

**Statement by the Hon Kenneth Bryan. Deputy Premier and Minister for Tourism  
and Ports**

Mister Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to make a short statement on watersports zones.

Mister Speaker, we are all aware of the long standing connection Caymanians have with the sea. And while many of our young people no longer go to sea on oil tankers, the tradition is carried on by many of them who are now successful boat Captains, offering charters to our visitors ranging from snorkeling to fishing.

Another way that this significant area of our culture manifests itself, is in our young people who take part in the sport of watercraft racing, Mister Speaker.

A number of young Caymanians have, over the years, established their names on the world stage, including such names as

- Jason Smith,
- Roshad Goff,
- Gary Whittaker,
- Jordan McLean,
- the Ramgeet brothers
- and Cline Glidden among others.

The practitioners of this sport have proven their dedication by investing significant sums into their Watercraft and Sport. They have however struggled to find an adequate location to train and compete.

For these reasons Mister Speaker, I am pleased to have partnered with my Ministerial colleagues in the District of Northside and East End, to establish Watersports Zones attached to two seaside public parks, which are located at the Kaibo Public Beach and at the Colliers Beach, respectively.

Additionally Mister Speaker, I am pleased to announce that I have also agreed with my Ministerial colleague from Bodden Twn East, to establish a watersports zone at the new public beach in Pease Bay.

These three locations will add to the South Sound location to provide prime locations to facilitate spectator participation and the execution of watercraft racing.

Mister Speaker, because of the name that the Caymanian competitors have established internationally at the annual International Jet Sports Boating Association (IJSBA) world championships in Lake Havasu, Arizona, connections have been made which have resulted in international competitors travelling to the Cayman Islands to participate in our local races.

These connections have also created sports tourism opportunities whereby we can now host international circuit racing at several quality locations around Grand Cayman.

Mister speaker, I look forward to supporting the growth of this sport locally, as a healthy outlet for our youth to let off steam, while developing their skills and creating sports tourism opportunities for the future.

Additionally Mister Speaker, the layout of the new Watersports Zones can be seen on the Port Authority website [www.caymanport.com](http://www.caymanport.com). Thank you, Mister Speaker