







Nau mai haere mai Ulelcome

The Bay of Plenty is a boaties paradise, with coastline stretching from Waihī Beach in the west to Cape Runaway in the east. Off the coast there are many islands to explore and further inland there are numerous lakes to enjoy. With more people owning a boat and getting on the water than ever before its vital they know the rules and how to be safe.

This booklet is a great introduction to boating in the Bay of Plenty, what the rules are and it includes maps with basic information on popular boating spots too.



TO REPORT POLLUTION INCIDENTS CALL 0800 884 883

For more information visit www.boprc.govt.nz/safeboating



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Safety on the water

Skipper responsibility

No matter how big or small the boat, the skipper is always responsible for the safety of those on board. As a skipper you need to know the rules and be aware of the risks.

Skippers must:

- Have enough correctly fitting lifejackets for everyone on board.
- Have the right safety equipment on board and make sure everyone knows where it's stowed and how it works.
- Check the marine weather forecast and tides **BEFORE** going out and get regular updates while on the water.
- Know the rules. Even though no licence is required to operate a recreational boat in New Zealand, ignorance of the rules is no excuse.
- Keep a good lookout at all times, especially at speed.
- Avoid alcohol while boating.
- Always tell someone where you are going and when you expect to be back.
- Report any oil or fuel spill to the 24 hour Pollution Hotline on **0800 884 883.**

If you are not confident on how to safely skipper a boat we highly recommend you attend training. Check out page 28 for more information on what's available locally.

All maritime incidents/accidents must be reported to the Harbourmaster on 0800 5 KNOTS (0800 55 66 87) and Maritime New Zealand on 0508 4 RCCNZ (0508 472 269) immediately.

You must also provide a written report within 48 hours to maritime@boprc.govt.nz

Essential equipment checklist

You need to prepare for the trip you intend to make. Below is a checklist of items that will help ensure you get home safely.

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Lifejackets - a correctly fitting lifejacket for everyone on board.

Two forms of waterproof communications such as cell phone in a waterproof bag, VHF (Very High Frequency) radio, EPIRB (Emergency position-indicating radio beacon) PLB (Personal Locator Beacon) or flares.



Navigation equipment – charts, compass, GPS and depth sounder. Exactly what you need will depend on how far you are going.



Alternative power – a spare outboard motor or oars.

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Bailing device.

- Anchor.
- Fire extinguisher.
- Kill cord for powerboats.
- Torch.
- Throwline.
- Spare fuel.
- Knife.
- First aid kit.

Protective clothing – carry sufficient warm and waterproof clothing for your trip.



Lifejackets

In the Bay of Plenty, **lifejackets must be worn at all times** unless the skipper has assessed the risks and advised it's safe to remove them. They **must** be worn when crossing a bar. Crotch straps are essential for children's lifejackets.

There are all kinds of lifejackets for different types of boating situations. It's important you have the right kind and the right size for the trip you intend to make.

Things to consider:

- The activity Fishing? Watersports? Kayaking?
- The distance from shore you intend to go.
- The conditions you are likely to encounter.

Talk to your local supplier or our Harbourmaster Team about what is the best type of lifejacket or other Personal Flotation Device for your activity.

Lifejackets only work when worn properly

A lifejacket should feel comfortably snug but not too tight. Straps should be firmly fastened and when you lift your arms the jacket should not rise above your chin. Most inflatable lifejackets don't automatically inflate or float. This makes it even more important that you wear them while on board.

You need to regularly check:

- The gas cylinder for corrosion and that its tightly screwed on
- The bladder will inflate by using the mouth piece.



More than two thirds of boating fatalities may have been prevented if lifejackets were worn.

Communication tools

Communications equipment is an essential part of safe boating. If you can't call for help, no one can rescue you.

If you get into trouble while you're on the water the ability to call for help is vital. Many boaties think that they're fine with just a cell phone. but in reality this isn't enough. You need to always carry at least TWO reliable ways to call for help that will work when wet.

Cell phone and VHF coverage is not a given. Take the right tools for the location and always tell someone where you're going and when you'll be back.



Marine UHF radio

VHF radios are designed to get you help when things are going wrong. When there's reception they are the most reliable way to call for help as by calling 'mayday' on Channel 16 you are communicating with a wider audience and vessels which are more likely to be able to give immediate assistance. Check the Marine and Coastguard radio frequencies on page 37 of this book.

Distress beacons

Set your beacon off in an emergency - it's the most effective way of letting people know that you need urgent help and where to find you. It's important to check its battery life regularly.





Cell phone

Cell phones are generally only helpful if kept dry and when you are close to land. Keep yours in a sealed waterproof bag, in a secure location. Save the battery for essential communication. You can call 111 if in distress. Be aware that you may not have cell phone coverage so always take another form of communication.

Flares and torches

Flares are visual signals that grab attention over long distances and when waved torches can be effective too.



Remember the rules

It is the skipper's responsibility to ensure the safety of the craft and crew on board. This includes knowing and understanding the rules of the road at sea. If you have an accident, ignorance of the law is not accepted as an excuse.

Speed the 5 knot rule

Your boat must not exceed 5 knots within:

- 200m of the shore, a structure or dive flag
- 50m of another boat, raft or person in the water.



Watch your wake

As boats get more powerful, wake is increasingly becoming an issue. A wake can throw people off balance, damage other vessels and structures and erode the shoreline. Always consider the effect your wake may have.

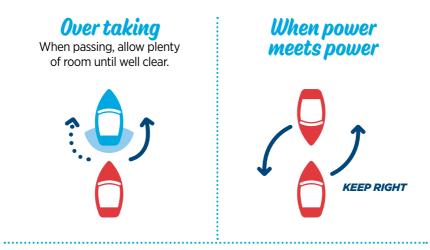
Wakeboarders this includes you!

Keep a look out

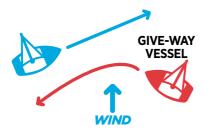
Stay focused and keep alert for other boats, swimmers, paddle craft, divers, hazards and obstacles around you. While on the water listen to your marine radio and regularly check your charts, GPS and radar.

Who gives way?

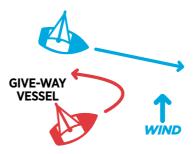
When two boats are approaching each other, one has the right of way. The 'give way' rules depend on what type of boat you're on and the type of boat you're approaching. Make sure your actions are clear, taken in good time and do not take you close to other vessels. **Ignorance of the rules is no excuse.**



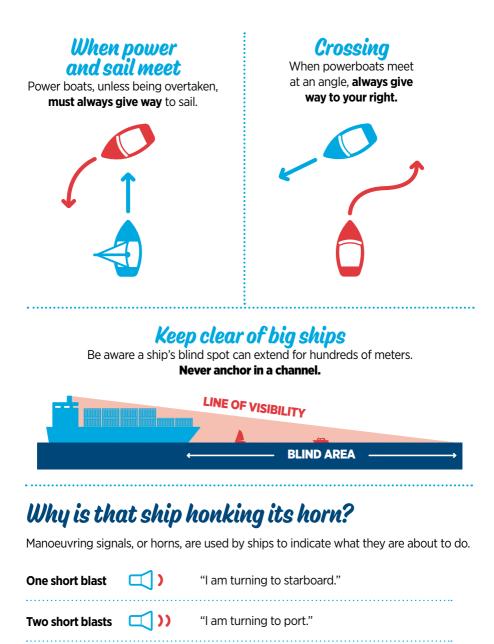
When sail meets sail



When the wind is coming from different sides: the boat with the wind on its port (left) side must give way.



When both vessels have the wind on the same side: the upwind boat (windward) must give way.



Three short blasts)))	"My engines are operating astern" - this does not necessarily mean my craft is going backwards.
Five or more short blasts	 >>>>>	"I don't understand your intentions" - perhaps better known as "what on earth are you doing?"

Buoys, marks and beacons

Buoys and beacons help guide boaties through shallow water, busy channels and past hazards. They are the 'road signs' on the water and the different shapes and sizes communicate important information about what side it's safe to pass on.

