

► An update for Maritime New Zealand safe boating advisors.

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## Rules change

Maritime New Zealand (MNZ) proposes amendments to Maritime Rules Part 91: Navigation Safety Rules.

These changes will eventually filter down through regional navigation safety bylaws.

The personal flotation device (PFD) rule is expected to take effect this year, and the proposed communications rule next year. Policy work is currently underway at MNZ and the Ministry of Transport.

### Proposed changes

Every person on board a craft that is less than 6m in length must wear a properly secured PFD.

This applies unless the person in charge of the craft has expressly given permission for PFDs not to be worn, because they consider that, due to the conditions, there is no significant increase in risk to any person on board by not wearing a PFD.

Every person in charge of a craft must ensure that an appropriate means of communication is carried on board the craft, which:

- provides the ability to communicate with land-based and/or seaborne parties from any point within the area the craft will be operated
- in the case of vessels under 6m in length, is able to be operated following submersion in sea water
- is adequate to provide communications for the duration of the voyage.

### Regional bylaws

Greater Wellington Regional Council, Environment Waikato and Queenstown Lakes District Council are leading the charge with proposed changes to their bylaws to reflect the proposals around lifejackets in vessels under 6m in Part 91.

## Harbourmaster contacts

To find out the harbourmaster contact in your area, drop us an email at [recreationalboating@maritimenz.govt.nz](mailto:recreationalboating@maritimenz.govt.nz).

## SBA programme developments – H&S form to sign and return

We have recently reviewed the safe boating advisor (SBA) guidelines, and developed a new SBA position description and health and safety induction form.

The new health and safety form is required to be completed and returned in the self-addressed envelope as soon as possible.

## Summer survey results

Over the 2008–2009 summer season, 580 vessels were informally surveyed at boat ramps. Surveys were carried out by MNZ SBAs, as well as Environment Waikato navigation safety officers.

The purpose of the survey was to determine levels of compliance around the carriage of lifejackets and PFDs, as per Part 91.

The survey also looked at the (currently not compulsory) practice of carrying communications equipment.

Of the 580 vessels surveyed, 31 vessels had no, or insufficient, lifejackets or PFDs for the number of people on board.

Of those 31 vessels:

- 9 had no lifejackets or PFDs
- 22 had insufficient lifejackets or PFDs for the number of people on board
- 9 had no communications equipment **and** no lifejackets or PFDs
  - of the 9 vessels with no PFDs, lifejackets or communications, 8 were 6m or less.

There are an estimated 420,000 pleasure vessels in New Zealand, so this makes the 1.5% of vessels without the ability to communicate distress or the ability to stay afloat in the event of a capsizing amount to 6,000 vessels at high risk.

## Boat shows

Get in touch with the team if you can lend a hand at any of these boat shows. A reminder email will be sent out near the time of each show.

- **Southland Boat Show**, Invercargill – 30, 31 July, 1, 2 August
- **Christchurch Boat Show**, Addington – 4, 5, 6 September
- **Waikato Boat Show**, Mystery Creek – 16, 17, 18 October
- **Marsden Cove**, Far North – 7, 8 November (new show, will be our first time attending)
- **Taranaki Outdoors Expo** – 20, 21, 22 November (new show, will be our first time attending).

## South Island boat safety check days

### The concept

Jim Lilley, Jo Glassford and Pip Savage formed the partnership behind the "Boat Safety Check Day" that was piloted in Nelson over the weekend of 28–29 March.

Jim from MNZ, Jo from Coastguard Boating Education (CBES), and Pip from Water Safety New Zealand found the partnership a smarter way to work, pooling resources and networks into the trial.

The concept was fleshed out and taken to a meeting in Nelson, which was attended by local harbourmasters, local councils, Police, fire service, Sport and Recreation New Zealand, Kiwi Association of Sea Kayakers, Nelson coastguard, CBES tutors, Royal Yachting Association tutors, yacht clubs, sea scouts, swim schools and surf lifesaving.

We put the concept on the table, and stepped back as the locals took over. Our role from then on was to co-ordinate, and provide resources and expertise as required.

### On the day

Boaties were asked if they would like a safety check carried out on their vessel, and were reminded about lifejackets, communications equipment, and EPIRBs.

The weather was perfect, and a wide variety of recreational activities were represented over the course of the day, including fishing, kayaking, sight-seeing, waka ama, and some sea scouts.

One chap also provided us with some entertainment on the day. He had not used his boat for 18 months and was impressing us with his inventory of safety equipment on board – right down to the spare bung.

However, when he launched, he noticed that the boat appeared to be bow high. He turned on his bilge pump, which seemed to be working flat out and getting nowhere. He quickly parked his stern on the ramp to stop the boat from sinking. This showed that the spare bung was not a spare at all!



### Future events

We're planning to expand the concept to other parts of the country. We're running another boat safety check day in Taranaki in May.

If you'd like to discuss the possibility of a similar event in your region, get in touch with Jim or AI and we can help you get the ball rolling.

## Announcements

### New safe boating advisors

**Steve Williams** – Hauraki Gulf

**Jim Watt** – Clevedon and Manukau

**Andrew Marshall** – Tauranga

**Bob Bell** – Lake Rotorangi and the Taranaki Region

**Ann Webster** – Lake Rotorangi and the Taranaki Region

### Retiring

Malcolm Hahn – West Auckland

### Other announcements

It is with sadness that we heard of the passing of Ted Chappell from Titirangi. Ted was a long-serving SBA and CBES tutor. Our condolences go out to Ted's family.

### For further info ... contact us

If you want more information on any of the above points, fire an email off to: [recreationalboating@maritimenz.govt.nz](mailto:recreationalboating@maritimenz.govt.nz)

Well, until next time, that's it from Jim, Jim and AI.



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