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Issue 15

THE MOORING LINE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE MARITIME SERVICES TEAM
AT WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL



WELCOME

Kia ora, and welcome to the fifteenth edition of *The Mooring Line*.

The Mooring Line newsletter is a helpful way to keep up to date with the region's news, local information, and tips on ways to keep our beautiful harbours and inland waters safe for everyone.

Winter is here and, if you're out boating during these cooler months, you'll need to make sure you're taking the right precautions to stay safe. With a little extra planning, you'll be able to enjoy your time on the water and minimise the risk.

Minimising the risk to the environment is essential too. Keep an eye out for exotic *Caulerpa* species on your travels and check out the marine biosecurity insert for more info on why it's a problem and how to deal with it.

Stay safe on the water this season and we'll see you out there!

The Maritime Services team

WE LOVE WHERE WE LIVE

We love where we live in the mighty Waikato and we want to make it even better.

Our region's awesome coastal and inland waterways play a big part in that. That's why making sure they're safe and easy to navigate, so you and your whānau can keep enjoying the activities you love out on the water, is so important.

It's not just Maritime Services that works to improve the areas that boaties enjoy. Check out waikatoregion.govt.nz/coast to see what other coastal work is being done by the regional council.

MOORING INSPECTIONS

Mooring inspections in the Waikato region are **required every three years** to keep our harbours and vessels safe. It's the licence or consent holder's responsibility to arrange the inspection with an approved mooring service provider.

Your local service provider will check all parts of the mooring during the inspections and look out for components that show considerable wear. If required, they will generally give you a call and recommend replacements to improve the safety of your mooring and maintain compliance with council requirements.

Once the inspection has been completed, the service provider will provide Waikato Regional Council with an inspection report confirming your mooring meets the consent conditions.

Waikato Regional Council has no affiliation with any of the service providers. You pay the costs associated with the inspection, and any repairs and maintenance of the mooring, directly to the service provider, not Waikato Regional Council (please refer to your consent conditions for details of your full responsibilities as a mooring owner).

Is yours due?

Moorings in Tairua Harbour are due for inspection in November.

Trojan Marine Services will be in the area and available to complete your inspection from mid-October. Download a booking and consent form from our website, or contact Trojan Marine Services on 0274 581 860 or trojanmarineservices.tairua@gmail.com to secure your spot today.

You may also engage an alternative mooring service provider to complete this work. Please visit our website for a list of providers in our region at waikatoregion.govt.nz/mooring-service-providers. If you decide on this option, you must advise Waikato Regional Council which alternative service provider you plan to use. Please email moorings@waikatoregion.govt.nz to confirm this with us before you proceed.

Failure to have your mooring inspected by the due date on your previous inspection report means you'll be non-compliant with the conditions of your resource consent. This may result in enforcement action.

WINTER TIPS

TOP TIPS TO ENDURE A STORM

In the last few months, we've seen several severe weather events across the country, so being prepared for the next one is vital.

Here are our top tips to get your boat storm ready.

- Remove windage – taking down anything that the wind can grab is crucial because it reduces the loads on mooring lines.
- Take valuable kit home – that way, if the worse should happen, you haven't lost everything.
- Close and lock all hatches, portholes and windows – rain will almost always find a way in during a gale, particularly when seals are worn. Duct tape is a great quick fix if you aren't ready to repair or replace just yet.
- Protect against chafe – left unchecked, your lines will need replacing in no time, so always try to protect them where they pass through fairleads or run over a toerail.

- Don't underestimate the power of a storm – ensure your mooring lines are kept in good condition and use protective sleeves on places where the rope is likely to rub. Any friction against the rope is likely to cause it to break off.
- If you're securing your vessel at a marina and a storm surge is expected, or a gale blows in with a spring flood, secure lines as far up the pontoon pilings as you can.
- Enlist a spotter – if you live a long way from your mooring, think about finding someone local who can keep an eye on it and act on your behalf.

Unwilling as you may be to leave your beloved vessel as the clouds roll in, don't be tempted to stay aboard. Boats and kit are replaceable, lives are not. Prepare as best you can, then lock her up and leave.



Rough conditions in Whitianga Harbour in May this year.