Water ski access lane and reserved areas

Waterski access lanes You may only ski from shore in a water ski access lane or reserved area, otherwise the 5 knot rule applies. Ski access lanes and reserved areas have no special status unless actually in use for skiing. **Reserved** areas

A reserved area gives swimmers and Personal Water Craft (PWC) priority for certain activities such as skiing and jetskiing.

Check out page 23 for more information on how to ski safely in Bay of Plenty.

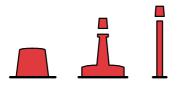
Channel markers

These show well-established channels and indicate port (left) and starboard (right) sides of the channels.

Port mark

When entering the harbour, channel or marina the red port (left) mark should be kept on the boat's port (left) side, and the green starboard (right) mark on the boat's starboard (right) side.

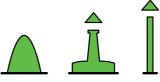
May have a red flashing light at night.



Starboard mark

When leaving the harbour, channel or marina the red mark should be kept on the boat's starboard (right) side, and the green mark on the boat's port (left) side.

May have a green flashing light at night.



Preferred channel markers

When there are two navigable channels these markers are placed at the intersection to show the preferred route.

Preferred channel to port

May have a green flashing light at night.

If entering the harbour and approaching two channels, the preferred channel to port marker indicates which side the predominant channel is on. If you opt to take the preferred channel the marker should be kept on the boat's starboard (right) side.

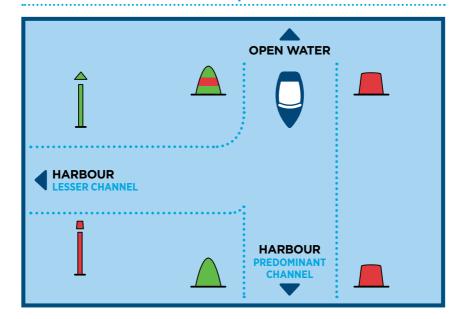


Preferred channel to starboard

May have a red flashing light at night.

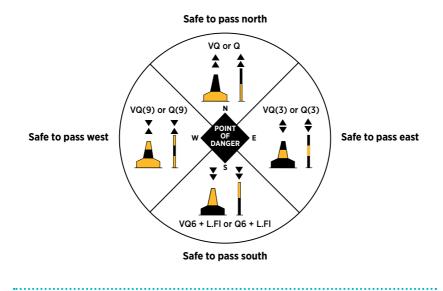
If entering the harbour and approaching two channels, the preferred channel to starboard marker indicates which side the predominant channel is on. If you opt to take the preferred channel the marker should be kept on the boat's port (left) side.





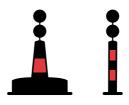
Cardinal marks

Cardinal marks indicate a hazard and show what side it's safe to pass on as a compass direction. At night these marks can be identified by the number of quick (Q), very quick (VQ) or long (L) flashes. To help remember what the flashing rhythm means think of the number of flashes as a clock face and the position of three (east), six (south) and nine (west).



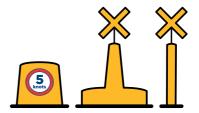
Isolated danger mark

To mark a small area of danger with navigable water all around it.



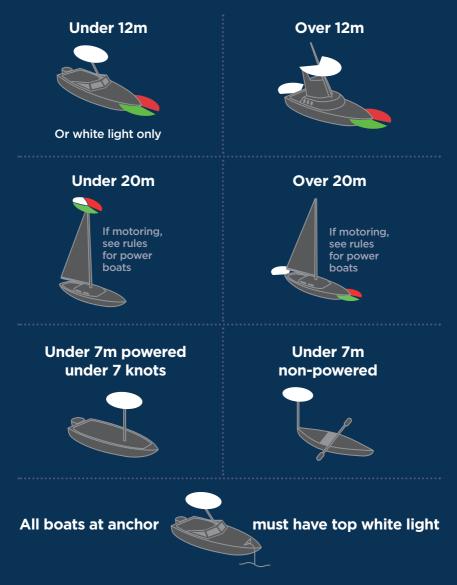
Special mark

Marks an area of special significance such as a 5 knot zone, recreation zone, marine farm or marine reserve.



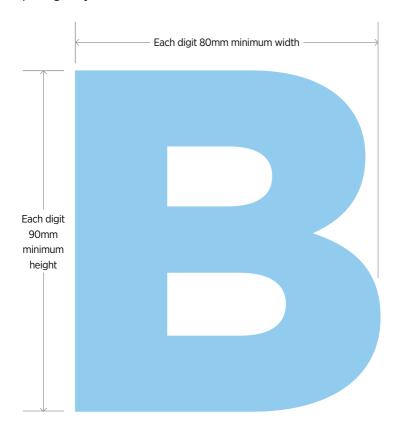
Lights at night

To help other boaties understand what you're doing and which way you're heading while you're underway, your boat must display lights from sunset to sunrise and in rain and fog. Not using lights is dangerous and could result in a fine.



Name your boat

To help with identification, powered vessels over 4m and non-powered vessels over 6m are required to be clearly marked with a name or number. The mark needs to include a minimum of two letters or numbers which are not a vessel's brand, make or model. The name and/or number must be of a contrasting colour that is legible from a distance of 50 metres or compliant with a national sporting body standard. Smaller vessels are encouraged to have some kind of identifier on their boat to help with determining ownership or knowing who we may be looking for in event of an emergency also.





Crossing a bar is one of the riskiest things you'll ever do on a boat, no matter how experienced you are.

Before you leave:

- Talk to locals.
- Check the weather and tides always avoid low tide.
- Inspect the bar at low tide.
- Ensure that weight, including your passenger load, is kept low.
- Check that your engine and steering are working correctly.

Before crossing:

- Everyone *MUST* be wearing a lifejacket.
- Warm up the motor.
- Observe the state of the bar.
- Tie down all loose objects.
- Study the sea to find the best route the best time to cross a bar is at high water when the tide is coming in.
- Approach with caution.
- If possible, use your VHF radio to call the local Coastguard immediately before and after crossing the bar (if this service isn't available, tell a friend or family member on shore).

Get tips on crossing a bar

For a live update on the Whakatāne and Bowentown bar conditions or to watch a video on how to safely cross the Bowentown, Kaituna or Maketū bar visit **www.boprc.govt.nz/barcam**

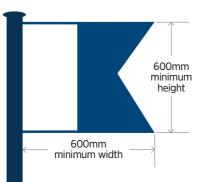


Information about specific bars is located under the guides section starting from page 57.



Be safe, be seen

If you have swimmers, snorkelers, divers or spearfishers in the water you must have a dive flag displayed. This tells other boaties that they need to look out, slow down to less than 5 knots and keep clear of the person in the water (at least 50m).



Flag must measure more than 600mm x 600mm

It is also recommended:

- Those in the water stay within 50m of the boat.
- Spearfishers and free divers tow a float displaying a dive flag.
- You do not dive in or near shipping lanes or areas of frequent traffic.

Water skiing

If you're towing someone behind your boat, whether they're on skis, a wakeboard or biscuit, they must wear a lifejacket and only ski between sunrise and sunset.

As a skipper you need to:

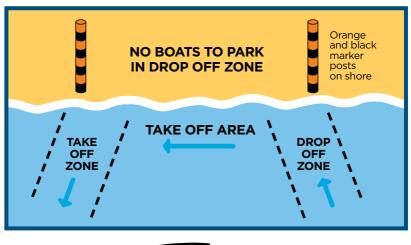
- Keep to designated ski areas (or make sure you are more than 200m offshore).
- Always have an observer who is more than 10 years old.
- Always tow in an anti-clockwise direction.

The designated ski lanes and ski areas throughout the region give priority to these activities. To find out where they're located, skip to the Guides section of this book starting from page 57.

Ski lane rules

A ski lane is marked by orange and black stripped poles. Skiing from shore is only permitted within a ski lane

> A ski area is marked by black and white striped poles.





Kayaking and paddleboarding

Kayaking

Kayaking can be very dangerous and the risks shouldn't be underestimated. The same rules apply to kayaking as for small boats and you generally need the same safety gear.

Before you head out, make sure that you're prepared.

