

Lake INAWASHIRO

Rule Book

Revised July 2026

**Personal Watercraft, Motorboats, SUPs, and Rowing Boats can only be operated in approved areas.
Please follow the rules and enjoy a safe ride.**



Fukushima Prefecture
Lake Inawashiro Waters Utilisation Council
July 2026

Ensuring Total Safety: Preventing Another Accident

**In September 2020, a serious fatal
accident occurred at Lake Inawashiro.**

In order to prevent accidents and ensure that everyone can enjoy the Lake safely and securely, Fukushima Prefecture and the Lake Inawashiro Water Utilisation Council have designated areas where personal watercraft and motorboats can and cannot be operated, and have created a rulebook for all lake users.



Introduction

What is Important

We want everyone to enjoy the lake safely. In order to achieve this, it is of the utmost importance that everyone follows the rules and behaves considerately towards other users and local residents.

Leave the Lake Even More Beautiful

- Take cigarette butts and any rubbish with you.
- Pick up any litter you see so that you can leave Lake Inawashiro in a better state than when you arrived.
- Lake Inawashiro was designated as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention in July 2025. Thank you for helping us protect its natural environment.

Park Your Car in the Designated Parking Areas

- Street parking obstructs local traffic.
- Street parking increases the risk of accidents involving children.
- Park in designated areas and contribute to the prevention of traffic accidents.

For more details about the rules of Lake Inawashiro, please scan the 2D Barcode on the right for the River Planning Division website, Public Works Department (Japanese Only).
(<https://www.pref.fukushima.lg.jp/sec/41045a/inawashiroko-riyou.html>)



Areal Restrictions under the River Act (1)

Areal Restrictions under the River Act

In order for everyone to enjoy the lake safely and securely, designated areas for the operation of personal watercraft (PWCs), motorboats, etc., and areas where the operation is prohibited have been established under Article 16-2, Paragraph 3 of the River Act Enforcement Ordinance.

(1) Buoys on the Lake

Buoys have been placed on the lake to mark the boundaries of the zones shown on the map. Please check the locations of the buoys and the signs attached to them, and navigate safely.

*Note: Buoys may drift from their original positions due to wind, waves, or other conditions. Always refer to the zone map in this rulebook and the signs posted around the lake.

(2) Designated Areas for Powered Vessels

Designated Areas for Powered Vessels is a zone where vessels such as PWCs and motorboats **can operate under speed restrictions (slow speed, deceleration). Dangerous manoeuvres such as sudden starts, rapid acceleration, and sharp turns are prohibited.**

Additionally, non-powered vessels such as rowboats, SUPs and windsurfing boards are not permitted to navigate in this area.

(3) Buoy Pole Colours

The poles of the buoys used in the Designated Areas for Powered Vessels are green on the left and red on the right when facing the shore. The colour scheme is based on the standard port and starboard markers. The poles of all other buoys are yellow.

Additional Information: Buoy Signs

The signs attached to the buoys in the Designated Areas for Powered Vessels vary depending on the adjacent area.

- Adjacent to a Powered Vessel Prohibited Area: 
- Adjacent to a Self-Regulated Area (outside the scope of the River Act): 

Areal Restrictions under the River Act (2)

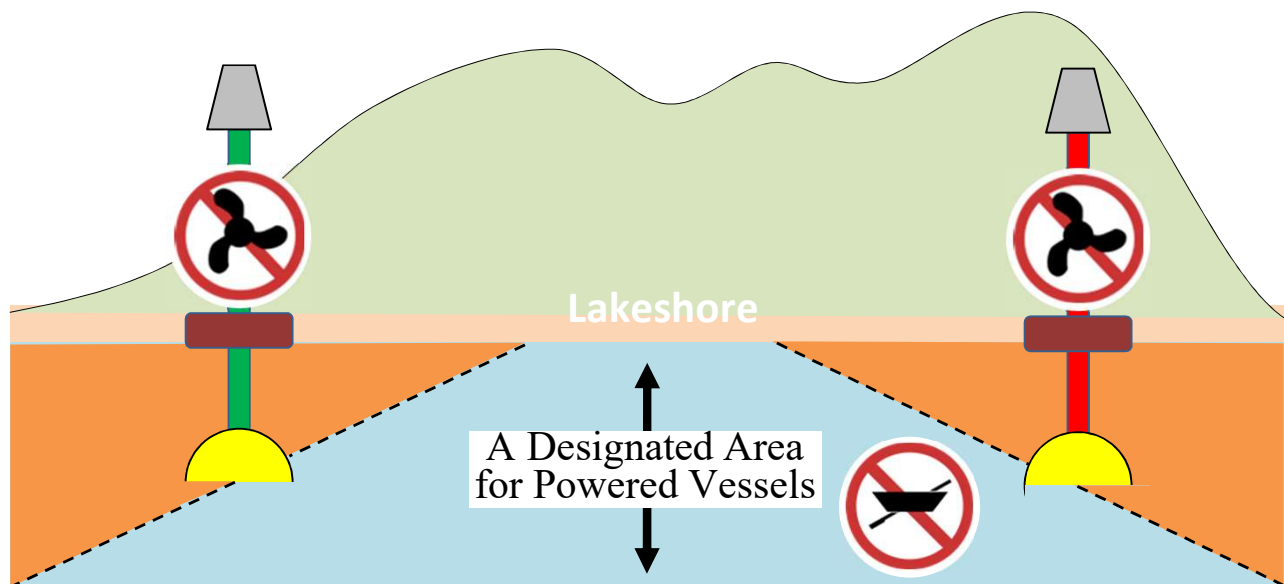


Illustration of Buoys Marking a Designated Area for Powered Vessels

(4) Prohibited Areas for Powered Vessels

In Prohibited Areas for Powered Vessels, powered vessels such as PWCs and motorboats are not permitted to operate, except for the following:

- Vessels used in emergency situations, including life-saving operations
- Vessels used for commercial fishing
- Vessels used for recreational fishing*

*The restrictions apply throughout the year at Jokohama, Shidahama, Tenjinhamma, and Matsuhashihama Beaches, and from 1 July to 31 August at all other beaches. (For details on the permitted periods and areas for recreational fishing, please contact the Inawashiro-Akimoto Non-investment Fisheries Cooperative.)

The extent and duration of the swimming areas are subject to regulations stipulated in an ordinance concerning the prevention of accidents involving recreational fishers and motorboats.

(5) Penal Provisions

In the event of a confirmed violation, a fine of up to 300,000 yen will be imposed in accordance with Article 109 of the River Act and Article 60 of the Enforcement Order of the Act.

Examples of Powered and Non-Powered Vessels

[Powered Vessel] A vessel propelled by an engine.

Electric-powered vessels are also classified as powered vessels.



PWCs



Electric SUPs



Motorboats



Electric Boats

[Non-Powered Vessel] A vessel other than a powered vessel.

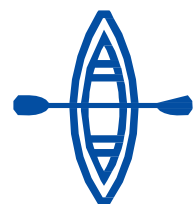
Sail-powered vessels are classified as non-powered vessels.



Windsurfing Boards



SUPs



Canoes



Rowboats



Pedal Boats

Voluntary Rules (1)

Rules for Safe Use

The Lake Inawashiro Waters Utilisation Council (hereinafter referred to as the “Council”) has established voluntary rules to ensure the safe use of Lake Inawashiro.

(1) Utilisation Period of the Lake

From early May to the second Sunday of October

(2) Hours of Utilisation

May–August	8:00–18:00
September–October	8:00–16:00

*Except in emergencies and for vessels operated by authorised businesses.

(3) Restricted Areas

For environmental conservation of Lake Inawashiro, the use of powered and non-powered vessels, excluding commercial and recreational fishers (fishing), is prohibited within approximately 300 metres from the shore.

