

# HELP US PROTECT OUR MARINE ENVIRONMENT

Protecting New Zealand's unique marine environment is the responsibility of everyone. It is vitally important to New Zealanders, our economy, and future generations.

By helping to protect our marine environment we ensure the future health and sustainability of this unique area.

To ensure our waters are kept clean and protected, rules and regulations have been put in place.

These apply to the discharge of oil, sewage, garbage and noxious liquid substances into the sea.

As this brochure outlines, only specific discharges under controlled conditions are permitted, and in many cases it is illegal to dispose of certain materials from vessels into the water.

These regulations apply to all New Zealand and foreign vessels.

## WHO REGULATES THESE RULES?

Rules and regulations for the coastal marine area (up to 12 nautical miles from land) are covered under the Resource Management Act. Regional councils are responsible for administering and enforcing these regulations.

Marine protection rules beyond the 12 mile limit are supported by the Maritime Transport Act in conjunction with the Marine Pollution Regulations. Maritime NZ is responsible for the administration and enforcement of these.

## NEED MORE INFORMATION?

For further information about your responsibilities within the coastal marine area, contact your regional council, harbourmaster or your local Maritime New Zealand office.

For further information about how you can help to protect New Zealand's marine environment and your responsibilities outside the 12 nautical mile limit, contact Maritime New Zealand:

[www.maritimenz.govt.nz](http://www.maritimenz.govt.nz) or free phone 0508 225 522

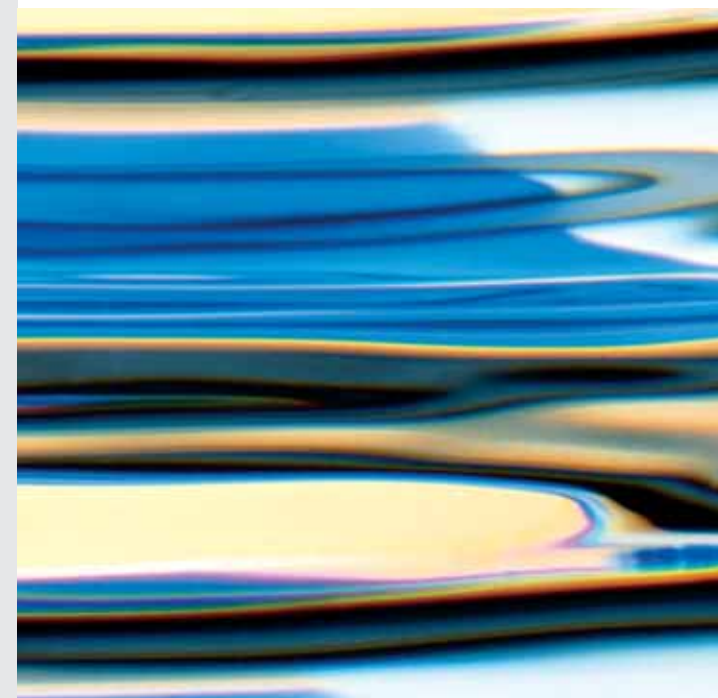
*Copies of the Marine Pollution Regulations 1998 and amendments are available from Bennetts Government Bookshops, or online at:*

[www.mfe.govt.nz/issues/water/marine-coastal.html](http://www.mfe.govt.nz/issues/water/marine-coastal.html)



# HELPING KEEP NEW ZEALAND WATERS CLEAN

MARINE POLLUTION REGULATIONS



## OIL DISCHARGE

### WITHIN THE 12 NAUTICAL MILE LIMIT

Oil may be discharged only if:

- if it does not come from a vessel's cargo, and
- if the vessel is proceeding en route, and the oil content of the discharge before dilution does not exceed 15 parts per million. This also applies to platform drainage of offshore installations.

### BEYOND THE 12 NAUTICAL MILE LIMIT

- The above restrictions apply to discharges of oil from all vessels and offshore installations.
- Additional requirements apply to discharges of oil cargo residues from oil tankers.

### UNDER THE MARINE PROTECTION RULES

Vessels of 400 tons gross or more (whether operating within or beyond the 12 nautical mile limit) must:

- have oil filtering equipment,
- have sludge tanks,
- implement an oil spill contingency plan,
- report non-permitted discharges of oil,
- keep a record of operations involving oil,
- hold an International Oil Pollution Prevention Certificate, and
- restrict carriage of ballast water in oil fuel tanks (vessels over 4,000 gross tons).

Vessels of less than 400 gross tons (whether operating within or beyond the 12 nautical mile limit) must:

- report non-permitted discharges, and where reasonable and practicable, have holding tanks for oily wastes.

## SEWAGE DISCHARGE

### WITHIN THE 12 NAUTICAL MILE LIMIT

- Vessels without a treatment system are not permitted to discharge:
  - ▶ closer than 500 metres from shore, from a marine farm, or from a gazetted mataitai reserve, or
  - ▶ closer than 200 metres to a marine reserve, or
  - ▶ if the depth of water is less than 5 metres.
- Vessels with a treatment system producing Grade A effluent can discharge anywhere except within 100 metres of a marine farm.
- Vessels with a treatment system producing Grade B effluent can discharge anywhere except within 500 metres of a marine farm or gazetted mataitai reserve.

These regulations provide a nationwide benchmark. Regional councils are able to increase the distance for discharging untreated and Grade B sewage under a rule in the regional coastal plan. Restrictions may also be imposed on Grade A sewage discharges in Fiordland under the Southland Coastal Plan.

### BEYOND THE 12 NAUTICAL MILE LIMIT

Vessels of 200 gross tons or more, or carrying more than 10 persons on voyages to the Antarctic Treaty area (south of 60°S), must meet specific sewage discharge requirements.

For more information on this please contact Maritime New Zealand on **0508 225 522** or visit [www.maritimenz.govt.nz](http://www.maritimenz.govt.nz)

*Grade A & B treatment systems are listed in the marine pollution regulations – available online at:  
<http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/water/dealing-with-sewage-safely-may02.html>*

## GARBAGE DISPOSAL

### WITHIN THE 12 NAUTICAL MILE LIMIT

- Disposing of plastics, dunnage, lining and packaging materials is prohibited.
- Other garbage, including food wastes, paper, rags, glass, metal, bottles and crockery may be discharged provided it is further than 3 nautical miles from shore or 500 metres from any offshore installation and ground to a particle size of less than 25 mm.
- Discharges of garbage from offshore installations is prohibited.

### BEYOND THE 12 NAUTICAL MILE LIMIT

- Disposal of plastics is prohibited.
- Dunnage, lining and packaging materials may be discharged no closer than 25 nautical miles from shore.
- Other garbage, including food wastes, paper, rags, glass, metal, bottles and crockery not ground to a particle size of less than 25 mm may be discharged.
- Discharge of garbage from offshore installations, and from vessels within 500 metres of offshore installations, is limited to food wastes ground to a particle size of less than 25 mm.

### UNDER THE MARINE PROTECTION RULES

- Vessels of 12 metres or over are required to display a notice alerting passengers and crew to garbage disposal requirements. Copies of a suitable notice are available free of charge from Maritime NZ.
- Vessels of 400 gross tons or more, or those carrying 15 or more persons, must implement a garbage management plan. In some cases, a record of onboard garbage management is also required.

*Note: Garbage does not include fresh fish and parts thereof both inside and outside the 12 nautical mile limit.*