- Check the weather and tides.
- Let someone know where you are going and when you expect to be back.
- Talk to a local if you're paddling in a new area contact the local canoe/kayak retailer or local Coastguard.
- Make sure your kayak is clearly marked with emergency contact details.

Once ready, make sure you have:

- A correctly fitting lifejacket or buoyancy aid. One must be carried for every person on board and worn unless the skipper has assessed the risk and advised it is safe to not wear one. If you're not wearing your lifejacket, make sure it's easily accessible.
- Two forms of waterproof communications.
- Suitable warm clothing.
- A bailer or pump.

Paddling at night?

For safety reasons, kayakers must carry a light. A head torch keeps your arms free to paddle or mounting an all-round white light on your rear deck above head-height means you will be visible from all directions.

Paddleboarding

Stand up paddleboarding is a fast-growing sport.

Rules

- If you're not in the surf, the same lifejacket and communication rules apply as for smaller boats. A correctly fitting lifejacket or buoyancy aid must be carried for every person on board and worn unless the person steering the board has assessed the risk and deemed it safe to remove.
- You should have two forms of waterproof communications such as a cell phone in a waterproof bag or VHF marine radio.
- If you're in the surf, as long as you're leashed to the board you do not need to carry a lifejacket or communications.

Guidelines

- If you are not in a fast flowing river, consider using a leash. This will keep you and your board together.
- Avoid areas with heavy boat traffic, strong currents, and dangerous rock areas.
- Keep a safe distance from swimmers.
- Get a lesson from a professional paddleboard instructor.
- Always let someone know where you are going and when you'll be back.
- Check the weather and tides before heading out.
- Learn the basics in flat, calm water.
- Stay safe and paddle with a mate.

Windsurfers and kitesurfers

- When using your windsurfer or kiteboard you must keep well clear of any person in the water.
- It's best to keep away from busy waterways and shipping lanes.
- Enjoy your sport but show respect and consideration for other water users.



Tsunami What to do if you're on the water

The natural warning signs

A tsunami caused by a local earthquake could arrive in minutes and there might not be time for an official warning. It is important to recognise the natural warning signs and act quickly. You may have as little as 10 minutes to take action.

If you are offshore the natural warning signs may not be as obvious. It could be

On land the primary natural warning signs are:

Long

A weak or rolling earthquake that lasts a minute or more

or

Strong

An earthquake that make it hard to stand up

signs may not be as obvious. It could be that you feel the earthquake through the hull of your boat or you could see a rapid shift in currents and changes in wind-wave heights.

Top tips for what to do

If you're out at sea and observe natural warning signs or receive an official tsunami warning you need to act quickly.

- 1. Stop what you're doing pull up your anchor and lines (cut if necessary).
- **2.** If you're in shallow water and can beach or dock your boat within 10 minutes, evacuate on foot to higher or safer ground.
- 3. If you cannot do this, head out to deeper water (preferably at least 50m).

What if my boat is on a mooring or at a berth?

If a tsunami warning is issued you need to get to higher or safer ground immediately. Do not attempt to move your vessel.

After a tsunami - it's not necessarily over

The first surge may not be the last or the largest. It is not unusual for tsunami surges to continue for 12 hours or dangerous currents to persist for 60 hours.

If at sea, do not return until you have confirmation it's safe to do so. Monitor CH 16 or use available communication devices.

Visit Bay of Plenty Civil Defence for more info on tsunami, safe zones and how to sign up for alerts www.bopcivildefence.govt.nz



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Boating courses

Whether you're exploring the harbour by kayak, taking out your Jetski for the first time or an even bigger boat offshore game fishing; there's a lot to learn. Regardless of what size boat you have, there is a course for you. We've listed some of the leading courses available below but to see the full list check out **www.boatingeducation.org.nz**

Coastguard boating courses



Day Skipper

A great introductory course that covers boat handling, safety equipment, navigation, tides, weather, rules and regulations, emergencies and knots. Relevant to all boat types, the course can be completed in a classroom or online and takes around 15 hours to complete.

Maritime VHF Radio Operator Certificate

Knowing how to use a maritime VHF radio correctly and with confidence is vital in the event of an emergency. This course covers the protocols that must be followed when communicating over the maritime radio network. It takes about four hours to complete.

Waka Ama Safety

This course is designed for waka ama paddlers old and new. It covers equipment, emergencies, communication, weather, trip planning, navigation techniques, rules and regulations. It takes about four hours to complete and can be done online.

Sea Kayak

A short course covering equipment, communication, emergencies, planning, weather, rules and navigation. It takes about four hours to complete and can be done online.

In Water Survival

Gain essential knowledge of sea survival techniques and equipment. Takes about six hours to complete and can be done online.



Rya boating courses

Powerboating Level 1

A practical one-day course that introduces you to boat handling and safety.

Powerboating Level 2

Held across two days, this course covers all basic powerboat handling and seamanship skills.

Jetski and Personal Water Craft (PWC)

A comprehensive one-day course to gain essential skills and knowledge to enable safe and competent operation of a Jetski.

See **www.boatingeducation.org.nz** for details of where you can complete any of these courses.

Learning to sail

Contact your local yacht club for more information on local sailing courses.



Learn the lingo

Get familiar with boating terminology:

1. BOW The front end



PORT The left side of the boat

3.

STARBOARD The right side

4.

FREEBOARD The height of a boat's deck above the water



HULL The body of the boat

6. COCKPIT An open area with partial shelter



STERN The back end CABIN Room

BULKHEAD An interior wall in a boat

BILGE The lowest area inside a boat

KNOT (SPEED) One nautical mile per hour (1.85 km/hr)

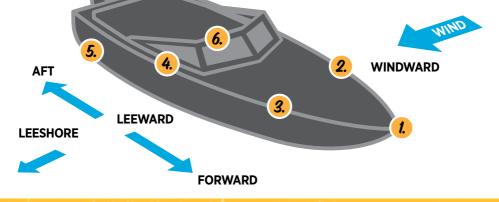
WINDWARD The upwind side of the vessel

LEEWARD The downwind side of the vessel

LEESHORE A shore toward which the wind blows

FORWARD Towards the bow of a boat

AFT Towards the stern of a boat



Jetski





These machines are fast and exciting but need to be handled with care. The same boating rules apply to Jetski and other Personal Water Craft as for boats. There are designated areas for Jetski to speed but there are also areas where they are not allowed. Check out the guides section, from page 57, to see what is and isn't allowed in your area.

Wear a lifejacket

Take them and wear them. You must carry enough for everyone on board.

Speed

Keep to 5 knots (a fast walking pace) within:

- 200m of the shore, a structure or dive flag
- 50m of another boat, raft or person in the water.

Fifteen years or older

You must be aged 15 or older to operate a Jetski by yourself. If you're younger than 15, make sure you're on the vessel with an adult who can reach the controls.

All Jetski and other Personal Water Craft using Bay of Plenty waterways *need be registered.*

55668;

Registration is a one-off fee!

Visit www.boprc.govt.nz/pwc for more info.

Communications

You must carry at least two forms of waterproof communication, such as a mobile phone in a dry bag or a waterproof VHF radio.

Keep in touch

Report your trip. Always let someone know where you are going and when you will be back.

Turn safely

Apply the throttle to turn. When you throttle off completely you lose steering control.





UHF marine channels



Newer VHF Radios may have four digits.

For weather information via Nowcasting, please add 20 before the channel e.g. 2019, 2010 or 2079.

Marine radio frequencies

Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty area		
MAYDAY	Ch. 16	
Waihī Beach Coastguard	Ch. 07	
Tauranga Coastguard	Ch. 01 (24 Hours) and Ch. 62	
Maketū Coastguard	Ch. 01	
Port of Tauranga	Ch. 12	
Tauranga Bridge Marina	Ch. 73	
Boat to Boat	Ch. 06 and Ch. 08	
Rotorua area		
MAYDAY	Ch. 16	
Rotorua Coastguard	Ch. 02 (24 Hours)	
Boat to Boat	Ch. 06, Ch. 08 and Ch. 64	
Whakatāne and eastern Bay of Plenty	area	
MAYDAY	Ch. 16	
Whakatāne Coastguard	Ch. 18 and Ch. 60	
Ōpōtiki Coastguard	Ch. 18	
Waihau Bay Coastguard	Ch. 65	
Weather channels		
Plenty Maritime Radio	Ch. 68	
Nowcasting (24 hour continuous transmission)	Ch. 19 and Ch. 79	

How to make a Trip Report

Trip reports are generally lodged from your VHF radio with your local Coastguard, but you can now do this from the new Coastguard 'Boaties Best Mate' app too.