(4) Rules for Each Beach

At each beach, the regional subcommittees (the subordinate bodies of the Council) have established rules to ensure safe use. Please follow the rule book and the signs at each beach.

(5) Safety Precautions

[For Everyone]

- Please make sure to confirm the areas where watercrafts and swimming are permitted by referring to the rule book and local signs.
- Check the weather, water and air temperature on the day, and use appropriate equipment (such as wetsuits) according to the conditions.

Voluntary Rules (2)

[For Users of Powered and Non-Powered Vessels]

- As a general rule, please wear a life jacket (personal flotation device). In case of an emergency, carry a mobile phone in a waterproof bag so that you can call for help.
- Carry your boat operator licence and ship inspection certificate.
- When unloading vessels or watercrafts, please use designated areas such as parking lots in order to avoid obstructing those passing by.
- Except for authorised vehicles, do not drive cars onto the beach as it inconveniences other users.
- When travelling long distances, use two or more vessels. If you are travelling with only one vessel, stay within a range where the administrator can see you.

[For Towing Sports]

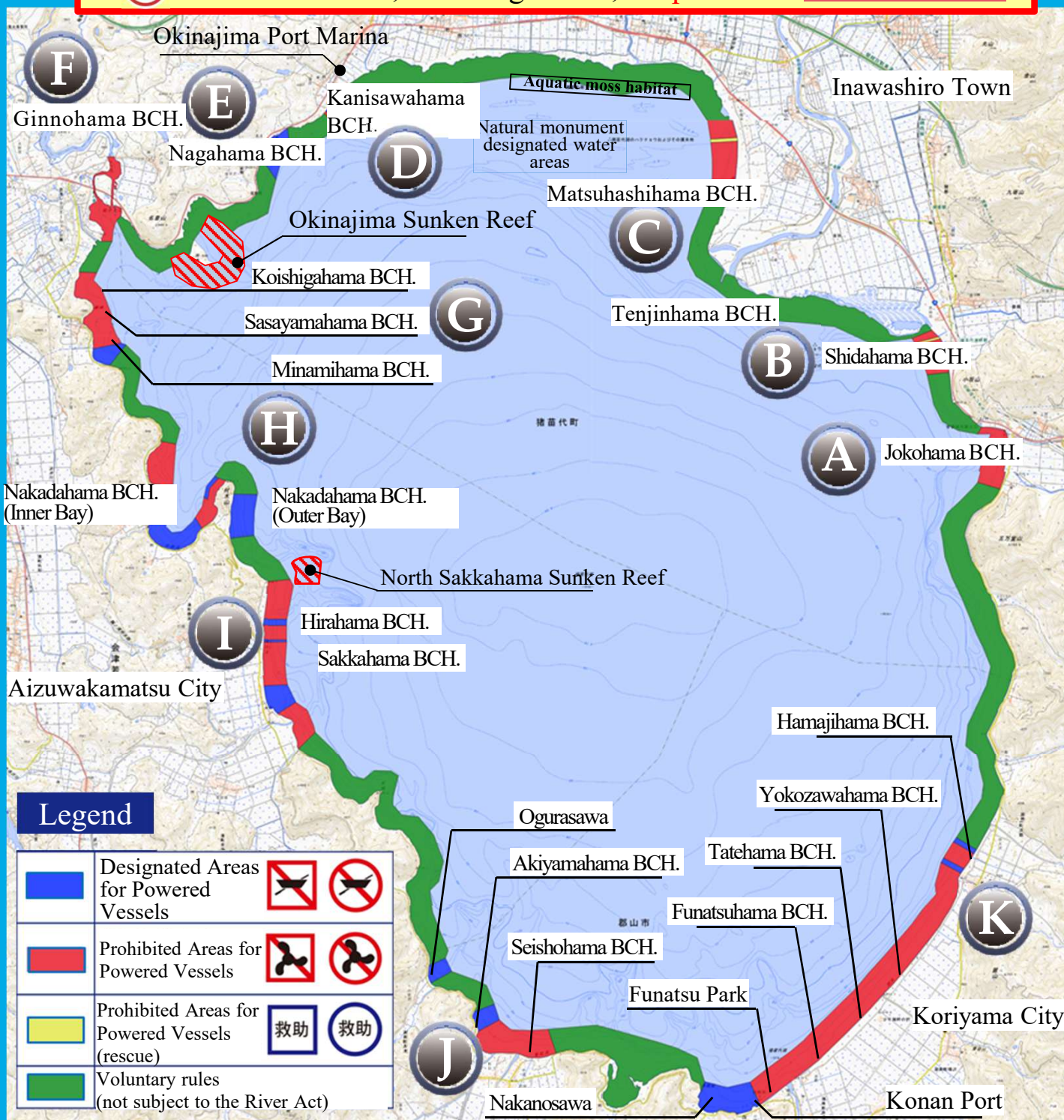
- **Board and disembark at the lakeshore or designated areas. Do not wait for your turn on the lake surface away from the shore, as it is dangerous.**
- Ensure safety by having someone who can properly keep watch while operating PWCs or motorboats.
- If a person riding the towed object falls into the water, immediately slow down and ensure their safety.
- Those towing the objects should carefully observe their surroundings to ensure that the towed object does not collide with other watercrafts or vessels, and should proceed at a safe speed.
- Those riding the towed object must also wear a life jacket (personal flotation device).

Restricted Areas

- Please respect the rules of Lake Inawashiro and use its waters in a way that is kind to people and the environment. -