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Cold Water Survival Principle

1 Minute

to control your breathing



10 Minutes

of meaningful movement for self rescue



1 Hour

until you pass out from hypothermia



COLD WATER SURVIVAL

Following this top advice from Maritime New Zealand could save your life.

Whether you're kayaking, paddle boarding, jet skiing, fishing or yachting, winter boating brings additional challenges like unpredictable weather and colder conditions.

When out on the water in winter, you need to take some additional steps. By planning ahead, and knowing what you may be facing, you'll still be able to enjoy it safely.

People in, on or around cold water need to be aware of the cold-water immersion guidelines, known as the 1-10-1 guide.

- 1 minute – to control your breathing; float, don't panic and try not to hyperventilate.
- 10 minutes – to self-rescue, or plan your course of action.
- 1 hour – until you pass out from hypothermia – can you make the safe distance you need by then? If not, stay where you are.

SAFETY TIPS:

Wear your lifejacket

Lifejackets help aid buoyancy and keep you warmer if you end up in the water. If you're not wearing one, you'll find it difficult to stay afloat after 10 minutes and other important lifesaving or survival activities will become difficult.

In winter, extra layers add warmth, but you should never wear your lifejacket under a coat or sweatshirt. Doing so may cause the lifejacket to not inflate properly or cause injury.

Be prepared and let others know where you're going

New Zealand's weather is changeable at the best of times, so it's important to let friends and family know where you're going and when you will return. You can also use your VHF radio to file a trip report with your local coastguard. As the days are shorter, be sure to leave enough time for your return trip if you want to be back before nightfall. Remember, with less daylight hours during winter and increased wind chill, you may need to plan for shorter trips.

Take two waterproof ways to call for help

During winter, there aren't as many people on the water. This means fewer vessels to spot you if you find yourself in distress and need to signal for help. Ensuring you have two forms of working waterproof communications, like a VHF radio, PLB (personal locator beacon) or EPIRB (emergency position indicating radio beacon) onboard, will increase your chances of survival in the event of an emergency. Before you head out, make sure everything's in working order and stored in waterproof containers or bags.

Check the marine weather forecast

Check the forecast before departing and frequently during your trip as things can change quickly and unexpectedly. If in doubt, don't go out!

Avoid alcohol

While it may make you feel warm, alcohol actually accelerates heat loss by making the blood vessels dilate, which forces blood closer to the skin.

Dress for the weather

Always wear layers and take an extra set of clothes in case you get wet. Choose clothing that's warm, water-resistant, lightweight and dries quickly. Remember, dress for the water temperature, not the air temperature. If you end up in the water, don't get undressed. A person wearing two layers of woollen clothing will lose less heat than a person wearing only a swimsuit.

Postures for conserving your heat and energy

If you do find yourself in the water, adopt the HELP position – arms against your chest and legs together. For groups of three or more, huddle together with children sandwiched in the middle. This position can increase survival time by nearly 50 per cent.



Heat escape lessening posture (HELP)



Huddle posture

More information on cold water survival is available at maritimenz.govt.nz.



LIGHTS AT NIGHT

The sun sets a lot earlier in winter and poor visibility is more likely. It's important to use your lights from sunset to sunrise, and in rain and fog, to help other boats see you and understand which way you're heading.

When boating at night, stay within your comfort zone. Drop your speed, give things a wider berth if necessary and take a cautious approach. No matter what type of equipment you have on board, you will never have the same visibility at night as during the day.

Remember, if you're out at night, show a light.

- If your boat is less than 50 metres in length and anchored at night, you must show 360-degree white light that's visible from all directions.
- Lights must have a minimum range of one nautical mile for sidelights and two nautical miles for white lights.
- Check that the lights fitted to your boat are showing through the correct arc.
- Sailing boats have different light configuration requirements. Check with maritimenz.govt.nz to make sure your lights are set up correctly.
- When drift fishing, navigation lights must always be shown.
- Not using lights could result in a fine.

MARINE BIOSECURITY

CAULERPA EXOTIC SEaweEDS FOUND AT GREAT BARRIER AND GREAT MERCURY ISLANDS

Two non-native *Caulerpa* seaweed species have been found in waters at Great Barrier Island (Aotea) and Great Mercury Island (Ahuahu). This seaweed can spread rapidly and could affect native species.

