

## Changing the way moorings in mooring zones are managed

We're proposing a number of changes to the way moorings in mooring zones are managed through changes to our Regional Coastal Plan, Navigation Safety Bylaws and Regional Policy Statement.

### What's the Regional Coastal Plan?

It manages activities within Northland's coastal waters and sets rules for development such as moorings, aquaculture and wharves.

### What are the Navigation Safety Bylaws?

These set out the rules for the safe use of Northland's coastal waters and include rules for mooring licences.

### What's the Regional Policy Statement?

It sets out the way major resource management issues for Northland will be addressed.

### What's a mooring zone?

Areas of water space set aside especially for moorings. (Officially, these are called Marine 4 (Moorings and Marina) Management Areas.)

### Who will the proposed changes affect?

Mainly mooring owners, especially those in full mooring areas.

### What are the main proposed changes?

Proposed change	What document?	Why?
All existing moorings in mooring zones will be 'permitted activities' (won't need resource consent).	Regional Coastal Plan	There are nearly 2300 moorings within mooring zones. The environmental effects of moorings can generally be managed equally well as a permitted activity or through a resource consent.
New requirements for moorings including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Boats to have holding tanks or similar if anyone stays overnight on the boat on the mooring.</li><li>Restricting the number of consecutive nights someone can stay on a boat.</li><li>No trailer boats on moorings with water more than two metres deep at low tide.</li><li>Mooring owners consent to their name and contact details being added to a public register of mooring owners.</li></ul> If a mooring can't comply with any of these requirements, owners can still apply for resource consent. We'll consider these on their merits.	Regional Coastal Plan	<p>The first two requirements will cut the risk of moored boats discharging sewage. It will also make it easier to enforce the rules covering discharges.</p> <p>Trailer boats do not have to be on a mooring.</p> <p>We get many inquiries from people keen to rent a mooring; this will enable people to contact each other more easily.</p>

Proposed change	What document?	Why?
Allow 14 moorings to be moved into a mooring zone.	Regional Coastal Plan	There are 14 moorings sitting just outside mooring zones or too close to underwater cables.
The council will be able to move moorings within a mooring zone.	Navigation Safety Bylaw	Reasons include making room for new moorings, improving navigation and allowing space for swimming.
Mooring licences couldn't be sold in mooring zones where there is no space for new moorings (the mooring zone is full). Mooring spaces could still be sold in mooring areas which are not full.	Navigation Safety Bylaw	This will stop people profiting from the privilege of using public coastal water space, increase mooring use and make moorings more affordable in high demand areas.
Coastal occupation charging. (A rental paid by structure owners for the use of public coastal water space).	Regional Policy Statement	Based on the idea that coastal structure owners should pay/compensate for the use of public coastal water space.

**Are any new mooring zones being created?**

No.

**Will resource consent be needed for a new mooring within a mooring zone?**

Yes, but once a mooring is placed, it will become a permitted activity. Mooring holders will still need an annual licence for the mooring.

**If a mooring licence can't be sold, how will they be allocated in full mooring areas?**

Council will operate a waiting list in full mooring areas. If someone gives up their mooring space, it'll be allocated to the next person on the list.

**Who owns the mooring hardware (e.g. block, chain and rope)?**

The current owner. While the mooring licence can't be sold when a mooring zone is full, the licence relates to the space only.

**How much will the coastal occupation charge be?**

Yet to be decided. The proposed change just commits the council to establish coastal occupation charging. The next step will be then to develop the detail (who gets charged, how much, exceptions etc).

**How can I provide feedback?**

Submissions on the Navigation Safety Bylaws can be made from early December 2011. We're expecting to call for submissions on proposed changes to the Regional Coastal Plan in March 2012. The final date for feedback on the draft Regional Policy Statement close is 9 December 2011 and the official call for submissions process is expected to be mid 2012.

**Where can I find more information?**

Visit our website: [www.nrc.govt.nz/mooringsandmarinas](http://www.nrc.govt.nz/mooringsandmarinas)

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