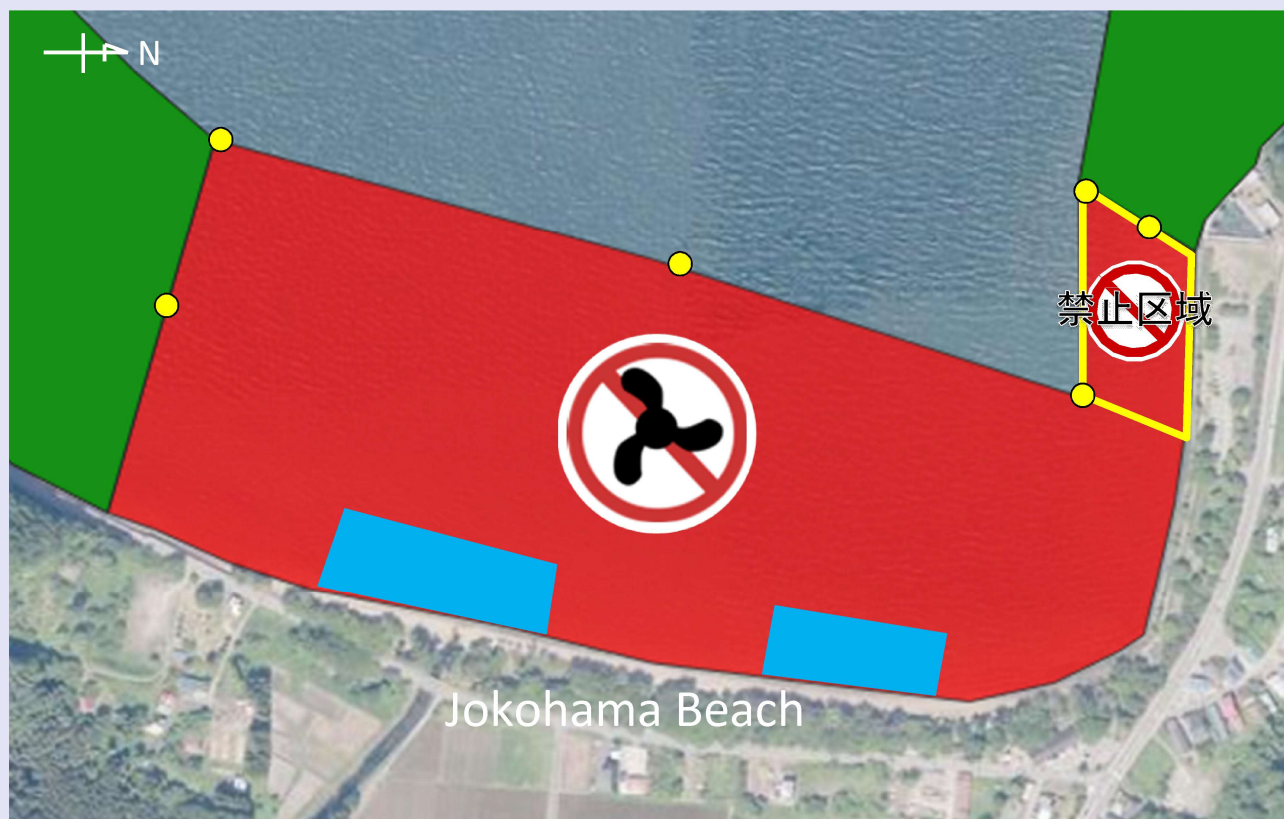


Powered vessels, including PWCs, are **prohibited** in the red area.



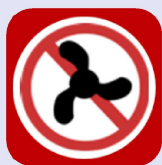
Reproduced with the approval of the Director-General of the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan (GSI) under the Survey Act, Approval No. R 5JHf 202.

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Source: Adapted from aerial photographs provided by GSI.

Restrictions under the River Act



Prohibited Areas for Powered Vessels

Swimming Areas (Planned)



As established in the Prohibited Areas for Powered Vessels, no powered vessel shall be permitted

Voluntary Rules of the Council



Only rowboats shall be permitted in Prohibited Areas for Powered Vessel (except for No Entry Areas) at Joko Beach.
*Commercial fishing vessels are exempt



All types of vessels, powered- or non-powered, are prohibited *Commercial fishing vessels are exempt



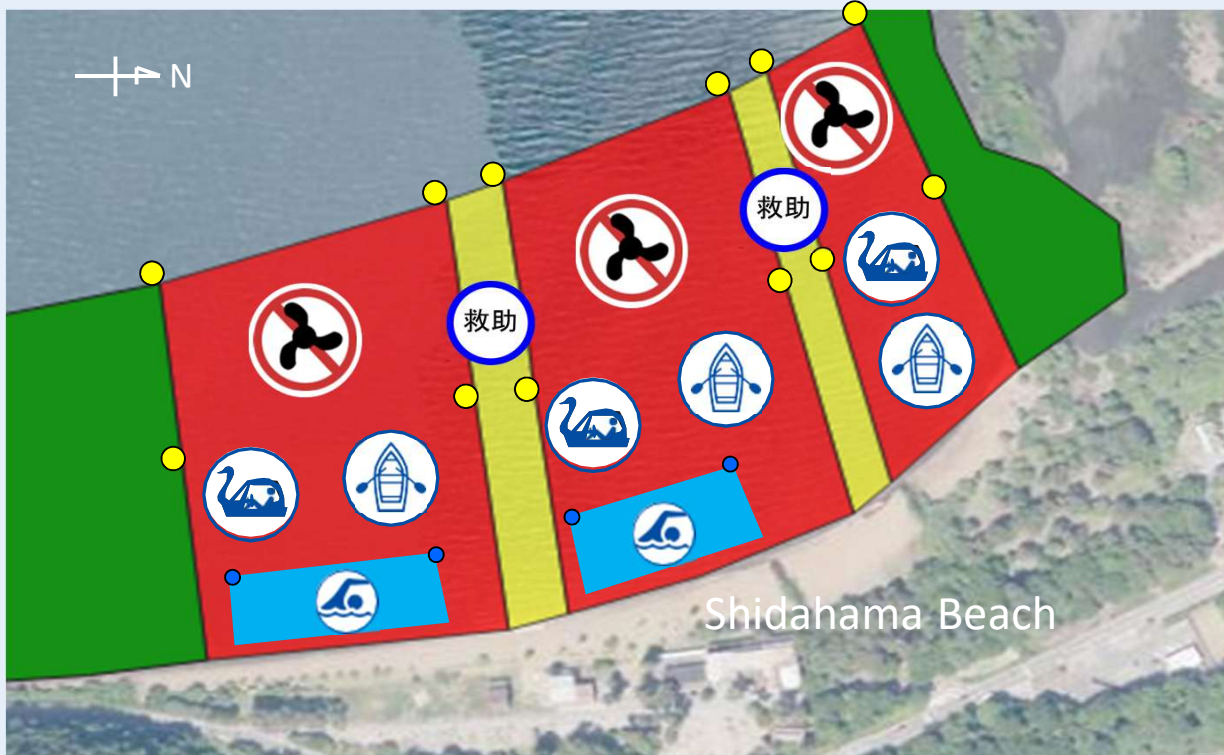
No Navigation Zone

Areas where powered- or non powered vessels are prohibited to preserve the environment *Commercial and recreational fishing vessels are exempt

B

Shidahama Beach

Vehicles other than rowboats and pedal boats are not permitted. PWCs and motorboats may operate within the area in emergencies or when necessary.

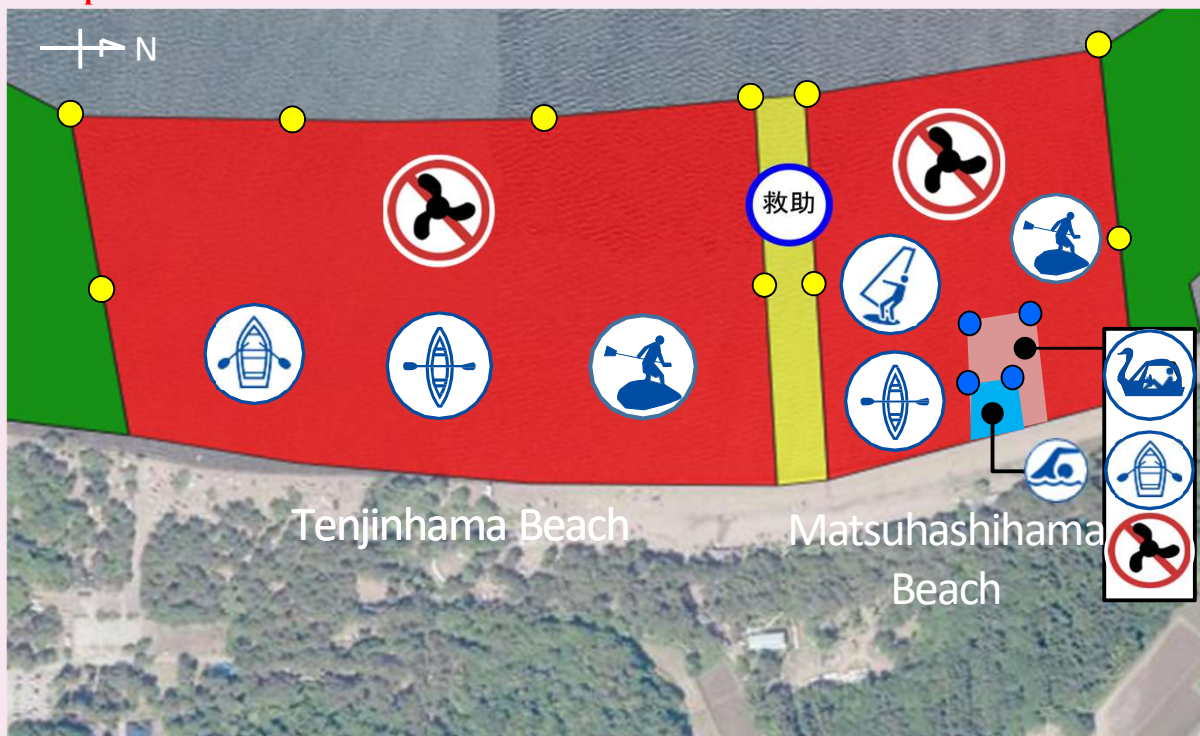


Source: Adapted from aerial photographs provided by GSI.

