**Code of Conduct for Cruising**

**Planning**

**Plan your cruise** - Make sure you are aware of your craft (and your own!) limitations and plan accordingly – carefully check weather forecasts and be aware of pull-out locations and sheltered spots. Make sure someone knows where you are going.

**Insurance** – Make sure that you are covered by suitable marine insurance as required

**Fuel -** Pay close attention to fuel management – re-fuel in a safe way and in a safe place. Make sure you carry enough fuel for your journey (include a 20% reserve for unforeseen situations)

**Know your craft limits** - Plan your route according to your craft capabilities. No overloading – an overloaded craft will be operating near or at its limit – any minor weather change could push it over that limit!

**Keep within the law** - Before operating ensure that your intended route will not infringe local byelaws, navigation restrictions or wildlife sanctuaries. Obey all rules or directions issued by any authority responsible for the area you are operating in.

**Safety**

**Be Prepared -** Full safety equipment is to be carried and checked - do a craft pre-flight check every time you stop! Make sure you carry suitable clothing for all possible conditions (getting wet can be extremely dangerous – carry spare clothing). Carry a basic first-aid kit, clean water and an emergency repair kit with you at all times. Make sure you have a means of getting back into your craft in deep water.

**Crew and passengers** – Ensure that all crew and passengers are equipped with personal floatation devices and relevant safety equipment such as eye protection and ear defenders

**Communication -** Make sure you have a means by which to summon help in an emergency (e.g. mobile phone – check it works where you are going, VHF radio – check reception, flares, etc).

**Don’t drink and drive** - You know it makes sense.

**Courtesy**

**Operate with consideration** - Operate with due consideration for others at all times – watch your fan/prop blast and make sure bystanders are kept well clear when manoeuvring on land. Make sure cars and trailers are left responsibly – don’t block access to location

**Noise** - Use minimum speed and throttle when close to populated areas, people or wildlife.

**Avoid beach buzzing** - Try not to go past the same area more than once an hour. Stay away from populated beaches, shorelines or public areas unless no other route is available.

**Watch your speed** - Adjust your speed to suit the conditions or waterway regulations. Don’t pass other water users at excessive speed.

**Take care of the environment** – Avoid damage to plants, vegetation and disturbing wildlife. Make sure litter is disposed of properly. Leave only your footprints on the beach

**If you need further information on any of the above subjects please email info@hovercraft.org.uk**