

Punta Gorda Police Marine Web Page Frequently Asked Questions

1. Q: What is the speed limit in the Punta Gorda Isles canals?

A: Punta Gorda Canals are not regulated by a speed limit. Slow speed, minimum wake is enforced.

2. Q: Can I net in the canals of Punta Gorda Isles, or Burnt Store Isles?

A: It is unlawful for any person to take any salt water fish, except by hook and line, from any man-made saltwater canal located in the City of Punta Gorda under Special Acts of Local Application Charlotte County: Chapter 98-520.

3. Q: Can I fish in Punta Gorda Isles canals?

A: Yes. Fishing from your property or being properly licensed while in a boat is permitted. If you are fishing from a vacant lot or sea wall, you must have written permission from the property owner or have the owner present.

4. Q: Can I anchor in the canals?

A: Yes, providing you do not block the canal, passage under a bridge, or in a narrow place which would impede the lawful navigation of another vessel. There is no over night anchoring in any canal unless a hurricane warning has been issued.

5. Q: Can I tie up to an unoccupied dock or a dock where there is no house while fishing?

A: You can not tie up to any dock without permission from the property owner.

6. Q: What is excessive wake?

A: Any wake that has the potential to damage moored vessels or undermine the seawalls. Boat operators are responsible for their wake and any damage it might cause.

7. Q: Are there any idle speed areas in Punta Gorda waters?

A. Yes. Laishley Marina, Fisherman's Village Marina, and the area from the fishing pier in Ponce De Leon Inlet to the Rim Canal in Punta Gorda Isles are all idle speed areas.

8. Q: Are there any pump out stations in Punta Gorda?

A: Yes. Laishley Marina and Fisherman's Village Marina.

9. Q: Where can I get fuel for my boat?

A: There is a fuel dock in Fisherman's Village Marina.

10. Q: Can I fish on or under any bridges in Punta Gorda Isles?

A: No. Fishing is prohibited per City Ordinance.

11. Q: What can I do about boats making too much wake behind my house?

A: If you can, note the registration number or name of the vessel and report it to the Punta Gorda Police at (941) 639-4111 or you can complete an on-line Marine Enforcement Request. Give the date and time of observation and as much detail as you can.

12. **Q: How old does my child have to be to not wear a life jacket?**

A: Children under 6 years of age must wear a Coast Guard approved life jacket when the boat is underway in Punta Gorda waters.

13. **Q: Can I sit on the bow or gunnels when underway?**

A: No. This is not permitted by law and is considered a moving violation.

14. **Q: Can I hang my legs over the side of the boat if I have a railing?**

A: No. It is unlawful to extend any part of the body over the boat while underway.

15. **Q: Who are the volunteers I have seen on the police boats?**

A: The Marine Patrol Volunteers are US Coast Guard Auxiliary trained crewmembers or licensed US Coast Guard Captains, experienced in seamanship, navigation, and search and rescue. They also are designated City of Punta Gorda Code Compliance Officers for City Marine Codes. The three primary duties of the Volunteer Marine Patrol are water safety, education and code enforcement.