C

Tenjinharma & Matsuhashihama Beaches

PWCs and motorboats are not permitted. At Tenjinharma Beach, windsurfing boards and pedal boats are not permitted. For swimming at Tenjinharma Beach, please follow the instructions of the operators.



Source: Adapted from aerial photographs provided by GSI.

Restrictions
under
the River Act



Prohibited
Areas for
Powered
Vessels



Prohibited Areas
for Powered
Vessels
(Rescue)

Voluntary Rules
of the Council



No
Navigation
Zone

● Buoy (River Act)

● Buoy (Other)



Swimmer



Pedal Boat



Rowboat



Canoe



SUP

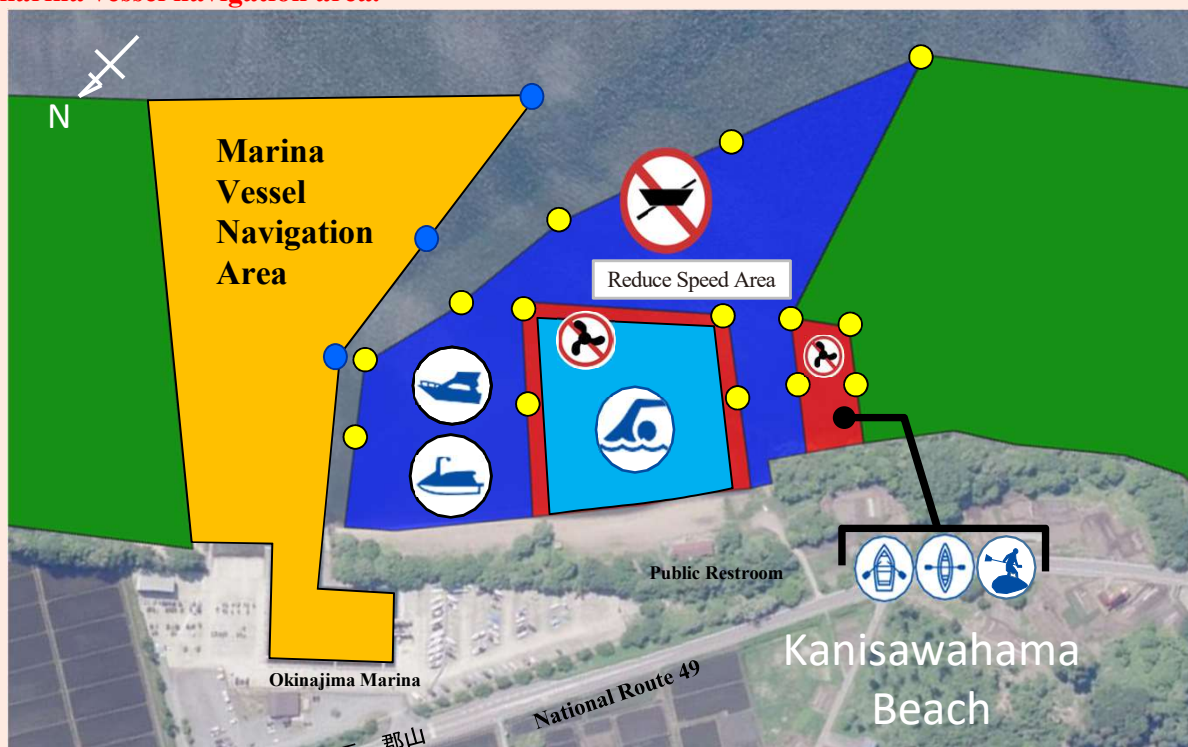


Windsurfing Boards



Kanisawahama Beach

Windsurfing boards and pedal boats are not permitted. Watch for vessels navigating in the marina vessel navigation area.

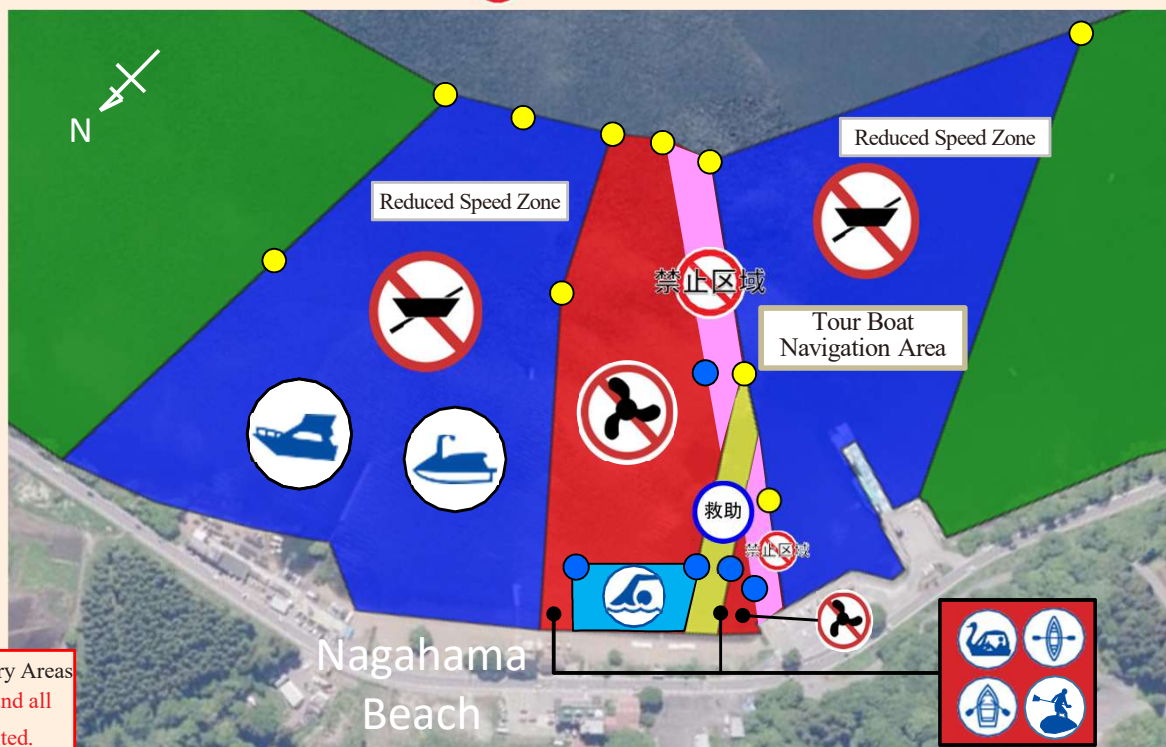


Source: Adapted from aerial photographs provided by GSI.



Nagahama Beach

Windsurfing boards are not permitted. Please watch for tour boats navigating. All activities are prohibited in the areas marked by 禁止区域.



Source: Adapted from aerial photographs provided by GSI.

