

# A recreational user's guide to the

# River Tay

PERTH

[www.perthharbour.co.uk](http://www.perthharbour.co.uk)



**NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION**



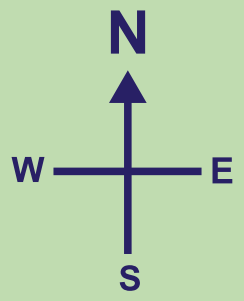
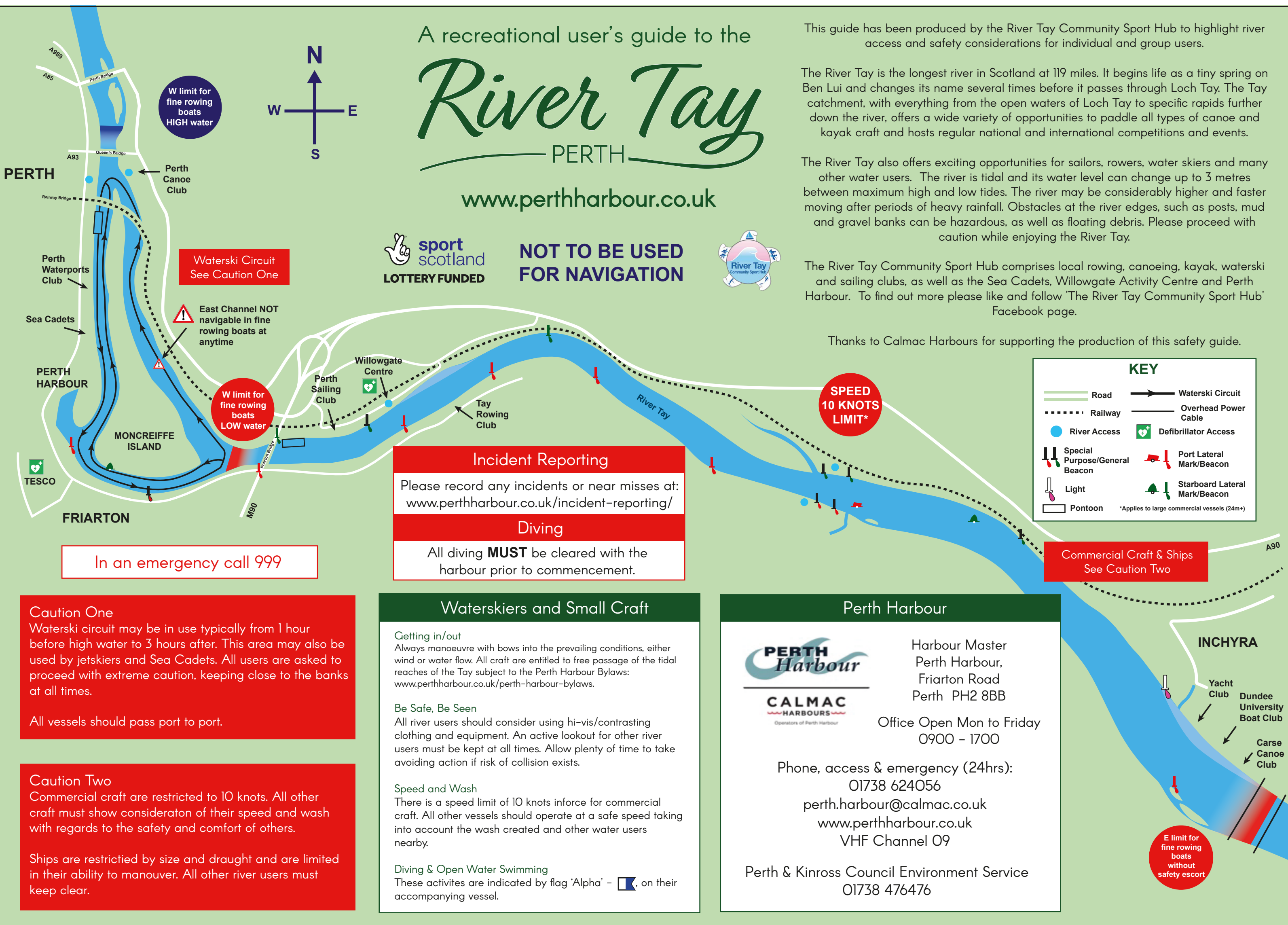
This guide has been produced by the River Tay Community Sport Hub to highlight river access and safety considerations for individual and group users.