When logging a Trip Report you'll be asked for:

- Your boat's name and call sign (this is a formal identifier of your vessel).
- Where you plan to go.
- The number of people on board.
- When you plan to arrive or return.

Remember to close your Trip Report when you have arrived at your destination. Failing to close a trip will NOT initiate a search.

Get a call sign

A call sign is a number and letter configuration that's unique to your vessel. It's the best way of making sure each radio transmission is individually identifiable.

Because they are registered on a national search and rescue database this also means that authorities can access information about your vessel to help locate you faster in an emergency.

Call signs only cost \$45. You can learn more about the registration process at **www.boatingeducation.org.nz** or through the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment.





Check the conditions

Weather conditions can make the difference between an enjoyable day out and an uncomfortable or even tragic trip. Make sure you are up-to-date with the marine weather forecast for your boating area.

Marine forecasts are good at predicting major weather events, but they may be less accurate when predicting changes in local conditions. Be sure to check the conditions for your area and be prepared for the unexpected.

You can access tide information from a range of places or alternatively download tide charts for the year from Land Information New Zealand at **www.linz.govt.nz**

If you are in doubt, change your plans or don't go out.

UHF Radio

- You can access 24/7 marine wind and weather conditions for Bay of Plenty on VHF Ch. 79.
- Newer VHF Radios may have four digits. For weather information via Nowcasting, please add 20 before the channel e.g. 2019, 2010 or 2079.

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Websites

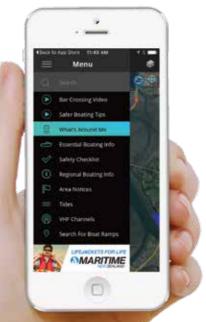
- www.metservice.co.nz
- www.metvuw.com
- www.marineweather.co.nz
- www.port-tauranga.co.nz/harbour-conditions
- www.windguru.cz
- www.buoyweather.com

Apps for your phone

There are a number of smartphone apps that allow you to check information while you're out and about.

Some of these include:

- MetService Marine
- MarineMate
- Swellmap
- Coastguard -Boaties Best Mate
- MarineTraffic
- PredictWind
- Windguru
- MarineForecaster





Protecting our environment

Don't be the one who ruins our environment!

Boat sewage

While the effects of sewage discharge from one boat may be minor, the cumulative effects of the whole maritime sector are significant.

You must be:

- At least 2km away from shore and in water over 5 metres deep.
- At least 500m away from any marine farm.
- At least 500m away from a customary fishing reserve (mataitai).
- At least 200m from a marine reserve.

Discharge of untreated sewage *is not allowed anywhere* in Tauranga Harbour, Ōhiwa Harbour, Whakatāne Harbour, or in any of our Lakes.

Think before you flush. Use toilets on shore before you depart or fit a holding tank and use pump out facilities where provided.

If you think a boat is illegally discharging sewage or any other pollutants, phone our 24-hour Pollution Hotline on 0800 884 883.

Details of the boat name, description, photos/videos and the time and location is useful information to convey to our hotline team.

Fuelling your boat

Diesel and oil spills pollute harbours and coastlines. Most oil and fuel spills can be attributed to careless refuelling or pumping oily bilge water overboard. Ensure your engine is properly maintained, that it does not leak oil or fuel, and that the bilge is kept clean. Keep absorbent pads on hand. If there is an oil or fuel spill in the water, do not use detergent to disperse it.

Overnight stays on vessels using moorings or anchorages

If you want to stay overnight on your boat it must be equipped with a sewage treatment system or holding tank, or have a portable toilet on board.

You can't stay for more than five nights on the boat unless all sewage has been pumped-out at a suitable facility or legal disposal of sewage has occurred.

Rubbish disposal

Maritime New Zealand prohibits the disposal of most types of rubbish at sea and only some garbage, like food waste can be disposed of.

Food waste may be discharged as long as you are at least 12 nautical miles from the nearest land. If it is ground up so that particles are 25mm or less in diameter, food waste may be discharged no less than three nautical miles from land.

All other rubbish must be contained and appropriately disposed of when back ashore.

Reduce, reuse and recycle to minimise waste and protect the environment you love.

Hull cleaning

Good hull maintenance is the best way to prevent unwanted and harmful pests spreading and establishing in our region. If you do have a fouled (dirty) hull you could be turned away from our waters.

You must ensure that no contaminants i.e. marine pests or anti foul are discharged into the coastal environment during your cleaning process. All rubbish must be contained and appropriately disposed of.



Marine pests

Unwanted marine pests could devastate our unique underwater environments, seafood stocks and aquaculture industry. They can also cause costly and unsightly damage to boat equipment, wharves and other marine structures. They're easily spread through ballast water and fouled hulls.

To protect your favourite fishing and diving spots:

- Keep your boat bottom and any niche areas clean (no more than light slime, all the time).
- Keep your anti-fouling paint fresh manufacturers usually recommend replacement every 1-2 years.
- Check your hull before you travel to a new area, every time.

If your boat is heavily fouled, haul it out.

Visit **www.boprc.govt.nz/marinepests** for more information and links to a hull cleaning guide.

Protecting the Bay of Plenty

To prevent the spread of marine pests to our region, Bay of Plenty marinas require visiting vessels to have been recently cleaned. That means:

- Anti-fouled in the last six months.
- Lifted and washed in the last month.

You will be required to provide proof, so check with the marina what proof they need and make sure you have copies of any haul out and paint receipts. Some high-risk vessels may be subject to additional marina requirements.





KIA TŪPATO! WARNING! STOP CATFISH SPREADING TO OUR OTHER LAKES.

Catfish are an unwanted pest threatening to ruin the renowned Rotorua lakes and tributaries. They prey on trout, native fish, and they also lower water quality by churning up mud. Catfish have already made it into Lake Rotoiti and if they spread to our other lakes, it could be devastating.

OUR BEST DEFENCE AGAINST THE SPREAD IS YOU.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE



from your boat, trailer and gear.



Empty any ballast or lake water you may be carrying.



Don't leave your trailer in the water, catfish love hiding in them.





KEEP OUR LAKES GREAT STOPTHESPREAD.CO.NZ





Oil spills

Any spills of oil or fuel from your boat should be dealt with immediately and cleaned up with special sorbent material. You can buy sorbent pads from most chandlers or marine stores. Any oil or oily waste should be disposed of properly at your local transfer station or by a waste contractor.

Remember to:

- · Check your engine for leaking fuel or oil.
- Clean up any oil in the bilges before turning on the pump.
- Soak up any floating oil with sorbent pads. Keep a stash of these on your boat. You can use newspaper or paper towels in an emergency.
- If you have an automatic bilge pump you must keep the bilges clear of oil at all times. You can install a bilge water filter that will remove most contaminants.
- Never mix detergent with oily bilge water before pumping. Most detergents are also contaminants.
- Make sure you monitor the situation when refuelling and always aim to refuel at a fuel pump rather than transferring fuel to your boat in containers. Have absorbent pads available to catch any fuel spills.

Report any oil or fuel spills to our 24-hour Pollution Hotline on **0800 884 883.**





Moorings, boat ramps and marinas



Moorings

A mooring refers to any permanent structure to which a vessel may be secured. In the Bay of Plenty there are more than 490 designated swing moorings spread across Tauranga, Whakatāne and Ōhiwa harbours. These areas are identified in the Navigation Safety Bylaw.

Bay of Plenty Regional Council administers these moorings on behalf of the individual owners. All negotiations for the sale of moorings are between the mooring consent holder and the purchaser.