Restrictions
under
the River Act



Prohibited
Areas for
Powered
Vessels



Prohibited Areas
for Powered
Vessels
(Rescue)

Voluntary Rules
of the Council

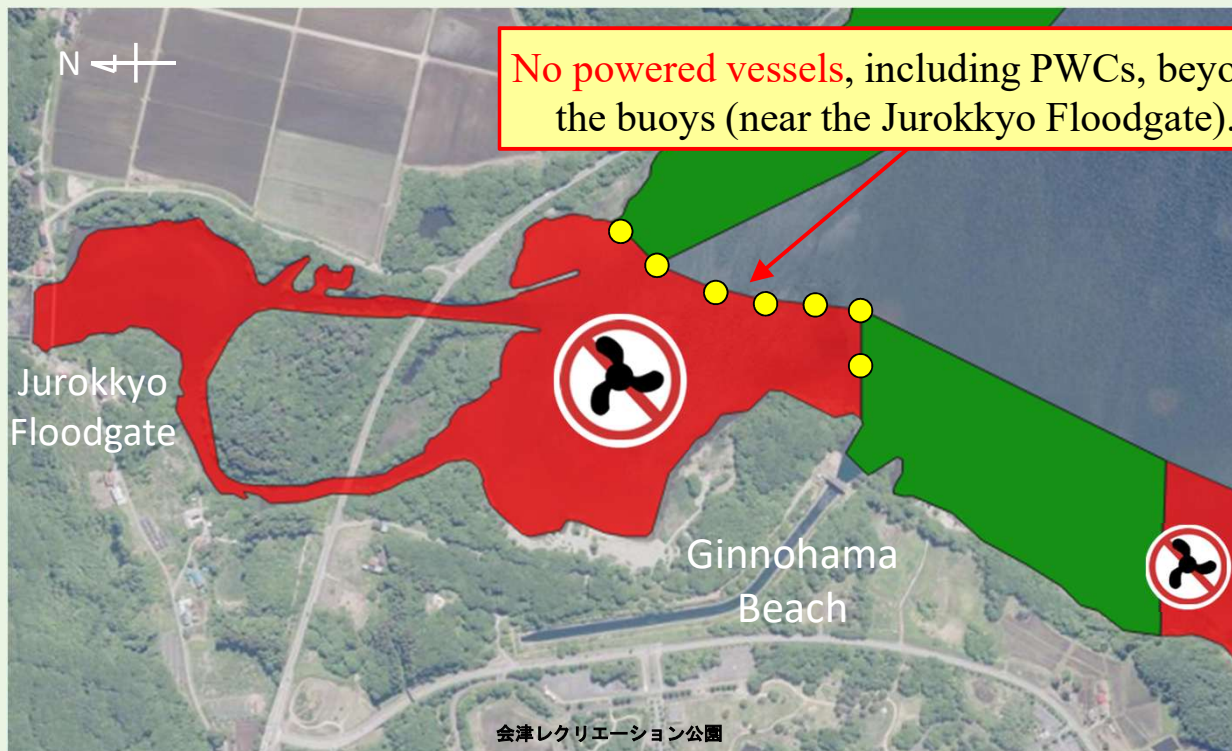
No
Navigation
Zone

● Buoy (River Act)

● Buoy (Other)

F

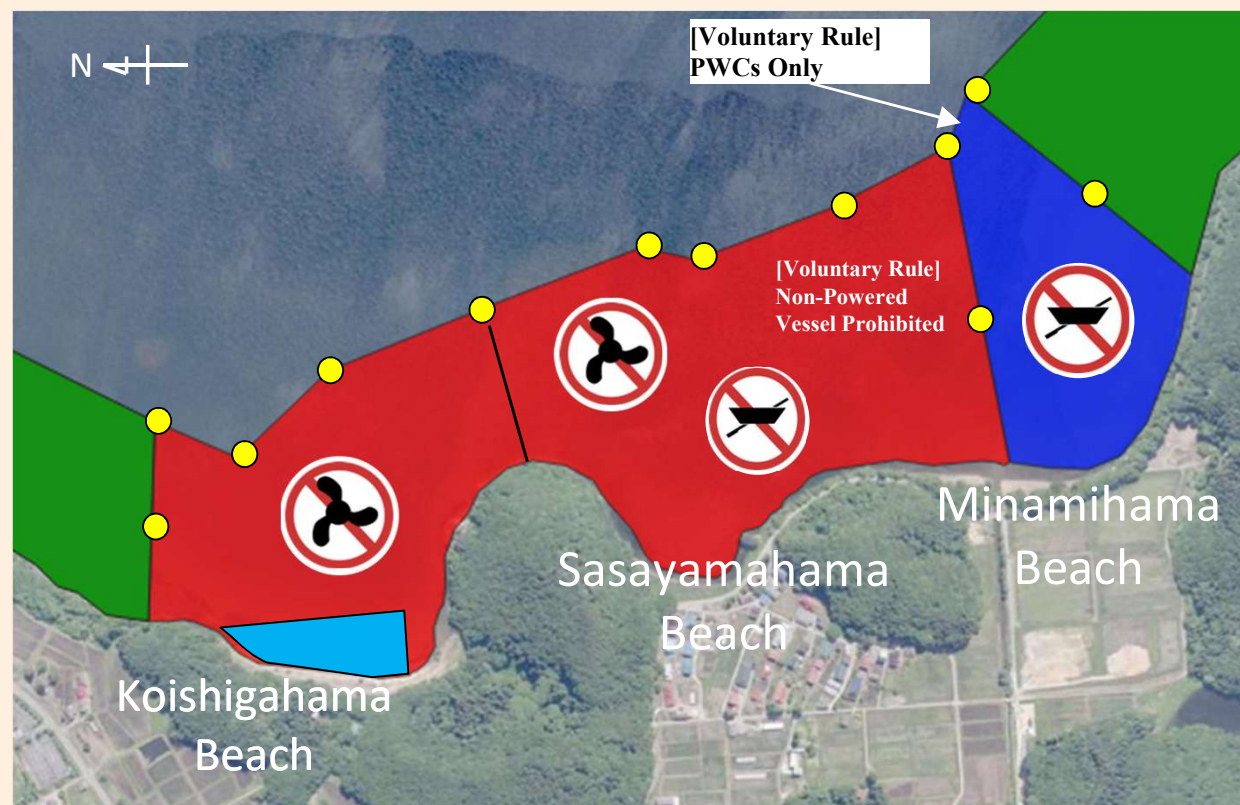
Ginnohama Beach



Source: Adapted from aerial photographs provided by GSI.

G

Koishigahama, Sasayamahama & Minamihama Beaches



Source: Adapted from aerial photographs provided by GSI.

Restrictions
under
the River
Act



Prohibited
Areas for
Powered
Vessels



Designated
Areas for
Powered
Vessels

Swimming
Areas
(Planned)



Voluntary
Rules of the
Council



No
Navigation
Zone

● Buoy (River Act)



[Voluntary Rule]
Prohibition
includes non-
powered vessel in
Sasayamahama
Beach



Nakadahama Beach

Restrictions under the River Act



Prohibited Areas for Powered Vessels



Designated Areas for Powered Vessels

● Buoy (River Act)

Swimming Areas (Planned)



Voluntary Rules of the Council



Powered and Non-Powered Vessels Prohibited



Priority for vessels in boat operator licence examination



Loading and unloading area for towing sports users



No Navigation Zone

Rules for use of area marked by  below:

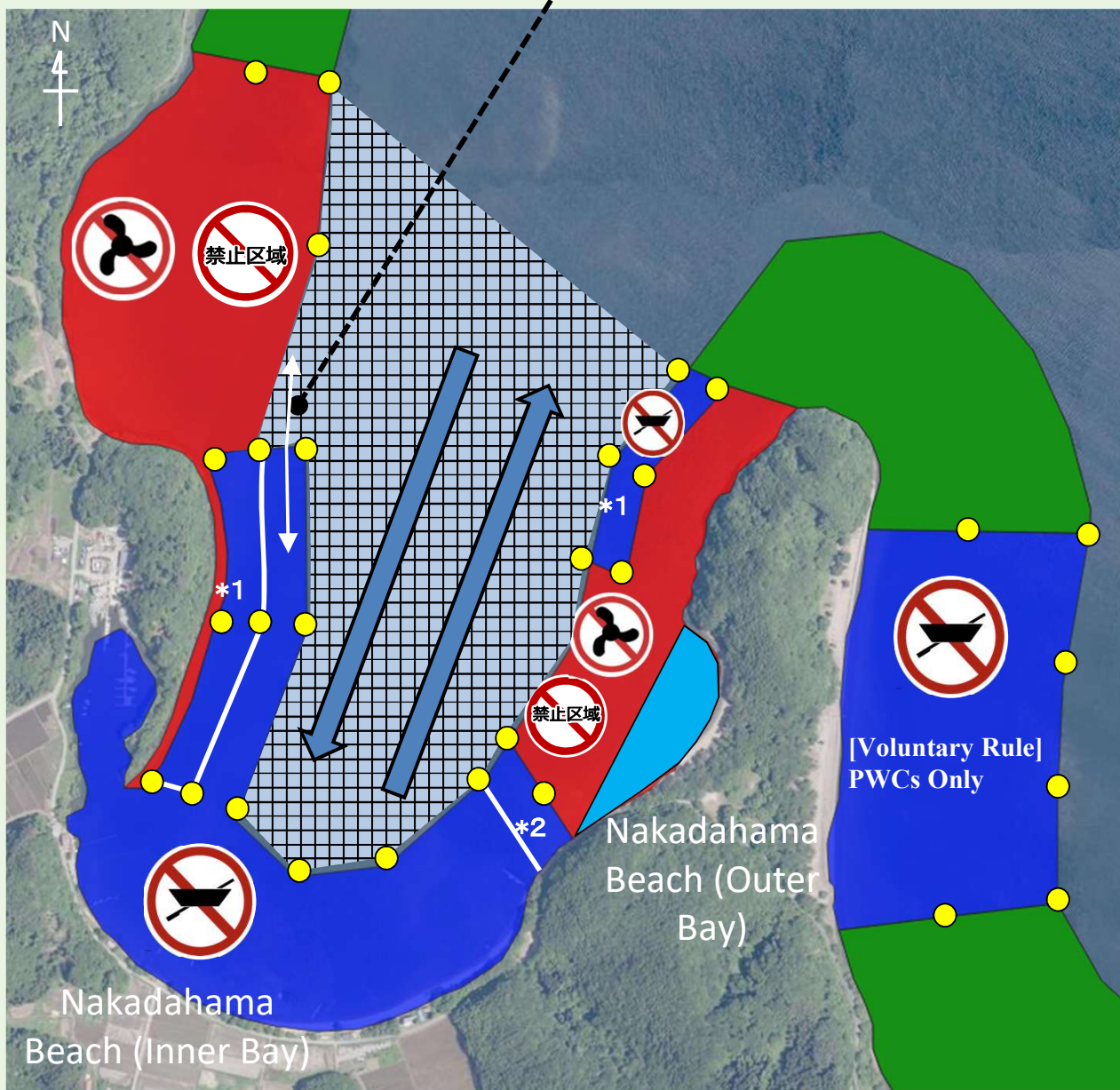
○ No transverse (east-west) navigation permitted.

○ No meandering permitted.

○ No waiting to board on the lake surface permitted.

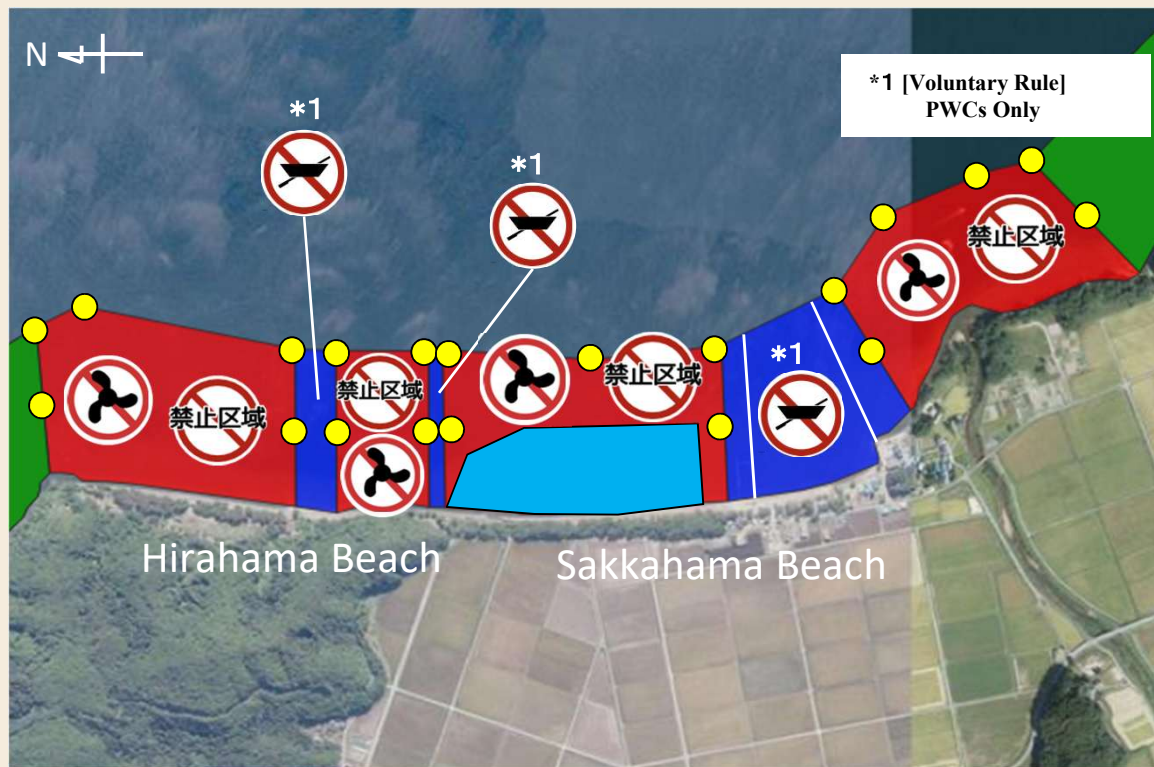
○ Navigation in one direction only.

*Please navigate vessels heading towards the centre of the lake via the western route (white arrow).



Source: Adapted from aerial photographs provided by GSI.

