

Moorings in Northland

Your update on latest mooring news

SPRING 2013

CONTENTS

- Pg 1:** Help the Harbourmaster
Making changes to your mooring permit
Pay it online
- Pg 2:** Growing concern over dive safety
Protect our waters – keep your hull clean
- Pg 3:** Get your boat sewage sorted
Strict new rules on garbage disposal at sea
Draft moorings strategy due out in September
- Pg 4:** Keep on top of maintenance and license fees
Dealing with derelict vessels
General reminders
Need to update your details?

PAY IT ONLINE!

Want to pay your moorings invoice online? You can pay any Northland Regional Council invoice using our online service if you have a Visa or Mastercard. For full details – as well as other easy ways to pay, including telephone or internet banking – check out our website: www.nrc.govt.nz/pay

HELP THE HARBOURMASTER

If your mooring's not in frequent use, it may be that you can help the Harbourmaster's Office. We're keen to hear from any mooring owners who would be willing to add their contact details to a list of moorings that might be used temporarily by the Harbourmaster.

The ability to quickly arrange an alternative temporary mooring for a vessel can be a huge assistance to the Harbourmaster's Office – for instance when moorings are damaged or drag position.

However, our ability to take action is often hampered by a lack of available alternative mooring on which to temporarily store problem boats. The council does own some moorings, but the demands on them and their geographical spread means that sometimes we cannot respond as efficiently as we would like to.

For more information on how you can help contact Ross Watters, Maritime Officer, on **0800 002 004** or email rossw@nrc.govt.nz



MAKING CHANGES TO YOUR MOORING PERMIT

Your mooring permit sets out the specifications for your mooring – like its location, block size and how big a vessel it's suited to.

If you want to make changes, remember that you first need to apply in writing and get approval from the council's Harbourmaster. A change to your permit could be:

- A change of position
- A change to the mooring structure (for example a change from a two tonne block to a four tonne system)
- An increase in the maximum permitted length of vessel (which is partly linked to mooring size, and partly to available swing room).

The Harbourmaster's Office will be mapping all swing mooring areas this winter to get detailed, up-to-date information on mooring positions and densities. Mooring areas that are fairly full will be closed to permit changes during this period – any permit change applications in such areas will be processed once the mapping is complete.

GROWING CONCERN OVER DIVE SAFETY



Boaties are being urged to stick to dive safety rules following an increasing number of near-misses being reported, says the council's Deputy Harbourmaster Chidambaram Surendran.

"The rules are there to help keep people safe but, unfortunately, we're increasingly coming across dive flags not being displayed, dive boats not sticking close to their divers, and boats maneuvering dangerously around divers.

"Northland's dive safety rules are pretty simple and it's really important that people

stick to them – if a diver is hit by a moving boat there will obviously be very serious consequences."

Chidambaram says while the council aims to educate as much as possible, growing concerns over dive safety mean it will be looking at enforcement action where people are breaching Northland's Navigation Safety Bylaw rules on dive safety.

Offences against the bylaw rules on dive safety could be liable for infringement fees of \$200 for each offence.

Bylaw rules on dive safety

- A dive flag of at least 600x600mm must be displayed prominently on the dive boat, so it can be clearly seen and identified by another vessel that is more than 200m away. The dive flag must be displayed from the dive boat even if the diver is using a surface marker buoy (flagged or un-flagged).
- The dive boat should remain within 200m of divers with the boat crew prepared to assist quickly if required. Divers also have a responsibility to ensure that a dive flag is displayed properly on the dive boat before leaving the vessel and must stay within 200m of the dive boat.
- All other vessels must not exceed five knots when within 200m of a vessel flying a dive flag.

PROTECT OUR WATERS – KEEP YOUR HULL CLEAN

The discovery of Mediterranean fanworm – internationally recognised as a significant marine pest – in Northland has reinforced the importance of keeping boat hulls clean and regularly antifouled.

Mediterranean fanworm is unwanted because it forms dense groups that compete with native species, and it is a major nuisance fouling species in marinas and on boat hulls. The presence of fanworm on the hulls of three vessels in

Whāngārei Harbour about a year ago had been an unwelcome discovery for local biosecurity experts.

Biosecurity experts say everyone has a part to play in keeping unwanted marine hitchhikers out of Northland and boat owners can do their bit by keeping hulls clean and regularly antifouled as well as reporting sightings of new or unusual sealife to regional council biosecurity officers on **0800 002 004**.



MPI Biosecurity

GET YOUR BOAT SEWAGE SORTED

In the wake of new sewage rules for mooring areas coming into place late last year, Northland Regional Council is encouraging people to get their boat sewage systems sorted.

"It's now illegal to stay overnight in a mooring area, even at anchor, without a proper way of containing or treating your sewage," says Ricky Eyre, Coastal Monitoring Programme Manager.

"For people without a holding tank on their boat, containing sewage properly can be as simple as having a porta-potty on board and emptying it well outside of any harbour or once you get back to land.

"Alternatively, people can install a sealed-off holding tank or suitable treatment system – there are different options available for complying with marine pollution regulations."

Boat sewage is a health risk, and even very small amounts can contaminate shellfish or make water unsafe for swimming. Boaties can make a real difference and help protect our waters by dealing with their sewage in the right ways.

