National Park Service Riding Rules:

- PWCs must remain at least 150 feet from the shore except when landing at one of the ten (10) designated sound-side landing zones.

- PWCs must operate at flat wake (no wake) speed within one of the designated landing zones and come directly to the shore.

- PWCs may not land on the ocean beach within Cape Lookout National Seashore's boundaries.

- PWCs must also adhere to the State of North Carolina rules for operation.

Please ride courteously:

North Carolina PWC riding law requires that --

- PWCs must be operated at all times in a reasonable and prudent manner. Maneuvers that endanger people or property constitute reckless operation**.

- Within 100 feet of an anchored or moored vessel, a dock, pier, swim float, marked swimming area, swimmers, surfers, anglers or any manually propelled vessel, a PWC must travel at no-wake speed.

** Reckless Operation Includes:

- Unreasonable or unnecessary weaving through congested boat traffic
- Jumping the wake of a vessel within 100 feet of the vessel or when visibility is obstructed
- Intentionally approaching a vessel in order to cause the vessel to take evasive action
- Operating contrary to the “rules of the road”
- Following too closely to another vessel, including another PWC

For more information:

- on PWC use around the islands of Cape Lookout National Seashore see our website at: www.nps.gov/calo or give us a call at: (252) 728-2250

PWCs are allowed to land at ten (10) designated sound-side access locations on the islands of North Core Banks, South Core Banks and Shackleford Banks.

The designated PWC access zones are described in this brochure and will be marked by signs.

A green circle means it's okay to land.

A red circle with a slash means this area is closed to PWCs.

Note: Please watch out for temporary wildlife closures on sound-side beaches within the PWC access zones. These temporary closures may occur near inlets or along the spit for short periods from April to August.

National Park Service PWC Access Zones:

North Core Banks:
- Ocracoke Inlet from Wallace Channel Dock to the demarcation line in Ocracoke Inlet near milepost #1
- Milepost #11B at existing sound-side dock approximately 4 miles north of Long Point
- Long Point at the ferry landing in the Long Point Cabin area
- Old Drum Inlet -- 50 foot area designated by signs near milepost #19 about 1/2 mile north of the inlet

Shackleford Banks
- West End Access -- Sound-side beach from Whale Creek west to Beaufort Inlet, except the area between Wade Shore's toilet facility and the passenger ferry dock

South Core Banks
- New Drum Inlet -- 1/4 mile long sound-side beach as designated by signs near milepost #23; area is about 1/2 mile south of New Drum Inlet.
- Great Island near milepost #30, northern dock known as the Carly Dock
- Lighthouse Area North -- A zone 300 feet north of the lighthouse ferry dock near milepost #41
- Lighthouse Area South -- From 100 feet south of the Summer Kitchen, along the sound-side beach to 200 feet north of the Cape Lookout Environmental Education Center Dock (formerly known as Les & Sally's)
- Power Squadron Spit -- Sound-side beach across from the rock jetty to the end of the spit

Cape Lookout Bight landing areas

Shackleford Banks landing areas