Hirahama & Sakkahama Beaches



***1 [Voluntary Rule]
PWCs Only**

Hirahama Beach

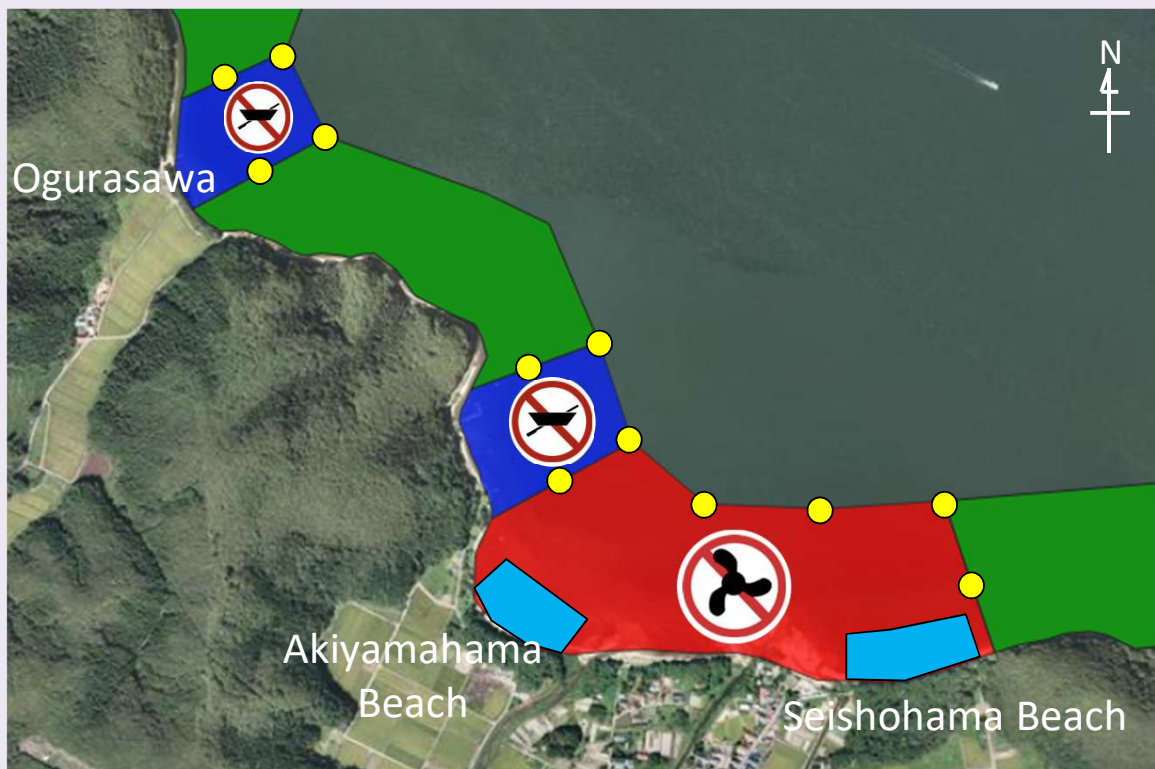
Sakkahama Beach



[Voluntary Rule]
Prohibition includes
non-powered vessel
in Hirahama &
Sakkahama Beaches

Source: Adapted from aerial photographs provided by GSI.

Ogurasawa, Akiyamahama & Seishohama Beaches



Ogurasawa



Akiyamahama Beach

Seishohama Beach

Restrictions under the River Act

Swimming
Areas
(Planned)

● Buoy (River Act)

Source: Adapted from aerial photographs provided by GSI.



Nakanosawa, Konan Port, Funatsu Park, & Funatsuhama, Tatehama, Yokozawahama, Hamajihama (No.1, No. 2) Beaches

Restrictions under the River Act



Prohibited Areas for Powered Vessels



Designated Areas for Powered Vessels

Swimming Areas (Planned)