If you suspect a boat is illegally discharging sewage, or someone is staying in a mooring area without a proper way of dealing with their sewage, you can report it to the Northland Regional Council's 24/7 Environmental Hotline on **0800 504 639**.

STRICT NEW RULES ON GARBAGE DISPOSAL AT SEA

Maritime New Zealand has implemented strict new national rules restricting the disposal of garbage into the sea (starting January 2013). Based on international rules to help protect the marine environment, the new garbage disposal rules apply to all vessels, from large ships to small dinghies.

While the old rules prohibited disposal of only some types of garbage – like plastics – the new rules prohibit disposal of most types of garbage into the sea (unless explicitly permitted).

For recreational boaties it means that some food waste can still be disposed of into the sea (with some restrictions), but most other forms of garbage (such as bottles, cans, cooking oil, ropes, etc.) can't. Even water containing additives like cleaning agents that are harmful to the marine environment cannot be discharged and should be contained on board – responsibility for checking that additives aren't harmful to the marine environment is on the boat owner/operator.

When you're at sea, it's important to make sure garbage is stowed where it won't be washed or blown overboard if the weather deteriorates. Or more simply, "Don't throw it – stow it".

You can find out more about the new garbage disposal rules on Maritime New Zealand's website: www.maritimenz.govt.nz/Environmental/Garbage-disposal.asp



DRAFT MOORINGS STRATEGY DUE OUT IN MID-NOVEMBER



How can we provide a sustainable range of boat storage areas, supported by the necessary land based facilities, to satisfy demand in Northland well into the future?

That's what Northland Regional Council is aiming to resolve with its draft strategy for moorings and marinas. The new council is expected to release the draft for public comment in mid-November.

The draft strategy aims to:

- provide a regionally consistent approach to marine space use;
- set a template for determining how future growth will be managed in different areas;
- ensure fair allocation of marine space where intensification (for instance a new marina) is proposed in an existing mooring area; and
- set out how the strategy would apply in the Bay of Islands, where regional demand for mooring space is currently highest.

As a mooring holder you will be notified when the strategy is released. Otherwise look out for it on our website www.nrc.govt.nz/haveyoursay

For more information contact Michael Payne, Policy Analyst, on 0800 002 004 or michaelp@nrc.govt.nz

DEALING WITH DERELICT VESSELS

Derelict vessels are a risk to the environment and other boat users, so it's important to check your boat regularly, fix leaks and keep your bilge clean.

Keep in mind that the council's Harbourmaster's Office does have the ability to remove or sell derelict vessels if they're considered a risk (though we'll always try to contact the vessel owners before taking any action).

For advice on resolving issues with a derelict vessel, or to report a vessel that you think could be a safety risk, contact our Harbourmaster's Office on **0800 002 004** or email mailroom@nrc.govt.nz



GENERAL REMINDERS

- Check your mooring headline regularly for damage or deterioration.
- Book your three-yearly mooring inspections early (at least six months in advance).
- It's recommended that your name and contact details are displayed somewhere on your vessel, so we can contact you quickly if needed.

KEEP ON TOP OF MAINTENANCE AND LICENSE FEES

Around 30 mooring licenses are now being cancelled as a result of maintenance requirements not being met or outstanding mooring fees, says Deputy Harbourmaster Chidambaram Surendran.

"While the majority of mooring owners are up-to-date with requirements, those that aren't create potential safety hazards and put pressure on administration costs for both the council and other mooring owners."

"We're encouraging people to keep on top of their requirements to avoid losing their moorings and help ensure a fair, safe system for everyone."

Basic mooring maintenance and license fee requirements are:

- Inspection and maintenance of your swing mooring at least once every three years; and
- Annual payment of your mooring license fee (invoices are sent out around July each year but are late this year due to an upgrade of council's information system).

If you're unsure whether your maintenance requirements or license fees are up-to-date, contact us on **0800 002 004**.

NEED TO UPDATE YOUR DETAILS?

Get in touch with us if:

- Your contact details change
- You leave the country – provide us with an alternate contact in case something happens to your boat or mooring while you're away
- The vessel on your mooring changes
- You've rented or leased your mooring
- You want to change your permit conditions (e.g. put a bigger boat on your mooring, change the block size or reposition it) – you need approval from the Harbourmaster first
- The mooring has sunk.

Call us on **0800 002 004**, email mailroom@nrc.govt.nz or post us a letter to Northland Regional Council, Private Bag 9021, Whāngārei Mail Centre, Whāngārei 0148.

CONTACT US

For more information freephone **0800 002 004**

Email: mailroom@nrc.govt.nz

www.nrc.govt.nz/onthewater

REGIONAL OFFICES

WHĀNGĀREI

36 Water Street
P: 09 470 1200
F: 09 470 1202

KAITĀIA

192 Commerce Street
P: 09 408 6600
F: 09 408 6601

DARGAVILLE

61b Victoria Street
P: 09 439 3300
F: 09 439 3301

ŌPUA

Unit 10, Ōpua Marine Park
P: 09 402 7516
F: 09 402 7510

24/7 Environmental Hotline
0800 504 639

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/NorthlandRegionalCouncil

Twitter:

www.twitter.com/NRCEXpress