



Navigation Safety Newsletter

Brought to you by Environment Canterbury's Harbourmaster's Office

January 2018

Fair winds or foul?

As many of you already know, I am taking a wee break to go sailing again. Like all good voyages (here's hoping) it has been long in the planning. My partner Tori and I are off to spend some time down south on the yacht. Our plan is to spend summer kayaking in the South Island and winter sailing in Stewart Island, Fiordland and Auckland islands (weather permitting).

We do plan to the nth degree, as all good mariners do, and take all practicable steps to be safe. Just before Christmas, a yacht in the marina started sinking. It had just launched after some maintenance – a seacock and skin fitting had failed. Luckily someone on board spotted this and with the aid of divers the leak was stemmed and the vessel taken out of the water. Expect the unexpected.

During my period away, Ian Fox will be stepping up as Acting Regional Harbourmaster. Ian has been Deputy for several years and will be known by many of you already. I look forward to catching up with quite a few of you at your club or mooring area as we spend a bit of time sailing around Banks Peninsula before we head south.

Fair winds and calm seas.

Jim Dilley

New deputy in the house

Hello, my name is Guy Harris and I'm the Acting Deputy Regional Harbourmaster – filling in for Ian Fox whilst he steps up to cover the Regional Harbourmaster role.

My role mainly involves the day-to-day managerial and administrative tasks of Environment Canterbury's Harbourmaster's office, with a special focus on the Safety Management System and the documentation of our business processes. I will also be getting involved in oil spill response and prevention.

I come from a mechanical engineering background and have worked as a ship's engineer in the past. Most recently I have been running projects for Environment Canterbury's Business Information Services team and previous to this was a technical and project manager on a prominent environmental compliance programme.

I am an enthusiastic sailor and have been part of several crews on large racing yachts over the years - although currently I'm doing it on a more modest scale as I own and race a laser on the estuary. I'm also a keen surfer and can often be found out at the local breaks.

I'm looking forward to meeting many of Canterbury's commercial and recreational water users during 2018, learning more about their requirements and hopefully contributing to the invaluable work of the Harbourmaster's office. Be safe in the water.

Ngā mihi

Guy Harris
Acting Deputy Regional Harbourmaster



Guy Harris

Akaroa AIS and VHF station

The first of our coastal AIS (Automated Identification System) receiver network started construction in December 2017 near Timutimu Head, and will be running by the time you read this. It will give us a 24/7 feed of vessel AIS signals, without the gaps in coverage near the heads, allowing us to better monitor traffic in the area than we can using existing online systems such as marinetraffic.com. This is the first of an expected 6 stations which, once completed, will cover our entire coast plus a bit north and south. Once it's all running later this year, we'll make the feed available through a website link so anyone can see it.

The Akaroa station also includes a new VHF Channel 03 repeater, replacing the old one that had been set up by Black Cat. We worked with Black Cat to transfer the licensing of Cho3 over to Environment Canterbury at the new site, and most of their original equipment can be reused at another site. This will provide better coverage for Cho3, which has become a default working channel for Akaroa for many users, and the Harbourmaster's office very much appreciates Black Cat's willingness to work with us on the project. At the same site are VHF Ch 16 and 12 which, while not repeaters providing full public coverage, will allow our office and Lyttelton Harbour Control to contact ships passing by (and in) Akaroa harbour using a link through the web, filling in what has been a VHF "black hole" for contacting ships in this area.

The project is fully funded from charges on commercial shipping and has involved several parties working together to plan, design and now construct it. Big thanks to our key partners GHD, Outback Communications and HGM Construction. Special thanks go to Black Cat and to Richard Hutchinson on whose land the Akaroa site sits – an ideal spot!

Ian Fox
Acting Regional Harbourmaster

Swing mooring updates

New mooring specifications

The new specifications for moorings have been in place for almost six months now. I have had calls about using the new size components and whether an upgrade is required immediately on existing moorings. The Harbourmaster has allowed for a gradual transition from old to new mooring specifications. This means that when the components on each mooring system wear down they must be replaced with components that meet the current specification. Unless you hear from us or your contractor, your existing mooring system components will be fine on your mooring system for now.

