

RIVER INFORMATION 2024

Warning: The information contained is not necessarily accurate or up to date, as the regulatory situation is both large and complex and keeps changing, as do the rivers and possible launching sites.

Jet boating is regulated by Maritime New Zealand, Regional Councils, Unitary Authorities and District Councils.

For a jet boater to be confident of complying it is necessary to:

1. Identify the Regulatory Authority for the river to be boated.
2. Obtain the relevant Navigation Safety Bylaws.
3. Check the latest District Plan relating to the river concerned for rules regarding activities on the Surface of Water Bodies.

JBNZ does its best to keep up with this on a national basis and this information is included below.

Note that under the Maritime Transport Act 2013, Maritime rules Part 91;

No person may, without reasonable excuse, propel or navigate a vessel (including a vessel towing a person or an object) at a proper speed exceeding 5 knots:

- (a) within 50 metres of any other vessel, raft or person in the water; or
- (b) within 200 metres of the shore or any structure;

These two rules only apply in a waterway where no uplifting has been issued. They do not apply in a waterway (ie rivers) where a speed uplifting has been issued.

Speed upliftings have been applied for and granted as shown for the waterways listed below. Note that rivers without speed upliftings are included, as in future upliftings could be applied for on either a temporary or permanent basis, and JBNZ does not want to lose this information and believes it will be of continuing value to members.

Note: Rivers without speed upliftings are 'greyed' out

RIVER CLASSIFICATION:

Classifications vary with river flow, these are assessed at about average flows. Higher or lower flows may change classification.

Class 1: Easy boating, suitable for beginners and family boating. Boat damage unlikely. Deep water, braids with fine gravel, shingle, minor rapids only. In different flow conditions can encounter boulders, minor rock gardens, small but lively rapids or very shallow water.

Class 2: More advanced, comfortable after 100 hours experience. Contains challenges. Boat damage and risk of injury may result from misjudgments. Medium rapids, shallow water, complicated braids, some boulders/rocks, occasional willows.

Class 3: Adventure boating. Expert skills required. Boat damage/loss probable if mistakes made. Families not recommended. Crew and driver at risk if accident occurs. White water covers recommended. Maximum 2 persons/boat recommended. Challenging rock gardens, boulders, major rapids, chutes, willows, very shallow water.

Class 4: Unlikely to be boated. Impasses, waterfalls, no water.