To find out what moorings are available for purchase or for rent for vessels 15m and under check out **www.trademe.co.nz** or local newspapers.

For information on mooring specifications, annual fees and the rules on changing vessels or transferring ownership visit **www.boprc.govt.nz/moorings**

Visiting a marina

Need a place to berth your boat in Tauranga? Marina visitors may need proof of a recently cleaned or anti-fouled hull.

Tauranga Bridge Marina

This modern facility consists of 500 fully serviced marina berths (serviced by a 35 tonne travel lift). Berths are available both short and long-term, ranging from 10.5m to 37m. There are a few multihull berths available too.

To find out more call 07 575 8264 or VHF CH 73 or visit www.marina.co.nz

Tauranga Marina

This marina comprises of 561 berths, 130 trailer parks and 50 hardstands (serviced by a 35 tonne travel lift). It is imperative that a phone call is made to the office before arrival as this marina is operating to its maximum capacity.

To find out more call 07 578 8747 or visit www.tmia.co.nz

Launching your boat

- Boat ramps can be busy. Before reversing down the ramp make sure the bung is in, tie downs have been removed and your boat is ready. You need to clear the ramp as quickly as possible.
- Power loading is not allowed at any boat ramp, or beach in the Rotorua lakes as it erodes the structure and beach.
- Do not wash down your vessel on the ramp.
- Your local district or city council is responsible for maintenance of boat ramps. Refer to page 103 for contact numbers of your local council.

Tauranga Harbour

Small craft launching ramps			
Area	Location	Material	Remarks
Katikati	Anzac Bay Pio's Beach	Beach Concrete	All tides, soft sand. All tides, private club ramp, narrow channel.
	Athenree Tanners Point Tuapiro Point	Concrete Concrete	Beach access only. Domed ramp, side load. Beach access.
	Kauri Point Uretara Stream Beach Road	Concrete Concrete	Jetty and beach access. High water only. Domed ramp, side load.
Ōmokoroa/ Te Puna	Pahoia Reserve Ōmokoroa Beach Ōmokoroa Beach Station Road Waitui Reserve Wairoa River	Beach Concrete Concrete Concrete Concrete Concrete	Beach access only. Cross tide ramp. Limited use. Long narrow ramp. Beach access only. Access to harbour at low water limited.
Otumoetai	Fergusson Park Kulim Park	Concrete Concrete	Exposed to westerly wind, dries at low water. Small yachts only, high tide only.
Sulphur Point	Maxwell Road Waikareao Estuary Waikareao Estuary Cross Road	Beach Asphalt Concrete Concrete	Beach access only, high tide only. Four lanes, pontoons. Six lanes, pontoons. Three lanes.
Tauranga	Strand Reclamation 6th Avenue Maungatapu	Concrete Concrete No Ramp	Exposed to easterly wind. From half tide only. Beach access only.
Mount Maunganui	Whareroa Ramp (Harbour Bridge) Pilot Bay	Concrete Concrete	Strong tidal flow across ramp, floating pontoon. Two lanes, access shallow less than half tide.
Kaituna/ Maketū/ Pukehina	Ford Rd Bell Rd	Concrete Concrete	Closed August 2018, being redeveloped. Reopening 2020. Small vessels, very shallow at low tide, dangerous bar crossing.
	Pukehina Boat Ramp	Concrete	Small vessels, very shallow at low tide, dangerous bar crossing

Whakatāne and Eastern Bay of Plenty

Small craft launching ramps			
Area	Location	Material	Remarks
Whakatāne	Muriwai Drive Trailer Park	Concrete, four lanes	All tide access. Trailer park, 67 units and grass parking.
Ōhiwa Harbour	At end of Harbour Road	Concrete two lanes	All tide access. Parking grassed area 60 units +.
	South of Pukeruru Point	Concrete	Small vessels, limited tidal use. Good parking.
	Port Ōhope	Concrete	Small craft two hours each side of high tide. Limited parking.
	Otao Domain Harbour Road	Concrete and Metal	Limited access small vessels. Two ramps. Informal.
Thornton	Alongside Thornton Wharf	Concrete	Two lane. Plenty of parking, grassed area.
Ōpōtiki	Alongside Ōpōtiki Wharf	Concrete	Two lane. Plenty of parking.
Aniwaniwa	Lake Reserve	Beach	Beach access only.
N.P. 1. All ramps are influenced to some degree by crossitidal flows			

N.B. 1. All ramps are influenced to some degree by cross tidal flows.2. All eastern Bay of Plenty ports have bar entrances.

Rotorua lakes

Small craft launching ramps			
Lake	Location	Material	Remarks
Rotorua	Reem Street, Ngongataha	Concrete	Shallow, less than 1m.
	Beaumont Road, Ngongataha	Concrete	Shallow, less than 1m.
	Hamurana shops Hamurana Springs	Concrete	Shallow, less than 1m.
	Ōhinemutu	Concrete	Shallow, less than 1m.
	Sulphur Point	Concrete	Shallow, less than 1m.
	Hannahs Bay	Concrete	Two ramps, one sheltered.
		Concrete	Exposed to westerly wind.
Rotoiti	Okawa Bay	Concrete	Sheltered.
	Ōhau Channel	Concrete	Two ramps, both sheltered.
	Otaramarae	Concrete	Two ramps, both sheltered.
	Gisborne Point	Concrete	Exposed to easterly wind.
	Hinehopu	Wood	Exposed to westerly wind.
Rotoehu	Te Wairoa Bay Okahu Point	Concrete Concrete	Shallow, exposed to westerly wind. Sheltered.

Rotorua lakes

Small craft launching ramps			
Lake	Location	Material	Remarks
Rotoma	Whangaroa Inlet (Merge Lodge)	Concrete	One concrete ramp and area for beach launching.
	Te Oneroa Bay (Matahī Spit)	Concrete	
Okataina	Tauranganui Bay		Long access to ramp, sudden drop off.
Okareka	Acacia Bay		One concrete ramp.
Tarawera	The Landing	Concrete	Exposed to North Easterly wind.
	Kariri Point (Boat Shed Bay)	Concrete	Sheltered, two ramps. One ramp has sudden drop off.
	Rangiuru Bay	Concrete	
	Te Karamea Bay	Sand	Limited parking.
Tikitapu	Ski Club	Concrete	Two ramps.
Rerewhakaitu	Campsite	Concrete	Sheltered.
	Domain	Sand	Sheltered.





Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty guides

NOTE: Not to be used for navigational purposes



Tauranga Harbour

This is a natural tidal harbour protected by Matakana Island. The main harbour entrance sits at the southern end of Matakana Island near Mount Maunganui. The entrance is shared by all kinds of boats and is also the main shipping channel to the Port of Tauranga. Shipping movements can take place at any time, day or night, so the channels leading to the main wharves must be kept clear at all times.

The harbour has a tidal range of between 0-2m. This tidal flow generates currents of up to five knots in the main entrance channel. Please remember that most of the land adjacent to the harbour is privately owned, so you should not land without permission. Please respect and consider other users so everyone can use and enjoy our harbour.

Give way to shipping

The shipping channel in Tauranga Harbour enables large ships to move in and out of the Port of Tauranga. There is a moving prohibited zone in this channel to help protect smaller boats. This means skippers must not navigate 500m in front of and 50m either side of large ships.

If fishing in the main Tauranga Harbour channel, allow plenty of time to move out of the way and never anchor in the shipping channel. You can check the shipping movements of the day at **www.boprc.govt.nz/shippingschedule**



A ship's blindspot can extend for many hundreds of metres.

Tauranga Harbour bridges

There are two main bridges in the harbour boats can navigate under. The Tauranga Harbour Bridge has a clearance height of 9m above a spring tide at the marked navigation spans. The Matapihi rail bridge has a clearance height of 4m above high water springs at the navigable spans.

What happens on land affects the sea

Find out about water quality, harbour health and how you can help care for Tauranga Harbour at **www.boprc.govt.nz/taurangaharbour**



Hunters Creek

For safety reasons, the Hunters Creek ski area is closed to ski traffic for two hours either side of low tide. During this time the 5 knot rule applies.