To check the specifications, visit www.ecan.govt.nz/boating.

The importance of thorough inspections

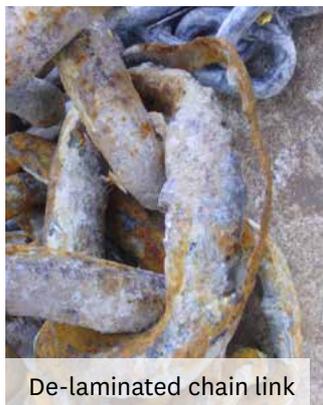
A recent inspection of a mooring system showed it to be in very poor condition. So much so, that when the mooring system was lifted, the mooring broke, possibly at a shackle, it was difficult to see as the mooring was in such poor disrepair, the ground chain links had de-laminated/separated from the outer surface of the chain (see photo). The contractor remarked that the southerly that came through a few days later could have resulted in the attached vessel breaking its mooring. This mooring was reported as inspected by the owner for many years. This is a good example of why the Harbourmaster's office will continue to periodically audit mooring inspections.

Trot moorings in Akaroa

The new trot moorings were installed near the main beach in Akaroa late 2017. These moorings are suitable for runabouts up to 6 metres length overall. We are running a trial and so they are free to use this season. If you would like to use one of these moorings please contact us on moorings@ecan.govt.nz or through Environment Canterbury Customer services on 0800 324 636 with your name, contact and vessel details.

Since August 2017 we have issued 19 mooring authorisations. This means there are potentially 19 new boaties out there.

Emma Kinnings
Moorings Officer



De-laminated chain link

Wear your lifejacket – no excuses!

Well it's been a busy summer so far, with lots of boats on the water and most people behaving well. One thing that amazes me is the boaties who do not read our signs at the boat ramps or on buoys and cannot follow simple navigation rules like wearing a lifejacket. I think it is important to stress that the rules are in place for the safety of everyone who is out on the water, and compliance with the rules makes it safe for all users.

If you are not sure of the rules for the waterway you are in, check them out before you go out on the water and check www.saferboating.org.nz for lots of useful tips too.

Remember, if you are on a boat that is 6 metres or less in Canterbury (including kayaks and paddleboards, unless you are surfing and have a leg rope attached), you must wear a lifejacket at all times when on the water. You must also ensure that your boat is properly identified, as required by part 20 of the Navigation Safety Bylaw 2016. For most of you, this will involve having an identifying name or number on each side of your vessel's hull. You can read the bylaw on our website at www.ecan.govt.nz/bylaw or get in touch if you have any questions about what's required in your case.

Have a great summer.

Gary Manch
Navigation Safety Officer

Marine oil spill in Kaikōura

On January 4, 2018, an oil spill occurred in the new Kaikōura marina, which is used by Whale Watch and Dolphin Encounter. The spill was the result of an equipment failure and spilled approximately 20 to 25 litres of diesel into the water. Diesel sits on the surface of the water and has minimal impact on the water column. It disperses through the heat of the day and natural wave action.

As a result of the incident, a new action plan has been developed for the marina, which will use vessels provided by Whale Watch to recover oil. The contractors that were involved in the installation of refuelling equipment update it regularly to ensure high standards and prevent further incidents.

The users of the marina are very proactive in their approach to environmental protection and this is a good example of the Harbourmaster's office and local operators working together. As with all oil spill planning, we are working together with local operators to minimise and prevent any oil spills into our region's waterways.

Tim Ashton
Regional On-Scene Commander for Marine Oil Spills

If you have any queries please feel free to contact us

Customer Services

Free Phone: 0800 324 636

Email: harbourmaster@ecan.govt.nz

Website: www.ecan.govt.nz/boating

Please note the next Navigation Safety Newsletter will be sent to those people on the database with an email address and posted to those who do not have email.