

## **Why personal floatation devices (PFD's) are prohibited at State Beaches**

**[https://risos-apa-production-public.s3.amazonaws.com/DEM/REG\\_11135\\_20200807135322.pdf](https://risos-apa-production-public.s3.amazonaws.com/DEM/REG_11135_20200807135322.pdf)**

B. The use of flotation equipment and other objects including fishing float tubes capable of supporting a person while the person is in the water, is prohibited in the following areas: 1. All designated bathing areas, except that a Coast Guard Approved Personal Floatation Devices (PFDs) **may be utilized in designated swim areas by individuals with disabilities under the supervision of an adult and approval of a Beach Manager or Lifeguard Supervisor.**

1. They have long been considered to be problematic in that they are not a substitute for learning how to swim.
2. Provide a false sense of security for non-swimmers or poor swimmers.
3. Individuals can drift into deep water and find themselves in difficulty if separated from device.
4. In busy swim areas, lifeguards cannot be in a position to determine if a person can or cannot swim if separated from a flotation device.
5. If they are a non-swimmer and separated from the device submersion and drowning can occur very rapidly with little or no observable struggle.
6. If flotation devices were not regulated, lifeguards would be in a position to try and determine swimmers from non-swimmers wearing PFDs, who is supervised or not being supervised.
7. Lifeguards can not be in the position to determine if the flotation devices are properly US Coast Guard approved, proper size, and properly fitted for their use.
8. Without the regulation it would place an additional burden on the lifeguards in terms of enforcement.