Bar crossings

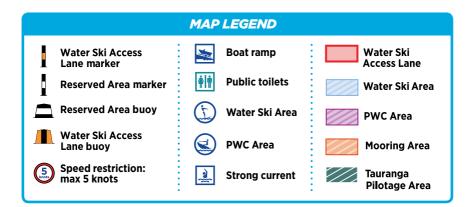
There are two main bar crossings in the Tauranga region, Bowentown Heads and the Kaituna Cut. Check out **ww.boprc.govt.nz/barcam** for links to bar cameras in the Bay of Plenty.

Bowentown Heads

This bar is constantly changing and should always be approached with caution.

Kaituna Cut

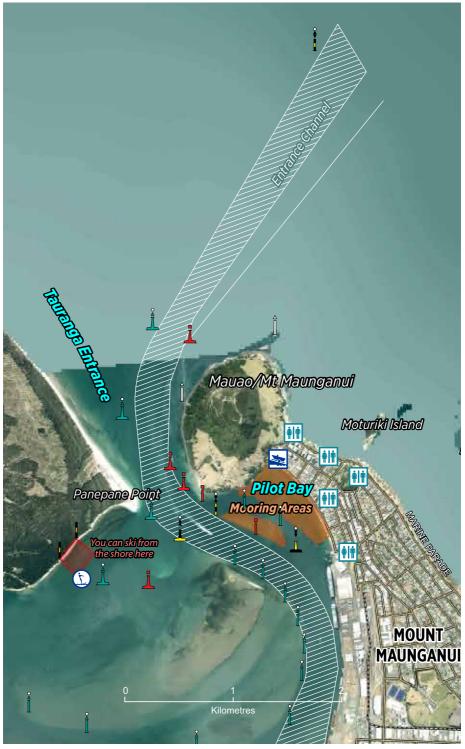
The Kaituna Cut is the Bay of Plenty's most dangerous bar and a popular spot for surfcasters. Once ready, make it clear you are about to cross and make sure you give surfcasters time to reel in.







62 Tauranga Harbour - Hunters Creek



Tauranga Harbour - Tauranga Harbour Entrance and Pilot Bay 63



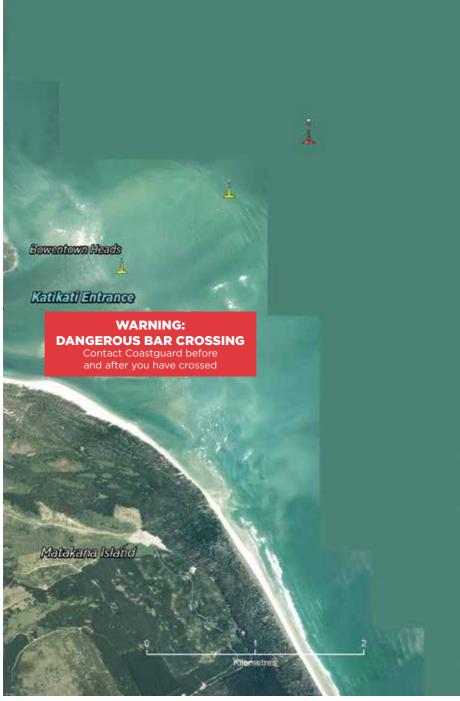
64 Tauranga Harbour - Town Reach to Matapihi



Tauranga Harbour - Omokoroa and Te Puna 65

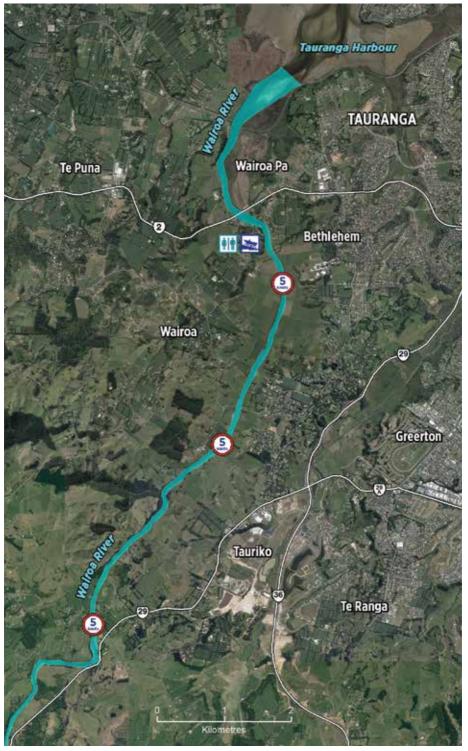


66 Tauranga Harbour - Ongare Point, Tanners Point to Shelly Bay and Pios Beach





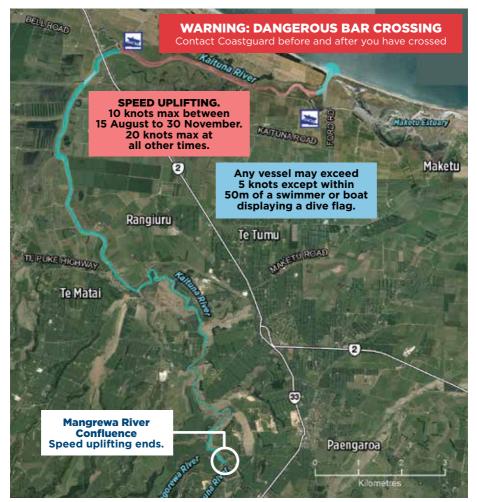
68 Tauranga Harbour - Kauri Point



Tauranga - Wairoa River 69



Tauranga - Papamoa Beach - Reserved Area - PWC



70 Tauranga - Maketu Estuary and Waihi Estuary



Rotorua Lakes guides

NOTE: Not to be used for navigational purposes



Rotorua Lakes

Rotorua is home to 18 lakes and is a great destination for all kinds of boating, fishing, and watersports. A number of commercial operators also use the lakes, providing charter boat hire and cruises.

Health warning for algal blooms

Some of Rotorua's lakes carry health warnings, especially over summer. The Medical Officer of Health issues an official warning when Bay of Plenty Regional Council's testing detects high levels of cyanobacterica (blue-green algae), which can produce harmful toxins. When that happens, the water is no longer safe to swim in or come into contact with. Sometimes an algae warning will only apply to a certain bay or part of the lake. It will be lifted when levels drop and the water is found to be free of toxins.

Health warnings are publicised over the radio and via road signs at the lake edge of affected bays. However, algal blooms can form over a matter of hours so there are not always warning signs in place.

People need to assess the situation before entering the water, even if there are no health warnings in place. If the water looks milky green, has a surface layer, or globules floating in it, play it safe and go elsewhere. You can check the current status of blue-green algal warnings in a lake or bay by calling Bay of Plenty Regional Council on **0800 884 880** or by visiting our website at **www.boprc.govt.nz/rotorualakes**

Freshwater pests

Our lakes, rivers and the native species that call them home are under threat. Catfish, koi carp, hornwort weed and many other pests could devastate them if they spread.

Some waterways are pest free while in others we are trying to manage them. To stop the spread, we need your help. If pest fish or new weeds establish they are likely to lower water quality, become a nuisance to lake users and cause the decline of our native species.



Don't be the one who ruins our lakes

A single fragment of weed could be hiding a juvenile catfish, carrying pest fish eggs or cause a new infestation of freshwater weeds. Before leaving a lake all skippers must:

- Inspect their boats (including propellers, anchor chains and trailers) and remove all weeds.
- Flush out jet units and wash your boat or Jetski down if necessary.
- Empty ballast or any fish tanks.

You play an important role in protecting the Rotorua lakes. If you are found with weed fragments on boats, trailers or fishing equipment you could be fined under the Biosecurity Act.

Weed cordons

Specifically designed weed cordons prevent the spread of invasive freshwater weeds and have been installed in some Rotorua lakes as a biosecurity tool.

The weed cordons are not to be confused with wash down facilities which clean weed off trailers and boats. The area of the cordon is marked with buoys and lit with port and starboard markers at the entrance/exit of the cordons.