The River Tay is the longest river in Scotland at 119 miles. It begins life as a tiny spring on Ben Lui and changes its name several times before it passes through Loch Tay. The Tay catchment, with everything from the open waters of Loch Tay to specific rapids further down the river, offers a wide variety of opportunities to paddle all types of canoe and kayak craft and hosts regular national and international competitions and events.

The River Tay also offers exciting opportunities for sailors, rowers, water skiers and many other water users. The river is tidal and its water level can change up to 3 metres between maximum high and low tides. The river may be considerably higher and faster moving after periods of heavy rainfall. Obstacles at the river edges, such as posts, mud and gravel banks can be hazardous, as well as floating debris. Please proceed with caution while enjoying the River Tay.

The River Tay Community Sport Hub comprises local rowing, canoeing, kayak, waterski and sailing clubs, as well as the Sea Cadets, Willowgate Activity Centre and Perth Harbour. To find out more please like and follow 'The River Tay Community Sport Hub' Facebook page.

Thanks to Calmac Harbours for supporting the production of this safety guide.



W limit for fine rowing boats HIGH water

Waterski Circuit See Caution One

East Channel NOT navigable in fine rowing boats at anytime

W limit for fine rowing boats LOW water

SPEED 10 KNOTS LIMIT\*

## Incident Reporting

Please record any incidents or near misses at: [www.perthharbour.co.uk/incident-reporting/](http://www.perthharbour.co.uk/incident-reporting/)

## Diving

All diving **MUST** be cleared with the harbour prior to commencement.

## Waterskiers and Small Craft

**Getting in/out**  
Always manoeuvre with bows into the prevailing conditions, either wind or water flow. All craft are entitled to free passage of the tidal reaches of the Tay subject to the Perth Harbour Bylaws: [www.perthharbour.co.uk/perth-harbour-bylaws](http://www.perthharbour.co.uk/perth-harbour-bylaws).

**Be Safe, Be Seen**  
All river users should consider using hi-vis/contrasting clothing and equipment. An active lookout for other river users must be kept at all times. Allow plenty of time to take avoiding action if risk of collision exists.

**Speed and Wash**  
There is a speed limit of 10 knots inforce for commercial craft. All other vessels should operate at a safe speed taking into account the wash created and other water users nearby.

**Diving & Open Water Swimming**  
These activities are indicated by flag 'Alpha' - , on their accompanying vessel.

## Perth Harbour



Harbour Master  
Perth Harbour,  
Friarton Road  
Perth PH2 8BB

Office Open Mon to Friday  
0900 - 1700

Phone, access & emergency (24hrs):  
01738 624056  
[perth.harbour@calmac.co.uk](mailto:perth.harbour@calmac.co.uk)  
[www.perthharbour.co.uk](http://www.perthharbour.co.uk)  
VHF Channel 09

Perth & Kinross Council Environment Service  
01738 476476

**Caution One**  
Waterski circuit may be in use typically from 1 hour before high water to 3 hours after. This area may also be used by jetskiers and Sea Cadets. All users are asked to proceed with extreme caution, keeping close to the banks at all times.  
  
All vessels should pass port to port.

**Caution Two**  
Commercial craft are restricted to 10 knots. All other craft must show consideration of their speed and wash with regards to the safety and comfort of others.  
  
Ships are restricted by size and draught and are limited in their ability to manouver. All other river users must keep clear.

KEY			
	Road		Waterski Circuit
	Railway		Overhead Power Cable
	River Access		Defibrillator Access
	Special Purpose/General Beacon		Port Lateral Mark/Beacon
	Light		Starboard Lateral Mark/Beacon
	Pontoon	*Applies to large commercial vessels (24m+)	

Commercial Craft & Ships See Caution Two

E limit for fine rowing boats without safety escort