bay and the northern Guantanamo River boundary, as displayed on the map. Recreational activities beyond these boundaries are prohibited, except for Tackle Box if endorsed.

**Divers, Swimmers, Snorkelers:**

- Stay 100 yards clear of any dive flag buoys or vessels displaying a dive flag.
- Vessels and buoys displaying dive flags are no wake zones
- Dive flags/buoys are required when swimming/snorkeling beyond 50 yards of

public beaches, or beyond 50 yards of all other shorelines. It is recommended to have a flag out when swimming/snorkeling from your vessel.

**Grandillo Bay Exclusion Zone:**

As outlined on the map, this area is east of an imaginary line drawn across Granadillo Bay. This is off limits to all non-military boats. Boaters shall remain west of all boys in this area and no less than 50 ft. from the derelict crane barge located at the northeast tip of this boundary.

**Guantanamo River:**

The river is open to all vessels except sail boats, jet skis, and any other MWR owned vessel restricted by MWR

The northern boundary on the river is the first bridge. There is no access beyond this point.

You may not leave your boat to go ashore at any location on the river, nor may you beach your boat at any location along the river.

The river is secured daily 30 mins prior to sunset to 30 mins after sunrise and whenever the range is hot.

**Paddle Craft:**

Canoeing, Kayaking, Stand-Up Paddle Boards and other paddle activities are permitted between sunrise and sunset in all recreational boating areas. Operators must carry a whistle, VHF radio, and wear a PFD. When multiple paddle craft are rented as a group they may do so with one Skipper license holder that takes responsibility for the entire group. Maximum group size per license is **8 people**, including the Skipper. They must remain together as a group. A float plan is required.

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### **Licensing:**

- **Paddle Powered** –

Must complete written test, safety video, and bay orientation tour.

- **Basic Powered Vessels** –

Must complete written test, paddle craft safety video, driving test, and bay orientation tour. This is needed for the MWR Pontoons and Skiffs, and most personally owned crafts.

- **Sailboats** –

Must complete all requirements for the Basic Powered Vessels and pass a sailing test.

- **Speed Boat/Recreational Towing** –

This endorsement requires an additional driving test and safety brief along with all Basic Powered Vessel requirements. This endorsement can be obtained by any GTMO resident and is required before renting designated boats from the Marina or performing recreational towing on a personally owned boat. Some personally owned boats may also require this endorsement for operation.

- **Tackle Box License** –

This endorsement requires the successful completion of an additional written exam along with all Basic Powered Vessel requirements. Proof of boat ownership and tackle box rating must also be confirmed by Marina Staff. MWR does not provide this licensing to non-boat owners.

### **Water Taxi:**

A Water Taxi is available upon request from Pelican Pete's MWR Marina. Water Taxi's travel between Windward Ferry Landing and Leeward Manatee Landing. *At no time is a rental boat or private boat allowed to dock at a Ferry Landing location.* To request a Water Taxi please call xt: 2345.

### **Driving Lessons:**

Appointment necessary

Daily: 09:00 – 14:00

Driving lessons are approximately 30 minutes.

No driving lessons given on Wednesday, Saturday & Sunday

### **Sailing Lessons:**

Daily 10:00 and 14:00

Appointment necessary

Sailing lessons are approximately 2 hours

No sailing lessons offered on Wednesday, Saturday & Sunday

### **Written Tests:**

Walk-in only

Everyday 08:00 – 19:00

No written tests given on Wednesdays

### **Driving Test:**

Appointment necessary

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday:

14:45 – 16:15

Wednesday, Saturday & Sunday:

No driving tests are given

Driving tests are approximately 30 minutes.

### **Bay Orientation:**

Appointment necessary

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday:

16:30 – 17:15

Wednesday, Saturday & Sunday:

No Bay Orientation is given

Bay orientation takes approximately 1 hour based on group size and weather/water conditions.

**PLEASE ASK AN MWR PELICAN PETE'S MARINA STAFF MEMBER IF YOU NEED ANY SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS.**

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