Lake Rotoiti

Ohau Channel Diversion Wall

The Ohau Channel Diversion Wall was built to divert water from Lake Rotorua directly down the Kaituna River to improve water quality in Lake Rotoiti.

Okere Arm

The Okere Arm is restricted to 5 knots from the 5 knot buoys to the south of Namaste Point.

Okawa Bay

The whole of Okawa Bay is restricted to 5 knots unless you're water skiing within the designated buoyed ski area. Any vessels not towing may pass through the buoyed ski area however only at 5 knots. Wakeboarding and surf wake boats are to keep wake to a minimum if it could affect boats, people or structures as this is an issue in this area.

Wildlife Protection Area and Channel

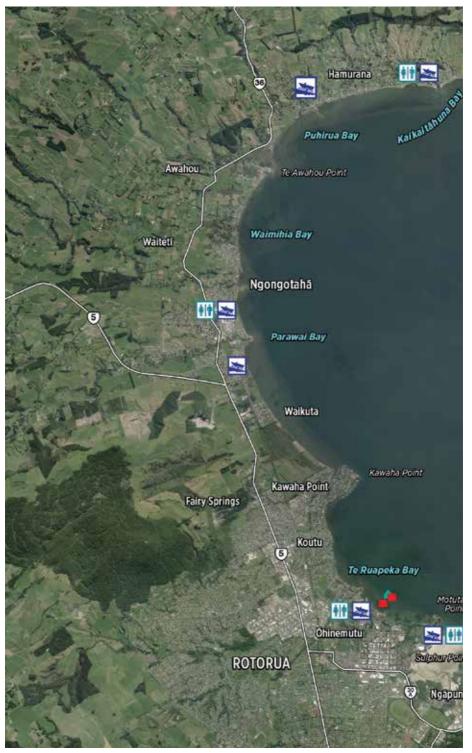
A 5 knot/50 metre wide channel on the western side of the diversion wall allows boat access between Lake Rotoiti and the Ohau Channel. This channel is marked with red conical buoys. A Wildlife Protection Area between the red buoys and the lake edge prohibits powered vessels from entering this area to protect birdlife. Please do not enter this exclusion zone.

Waahi tapu - sacred sites

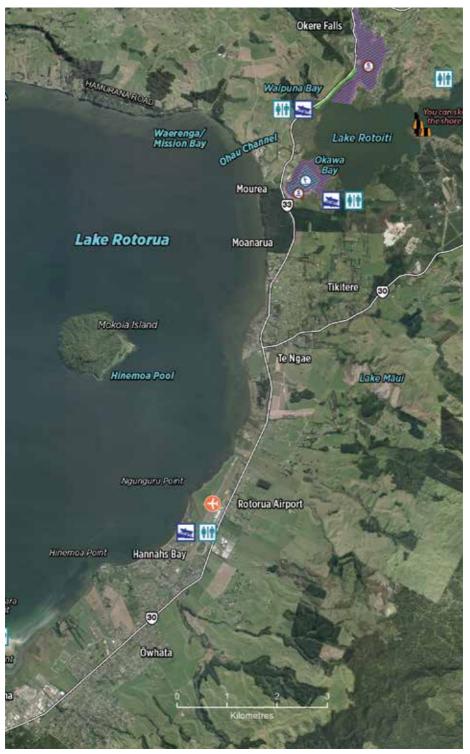
Waahi tapu are spiritually and culturally important places for Māori which are linked to burial and pa sites, past battles or historical events. For Māori, these places help give meaning to their lives and tribal society, providing 'windows to the past'.

Please respect all waahi tapu around the lakes and do not remove any relics or items if discovered, instead notify the Police immediately.

MAP LEGEND		
Water Ski Access Lane marker	Boat ramp	Water Ski Access Lane
Reserved Area marker	Public toilets	Water Ski Area
Reserved Area buoy	🕒 Water Ski Area	PWC Area
Water Ski Access Lane buoy	PWC Area	Mooring Area
No wakeboarding WC No pwc No pwc voorsele		Passive Recreation Area
No boating	No water skiing	Speed restriction: max 5 knots

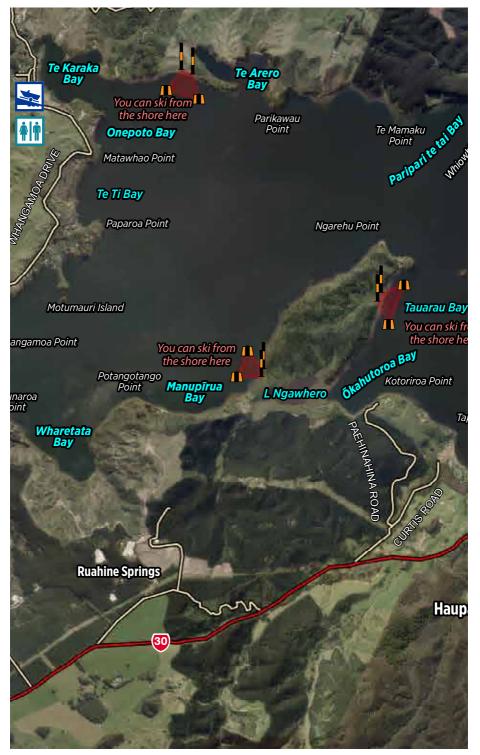


76 Rotorua - Lake Rotorua





78 Rotorua - Lake Rotoiti





80 Rotorua - Lake Rotoiti



Rotorua - Lake Rotoiti 81



82 Rotorua - Lake Rotoehu



Rotorua - Lake Rotomā 83



⁸⁴ Rotorua - Lake Ōkataina



Rotorua - Lake Ōkareka 85



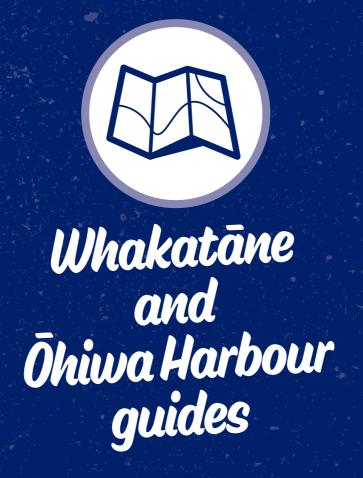






Rotorua - Lake Tikitapu 89





NOTE: Not to be used for navigational purposes



Whakatāne Harbour

The Whakatāne Harbour is a river port primarily servicing a commercial and charter fishing fleet. Because it's so close to fantastic fishing grounds, around 15,000 boaties use this access to the sea every year.

Just outside the river mouth is a Jetski and Personal Water Craft (PWC) area as well as a Priority Surfing area. Refer to the map on page 90 to see exactly where these are. The Whakatāne Volunteer Coastguard broadcasts the status of the Whakatāne bar daily along with periodic marine forecasts and outlooks on channel 18. They also operate a bar cam and you can check this out at **www.boprc.govt.nz/barcam**

All navigation within the harbour is restricted to a maximum speed of 5 knots.

Ōhiwa Harbour

Ōhiwa Harbour lies 11km east of Whakatāne. Before entering or exiting Ōhiwa Harbour, small boat operators should seek advice from regular users or physically take a look at the bar at low tide. The channels are naturally quite deep however there are numerous sandbanks within the harbour which mean boaties must navigate with caution.

Ōhiwa Harbour is a very popular recreational waterway. To help ensure this area can be shared safely some activities have been zoned. For example Jetski or Personal Water Craft, are not permitted within the majority of Ōhiwa Harbour. Check out the guides and make sure you read signs at boat ramps before heading out.



