CAUTION: All bar entrances can be dangerous. Please exercise caution during crossing. These maps are not to be used for navigational purposes.
Whakatane Harbour

The Whakatane Harbour is a river port primarily serving a commercial and charter fishing fleet. Because of its proximity to the major city of Tauranga, the port handles tonnage equivalent to that of several small ports throughout the country.

Whakatane Harbour Information

The Whakatane Harbour Volunteer Coastguard broadcasts the status of the Whakatane bar daily along with the marine forecast and outlook on channel 80. Coastguard operates from 0630 to 1830 hours every day. A daily update of tide times, marine forecast, and outlook and safety conditions is also available on the website. Other safety information is also displayed. Please read this information before you leave the bar.

If the bar is considered un navigable by the Harbour Master, a red (day) or red all light (night) is exhibited on the south side off the river mouth. The meaning of the bar closed does not close the bar. The navigation of the entrance is also controlled by water depth. The local radio station 100.1 FM includes navigation restrictions that may be in place during the bar condition reports. 100.1 FM broadcasts on 93.5 FM and 1342 AM, and 92.3 FM (Ohiop Beach).

Always remember:
If you are in doubt – don’t go out.
All regional harbours are the bar restricted to a maximum speed of 5 knots.

General

The entrance to these ports are river mouths and can be dangerous to navigate without proper knowledge of the area. The water is deeper than other harbours but the deeper water makes the area dangerous to new boaters and those unfamiliar with the area.

The Whakatane Harbour Volunteer Coastguard is available for advice on the river mouth area and the entrance. The bar area is controlled by a local radio station which operates 24 hours a day.

Diving

The following rules must be observed when diving:

▪ Always dive in pairs and have an observer in the boat.
▪ Do not dive in jumping lanes or areas of frequent traffic.
▪ Avoid popular fishing spots.
▪ Agree to dive plan and then adhere to it.
▪ Display the International Code A Flag (black flag).
▪ Do not exceed 5 knots within 200 metres of a dive flag.

Some diving takes place within the Whakatane Harbour so users should be made aware of this. This flag means: “I have a diver down, keep well clear”.

The Navigation Safety Routines require a speed to reduce to a maximum of five knots within 200 metres of a dive flag. This flag may also:
▪ be attached to a small market buoy towed by a diver.
▪ be flown by craft exceeding long distance divers.

Saloon boat and kite surfing

All normal boating rules apply to saloon areas. Areas used for saloon boat and kite surfing are also used for swimming, so sail boaters are asked to keep a watchful eye on other bathers, particularly young children.

Water skiing

- Sailing from shore is only permitted within a designated saloon area unless an area is marked as closed by the Harbour Master.
- All skis operate in an anticlockwise direction.
- You must exit and drop off on the right side of the lane as you face the land.
- There must be a gap of at least 200m between skiers and the nearest boat.

There are special rules that apply to water skiing within Whakatane Harbour. Water skiing is confined to one area – west of the Porch Point bar fort.