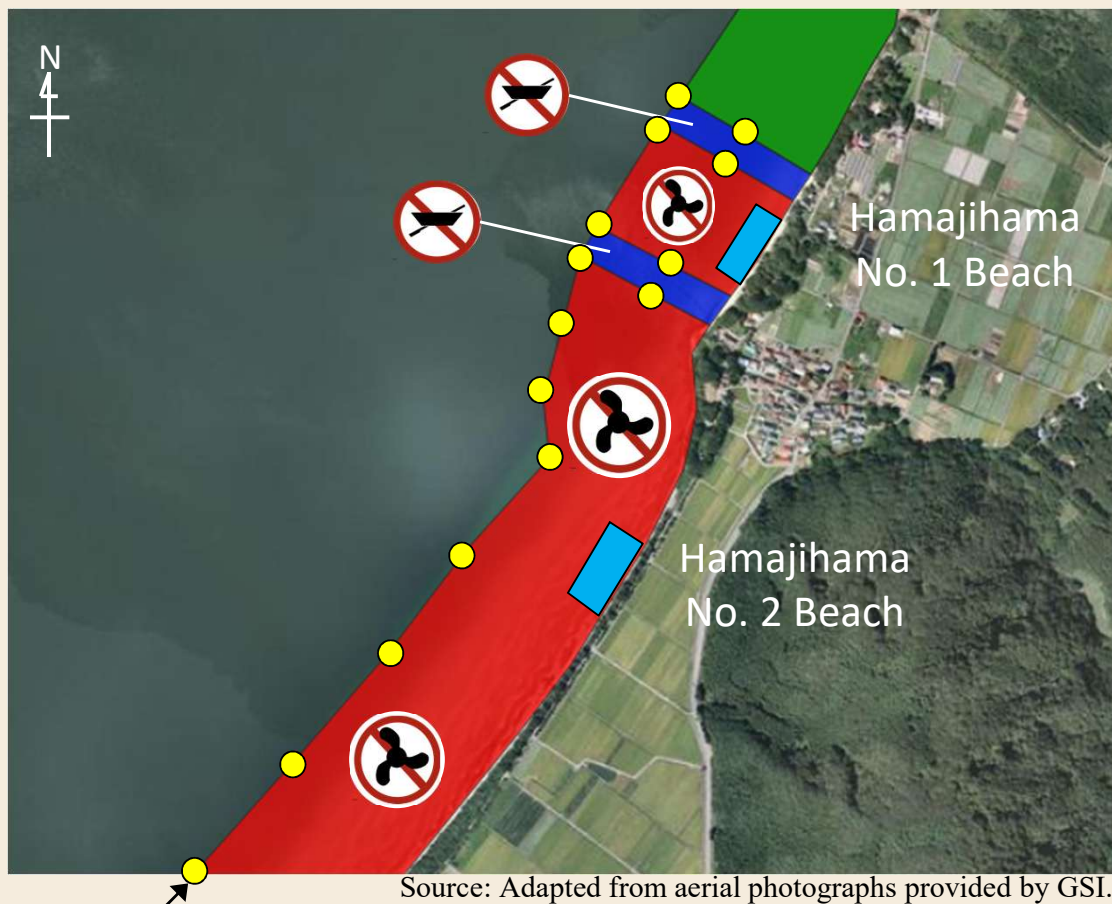


Voluntary Rules of the Council

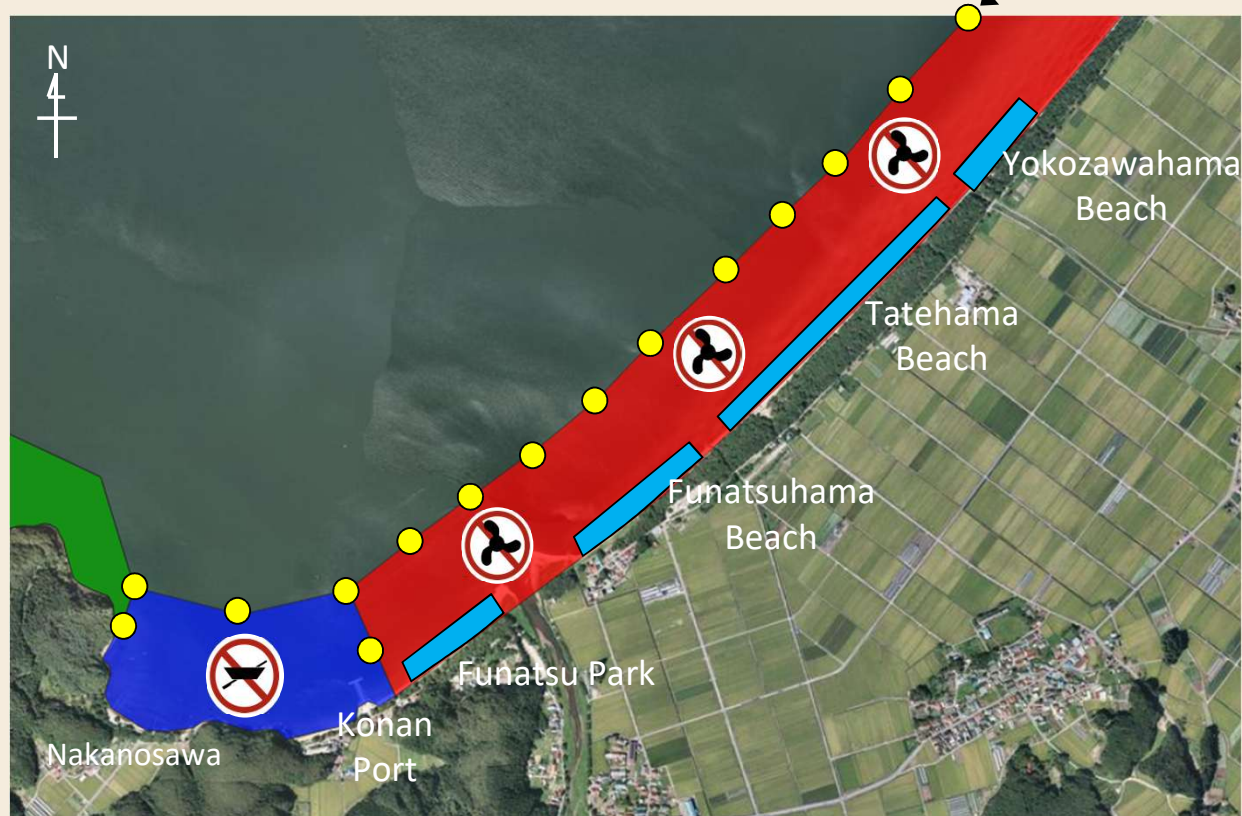


No Navigation Zone

● Buoy (River Act)



Source: Adapted from aerial photographs provided by GSI.



Source: Adapted from aerial photographs provided by GSI.

Related Laws and Regulations

〈Designation of Water Areas and Navigation under the River Act Enforcement Order〉

Navigation and no-navigation zones for powered vessels (such as PWCs, motorboats, etc.) are stipulated.

- 1 **Designation of Class A River Under the River Act**
By the River Act, Lake Inawashiro is designated as a Class A river within the Agano River system.
- 2 **River Act Enforcement Order, Article 16-2, Paragraph 3**
For water areas within the river zone of Class A rivers, where it is recognised by the river administrator that it is necessary to restrict navigation of vessels to prevent significant hindrance to the use of the river, vessels navigating such areas must do so in accordance with the methods specified by the river administrator.
- 3 **River Act Enforcement Order, Article 60, Paragraph 1, Item 2**
Anyone who navigates a vessel in violation of the provisions of Article 16-2, Paragraph 3, shall be subject to a fine of up to 300,000 yen.
- 4 **Designation of Water Areas and Navigation stipulated in Article 16-2, Paragraph 3 of the River Act Enforcement Order (Effective 1 July 2024)**
For the navigation in designated areas of Lake Inawashiro within the Agano River system, restrictions under the River Act on pages P3 to P15 apply.
- 5 **Definition of “Powered Vessel”**
A vessel propelled by an engine, including a vessel propelled by both an engine and sails, other than when it is propelled solely by sails.
- 6 **Definition of “Non-Powered Vessel”**
Any vessel other than a powered vessel.

Related Laws and Regulations

〈Act on Ships' Officers and Boats' Operators〉

Regulations have been established regarding the qualifications and compliance requirements for operators of small vessels (such as pleasure boats, motorboats and PWCs).

- 1 **Prohibition of Vessel Operation under the Influence**
Vessel operation is prohibited when one's attention and judgment are significantly impaired, such as by alcohol consumption, which may result in an inability to operate vessels properly.
- 2 **Prohibition of Dangerous Operation**
Operating in a manner that poses a danger, such as carelessly entering swimming areas or navigating near swimmers, is prohibited.
* "Swimmers" refers not only to swimmer but also to those engaging in marine leisure activities that do not require a license, such as surfing, diving, yachting, canoeing, water skiing, and using mini boats.
- 3 **Self-Operation by Licensed Individuals**
When operating a PWC on any area of water, or navigating a boat or other vessels within a port area governed by the Port Regulation Act or within a navigational route governed by the Act on Maritime Traffic Safety, the licence holder must operate the vessel directly.
- 4 **Wearing Life Jackets**
The following individuals are required to wear life jackets or similar equipment:
 - Those aboard a personal PWC
 - Children under 12 years old
 - Individuals engaged in fisheries on a single-manned boat
 - Individuals on exposed decks

- 5 **Keeping a Lookout**
To ensure the safety of navigation, a proper lookout must be maintained at all times to sufficiently assess the conditions of the surrounding waters and the movements of other vessels.
- 6 **Pre-departure Inspection**
Before departure, inspections must be conducted to ensure navigational safety. These include checking the levels of fuel and oil, gathering weather and waterway information, and inspecting the condition of the vessel.

〈Ordinance on the Prevention of Accidents Involving Swimmers and Pleasure Motorboats〉

- 1 Vessels are prohibited from navigating in designated swimming areas.
- 2 In swimming areas, do not disturb swimmers by speeding, making sharp turns, or weaving.
- 3 **Prohibition of Vessel Operation under the Influence**
Vessel operation is prohibited when one's attention and judgment are significantly impaired, such as by alcohol consumption, which may result in an inability to operate vessels properly.
- 4 In waters where people are swimming, do not disturb others by speeding, making sharp turns or weaving.
- 5 Follow the advice given by pleasure motorboat providers or marina operators to prevent water accidents.

◎ To All Lake Users

Violations will result in imprisonment or fines.

The following actions are prohibited by law. If you witness any of these actions, please report them to the nearest police station (Dial 110).

[River Law Enforcement Order]

- Entering prohibited areas for powered vessels such as PWCs and motorboats.
- *Excludes vessels engaged in fishing, vessels permitted by river administrators, and certain other vessels.
- Sudden acceleration, rapid starts and sharp turns by powered vessels within designated areas.
- Non-powered vessels such as canoes, rowboats, SUPs, windsurfing boards, etc., entering areas designated for powered boats.

[Ordinance on Prevention of Accidents Involving Swimmers and Pleasure Motorboats]

- Navigation within swimming areas.
- Moving or damaging swimming area markers.
- Failure to take necessary measures such as rescuing injured persons when injuries or damage caused by pleasure motorboat navigation.
- Operating a vessel while intoxicated or otherwise incapable of proper control.

◎ Emergency Contacts Police: 110, Fire and Ambulance: 119

Contact Information (for area designations)

Inawashiro Town	A. Jokohama Beach B. Shidahama Beach C. Tenjinhamma & Matsuhashihamma Beaches D. Kanisawahama Beach E. Nagahama Beach		
Commerce, Industry and Tourism Division	0242-62-2117	Kitakata Public Works Office Fukushima Prefectural Government.	0241-24-5717
Aizuwakamatsu City	F. Ginnohama Beach G. Koishigahama, Sasayamahama & Minamihama Beaches H. Nakadahama Beach I. Hirahama & Sakkahama Beaches		
Tourism Division	0242-39-1251	Aizuwakamatsu Public Works Office Fukushima Prefectural Government	0242-29-5438
Koriyama City	J. Ogurasawa, Akiyamahama & Seishohama Beaches K. Nakanosawa, Konan Port, Funatsu Park, Funatsuhama, Tatehama, Yokozawahama & Hamajihama (No.1, No.2) Beaches		
Tourism Policy Division	024-924-2621	Ken-chu Public Works Office Fukushima Prefectural Government.	024-935-1449