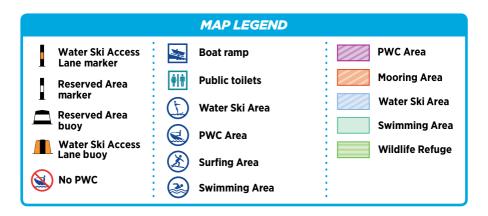
Thornton (Rangitāiki) and Ōpōtiki (Waioeka-Otara)

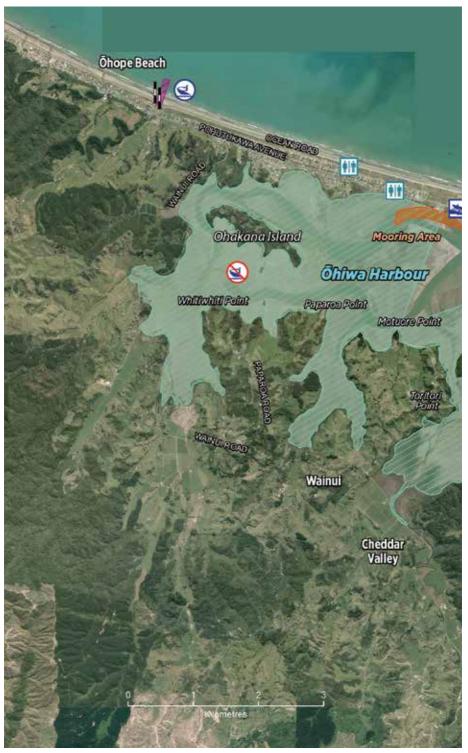
The entrances to these ports are river mouths which can be dangerous. It's difficult to provide accurate information about where the deeper water lies because of the shifting nature of the sand bars.

Always:

- Exercise extreme caution.
- If you're unsure seek local knowledge.
- Never cross after sunset.
- Cross towards the top of the tide.

The Thornton bar is a popular spot for surfcasters too. Once ready, make it clear you are about to cross (e.g. horn) and make sure you give the surfcasters time to reel in.





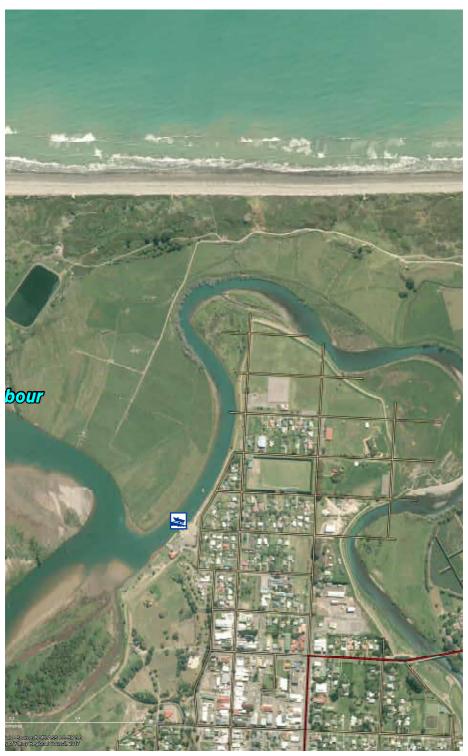


Whakatāne - Ōhiwa Harbour 95





96 Ōpōtiki Harbour



Ōpōtiki Harbour 97





Whakatāne - Rangitāiki River & Whakatāne River Entrance 99



Harbourmaster Team



What we do

The Harbourmaster Team helps to keep the regions harbours, lakes and rivers safe for everyone to enjoy. They enforce the rules on the water and are always happy to help, answer questions or give advice.



Maintain 800+ navigation aids, lights and beacons



Promote safe boating



Issue and manage mooring licences for 450+ swing moorings



Remove easy to access hazards like logs from local waterways



Maintain safe boating signs at your local boat ramps





Manage events on the water and lake closures

.



Disposing of derelict and abandoned vessels

Over the warmer, busier months we also have Patrols and Safe Boating Advisors helping us carry out the above. If you see them on the water remember these are some of the best people to answer your questions about local conditions, where the local ski areas are and what the local boat ramps are like.





Contacts

Other organisations are also working to care for our harbours and lakes.

Department of Conservation (DOC)

More commonly known as DOC, they look after marine mammals and marine reserves. You should contact them if you see a stranded whale, seal in distress or suspicious activity inside a marine reserve. Report illegal activity, fires or injured animals to the DOC emergency hotline on **0800 DOC HOT (362 468)** or for general information on tramping, hunting, huts and campsites, or native animals visit **www.doc.govt.nz**

Ministry for Primary Industries

Helping to protect local fisheries for future generations, MPI have a number of tools you can use to learn about measuring and releasing your fish as well as legal size and bag limits. Use their free text service by texting the name of the species you are fishing for (e.g. blue cod or paua) to **9889** and receive legal size and bag limit information via return text. Alternatively you can download their smartphone app called NZ Fishing Rules, or visit their website **www.mpi.govt.nz**

MPI is also responsible for stopping illegal activities like poaching. Call **0800 4 POACHER (0800 47 62 24)** to report suspected illegal fishing activity, like poaching and illegal trade of seafood.

Fish & Game

Fish & Game are the statutory managers of trout fishing and game bird hunting in New Zealand. Broken into twelve regions, the Eastern region includes the Rotorua Lakes which are a popular, world class trout fishery. The fishery is extensively monitored to ensure the best possible catch rate, fish size and angler satisfaction. To learn about the rules visit **www.fishandgame.org.nz**

Coastguard

A charity, run by volunteers, dedicated to saving lives at sea. If you're not already a member it's well worth checking out. Visit **www.coastguard.nz** for more infomation.

Their Bay of Plenty units can be contacted on the VHF channels below:

- Tauranga Ch. 01
- Maketū **Ch. 01**
- Waihī Beach Ch. 07
- Rotorua **Ch. 02**
- Whakatāne and Ōpōtiki Ch. 18

Maritime New Zealand

Maritime New Zealand is the national regulatory, compliance and response agency for the safety, security and environmental protection of coastal and inland waterways. Visit **www.maritimenz.govt.nz** for more information.

Local councils

Boat ramps and jetties are managed by your local city or district council.

Tauranga City - **07 577 7000**

Western Bay of Plenty District - 07 571 8008

Whakatāne District - 07 306 0500

Rotorua Lakes - 07 348 4199

Ōpōtiki District - 07 348 4199

Land Air Water Aotearoa (LAWA)

Find out more about beach and fresh water quality near you.

Check out www.lawa.org.nz/swim











Simple rules for boaties when interacting with whales and dolphins

Don't travel faster than idle or 'no wake' speed within 300 metres

300 m

No more than 3 vessels within 300 metres



Do not obstruct their path. Approach from a parallel/ slightly rear direction

Do not swim with dolphin pods containing juveniles

000



Stay 50 metres away from any whale or orca 50 m

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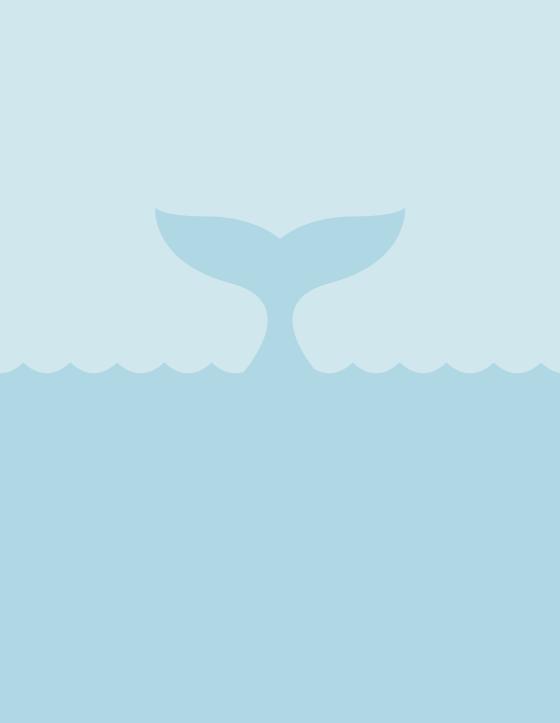
Stay 200 metres away from any baleen/sperm whale with a calf 200 m

Do not swim with whales or orca



www.doc.govt.nz







What to do in an emergency



Make sure you're wearing your lifejacket.



Radio a MAYDAY call on VHF Ch. 16 and phone 111. Let them know your vessel name, call sign if you have one, nature of the incident, number of people on board and describe where you are as accurately as you can.



Try to stay with your boat.



Try not to panic.



Think carefully before attempting to swim to shore.

IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 111



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