Biosecurity New Zealand is working closely with Aotea and Ahuahu Mana Whenua and the local communities, along with Auckland Council, Waikato Regional Council and the Department of Conservation, to collectively decide the most appropriate course of action.

To minimise the spread of this seaweed, Biosecurity New Zealand has placed a Controlled Area Notice (CAN) on the three affected harbours at Great Barrier Island (Blind Bay, Tryphena Harbour and Whangaparapara) and from Ahikopua to Maunganui points at Ahuahu Great Mercury Island. Mana Whenua have imposed a rāhui on the same areas.

If you are visiting Ahuahu Great Mercury Island, please avoid anchoring within the controlled area (shown in red on the map). If anchoring in the area can't be avoided, please inspect the anchor and chain when lifting it and remove any attached seaweed before relocating. Either dispose of any seaweed removed on shore or drop it back in the anchoring area.

To find out more about what you can and can't do within the controlled areas, visit biosecurity.govt.nz/caulerpa.

How you can help

Keep an eye out for exotic *Caulerpa* species. If you believe you have seen them in areas outside of Blind Bay, Tryphena Harbour and Whangaparapara at Great Barrier Island, or along the coastline of Great Mercury Island between Ahikopua and Maunganui Points:

- note the location
- take a photo if possible
- contact Biosecurity New Zealand on 0800 80 99 66
- or complete the online reporting form at report.mpi.govt.nz.

What it looks like

Both exotic *Caulerpa* species – *Caulerpa parvifolia* and *Caulerpa brachypus* – look identical and have very similar fronds.

They have been found growing at depths up to 30 metres, on both hard surfaces and in sandy areas.

After stormy weather, it can wash up on the beach, as has been seen on Aotea Great Barrier Island. To avoid any risk of spreading it, do not remove these non-native *Caulerpa* species from the beach.



Native seaweeds that look similar

Caulerpa parvifolia and *caulerpa brachypus* are identical in appearance but *Caulerpa parvifolia* is the variety known to be present at Ahuahu. There are two native *Caulerpa* species that look similar to *Caulerpa parvifolia*, but they have obvious differences.

Caulerpa articulata has round, bead-like lumps on the stem where the leaf blades emerge. It is found around the North Island, including offshore islands.

Caulerpa brownii (also known as sea rimu) has more three-dimensional fronds than *Caulerpa brachypus*, where the leaf blades are flat. It is also not typically found in northern parts of the North Island.



Caulerpa parvifolia



Caulerpa articulata



Caulerpa brownii



TRANSFERRING MOORING CONSENTS (BUYING OR SELLING)

If you're buying or selling your mooring, you'll need to ensure your mooring resource consent is transferred to the new owner.

A resource consent is a legal document. This means that written authorisation from all relevant parties is required before it can be transferred. A transfer of mooring consent form must be completed and signed by both the current and new consent holder.

You must also obtain 'harbourmaster comments' before submitting transfer forms. This helps to ensure the suitability of the proposed new vessel for the mooring structure and location, as per the current resource consent conditions.

If you are buying a mooring, we recommend you get in touch with us first to avoid disappointment if it happens not to be suitable for the vessel you plan to moor there. You can apply to change the conditions

of a mooring resource consent if needed, for example, if you intend to moor a larger vessel. However, this also needs to be assessed by the regional harbourmaster before you submit a change to mooring consent form.

Once we have provided you with a copy of the harbourmaster's comments you can submit your transfer form.

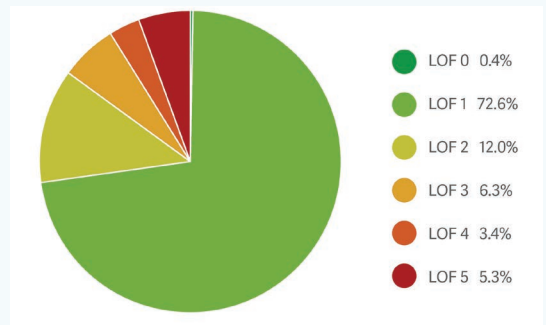
The best way to get in touch with us to request harbourmaster's comments is to contact our moorings officer.

- Email: moorings@waikatoregion.govt.nz
- Call: 0800 800 402 and ask for the moorings officer
- Submit an online request for service on our website: waikatoregion.govt.nz/contact-us.

SUMMER VESSEL SURVEY

A sneak peek at results from Waikato Regional Council's summer surveys of vessels in the Coromandel Peninsula shows boat owners are doing a terrific job keeping their vessels clean. Of the 1104 vessels surveyed, 85 per cent achieved a Level of Foul scale score of two or less. Waikato Regional Council is working with boat owners to ensure all vessels in our region are 'clean below and good to go', especially before they are moved.

If you have any questions on the survey or would like to know more please email marinebiosecurity@waikatoregion.govt.nz



Marine Biosecurity Seminar Series

SEVEN ONLINE SEMINARS
APRIL-MAY 2022

Featuring scientists and experts from the marine and aquaculture industries
Free to attend - register at marinepests.nz or marinebiosecurity.co.nz



We are extremely lucky to have such beautiful coastlines here in the Waikato, but we need to look after them.

So, if you like being in the ocean, getting out on the boat, or digging into some fresh kaimoana, you may be keen to tune into some free webinars about how we can protect our coastal environment from marine pests.

Clean below? Good to Go, a collective of councils and government organisations working together to stop the spread of invasive marine pests in the upper half of the North Island, ran a number of webinars by industry experts and scientists on all things marine biosecurity in April and May. All webinars were recorded and are available to view online. To watch them back, head to marinepests.nz/events.

NEW MARITIME OFFICERS

We've got two new faces in the Coromandel Peninsula!

We're pleased to welcome our new maritime officers, Hayden Coburn and Jacob MacDonald, both based in Whitianga.

Hayden joined the team at the beginning of April this year and covers the Whitianga and Mercury Bay area.

Jacob joined us more recently and will be covering Thames and Coromandel, replacing Rod Edwards who left the regional council in May.

We'd like to sincerely thank Rod for his contribution to our team and the community over the last couple of years. Rod was incredibly passionate about the work we do and instrumental in fostering strong relationships with the community.

Making sure our coastal and inland waterways are safe and easy to navigate is essential. It's the role of our maritime officers to enforce the local bylaw schedules and maintain navigation safety. A big part of the job is building a presence in the community, particularly with our mooring owners, and being the go-to person for navigation safety concerns.

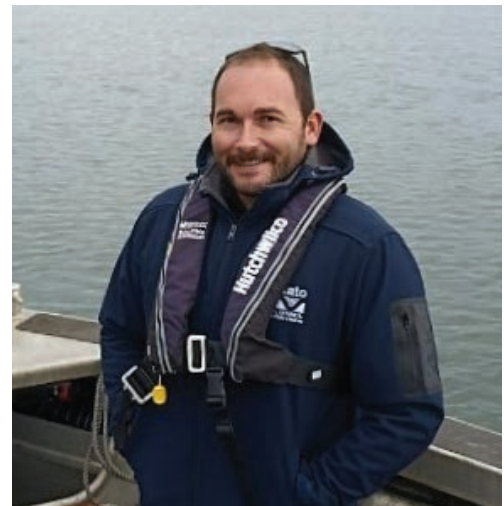
Both Hayden and Jacob have an extensive maritime background and a wealth of knowledge and skills to bring to the role, as well as strong ties to the local community. We are excited to have them on board.

The Maritime Services team covers a vast geographical area which includes 1100 kilometres of coastline, 415 kilometres of river and seven hydro lakes, visited by an estimated 160,000 recreational boats each year.

If you need to get in touch with any of our team or have questions related to your mooring, please contact us on 0800 800 402.



Hayden Coburn



Jacob MacDonald

ACCIDENTS AND INCIDENTS

If you want to report an incident or see unsafe behaviour on the water, we encourage you to report it to our team. Call us on 0800 800 402 and ask for the Harbourmaster's Office or report it online at waikatoregion.govt.nz/contact-us and a member of our team will be in touch with you.

Accidents must also be reported to Maritime NZ as soon as possible at services.maritimenz.govt.nz/incident



HE TAIAO MAURIORA HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT
HE ŌHANGA PAKARI STRONG ECONOMY
HE HAPORI HIHIRI VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

For more information, call Waikato Regional Council on 0800 800 402 or visit waikatoregion.govt.nz.

 @WRCHarbourmaster

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Waikato
REGIONAL COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera ā Rohe o Waikato