

Swing Mooring Newsletter

Brought to you by Environment Canterbury's Coast and Waterways Safety Section (the Regional Harbourmaster's office)

Earthquake News

The Coast and Waterways Safety Section (formerly known as Navigation Safety) wish to express their sympathies and concerns to anyone affected by the devastating events over the last year. After deconstruction work at the front of our building, our office in Lyttelton is operating as per usual. Please feel free to visit us at Harbourside House, 5 Norwich Quay, Lyttelton.

Environment Canterbury's Kilmore Street offices are in the Red Zone and will be out of action for the foreseeable future and staff are scattered around the city and at Lincoln.

If you need the services of Environment Canterbury, please call Customer Services during business hours (8.00am - 5pm Monday to Friday):

Calling from Christchurch: (03) 353-9007

Calling from any other area: 0800 324 636 (0800 EC INFO)

Email: ecinfo@ecan.govt.nz

Post to the usual address: Environment Canterbury, PO Box 345, Christchurch 8140

In person: 24 Edward St, Lincoln

For more information, visit our website: www.ecan.govt.nz

New Navigation Safety Bylaws

New bylaws came into force on 1 June 2011. They can be downloaded from <http://ecan.govt.nz/navbylaw>. The booklet has a new style and format, with clearer language and colour maps. Although the rules have been rewritten, most of the effect remains the same. However, there are a number of changes of relevance to mooring holders, as follows:

- Bylaw coverage now extends along all the Canterbury coastline and out to 3 nautical miles from shore (Bylaw 1.2).
- Compulsory wearing of lifejackets on recreational vessels under 6 metres in length (Bylaw 2.1)
- The Regional Harbourmaster can declare a swing mooring abandoned and cancel the authorisation if it has not been inspected and maintained for a period exceeding three years (Bylaw 5.5.6).
- The head of Purau Bay has been designated as a non power craft area. This is to protect swimmers and the many passive water activities that occur in this area. The zone will be marked with buoys shortly (Bylaw 9.9.1(h)).

Neglected moorings to be declared abandoned

Under the bylaws every swing mooring needs to be inspected, and if necessary, maintained, at least once every twelve months. The power to declare a mooring abandoned has been introduced to deal with moorings which have been neglected for a long period and are taking up space which others could use. If declared abandoned the holder loses all rights to the mooring and may be required to remove it. We will be writing to the owners of neglected moorings soon to advise them that unless they get their mooring inspected almost immediately, the declaration of abandonment will proceed.

Reduction in annual swing mooring fee

A \$20 reduction in the annual swing mooring fee for this year applies if you meet the following criteria:

1. Your mooring has been inspected within twelve months from the last inspection date.
2. The inspection report has been received by Environment Canterbury before the inspection due date.
3. All the contact details and information on the mooring system is supplied on the Environment Canterbury HAR 002 inspection form (contact and boat details, signature, specifications etc).
4. The mooring system meets the Environment Canterbury specification guidelines or the Regional Harbourmaster has authorised the mooring system as suitable for the attached vessel size/type.
5. The vessel attached to the mooring system (even temporarily) is authorised.
6. A vessel has not broken free of the mooring or caused a navigation hazard within the last twelve months.

If you meet these criteria, and your inspection is after the January invoice date, your account will be credited for the following year. If your inspection was due before the January invoice date and the criteria above are met, you will be invoiced at the discounted fee.

New inspection forms (HAR 002)

Further revisions to the inspection form have been made and are being sent out with all inspection reminder letters. The component table now has a full list of mooring system components to accommodate different types and designs of mooring systems. Some of the component details will not apply to most moorings. The table should be filled in with as much detail on your mooring system as possible. If you use contractor(s), ask them to complete it on your behalf. All four listed contractors have been asked for their input into the form. The need for the mooring details to be provided was outlined in the last newsletter (December 2010).

Swivels

A mooring system should have a swivel suitable for the length/weight of the vessel tied to the mooring system. Environment Canterbury's specifications state that a minimum 20mm swivel should be used on moorings for vessels six metre or less. We have been informed that 20mm swivels are not now sold in marine suppliers in Christchurch. Marine engineering advice is that a 19mm swivel will do just as well, with no negative impact on the safety of the mooring (for a vessel of that size).

Specifications and prices from one supplier for black steel swivels to JIS (Japanese Industrial Standard) are:

Swivel size (mm)	Safe working load (SWL) tonnes	Price (excl GST)
19	2.5	\$22.30
22	5.0	\$32.20
25	6.5	\$41.00

So, while the advice is that a 19mm swivel can be used instead of a 20mm, for under \$10, a 22mm swivel provides double the safe working load. An added advantage is that the larger swivel will almost certainly last longer.

New mooring applicants

Mainly due to the Coastal Plan changes in 2009 which changed the rules to allow new swing moorings within designated mooring areas to become permitted activities, there have had many applications for new moorings.

In the registration conditions for these moorings, the holders have been given 12 months from the application date to install their mooring. This is a change to the previous condition under mooring consents which allowed 5 years for installation. The 12 month period is considered a suitable timeframe to get a mooring constructed and installed. If the proposed mooring applicant has not contacted our office and not installed their mooring by this date, then the position allocated to them will be given to the next person on the waiting list. Therefore, if you have applied to install a mooring under the permitted activity rules, check the date you are due to install the mooring by (condition 12) as there are waiting lists for most designated mooring areas at present. Please contact Emma Kinnings if you need to discuss any aspect of your mooring's construction, installation or you wish to withdraw your application.

Consented moorings that have not been installed

If you were granted consent for a mooring, be assured your mooring position is secure. When installation of your mooring is due, the Regional Harbourmaster or his representative will endeavour to make sure your mooring is installed as close to the consented position as possible. Also note that the mooring needs to be installed by the due date, which is termed in the consent conditions as 'lapsing date'. Make a note of this date as the authorisation to install and occupy the coastal marine area lapses after this date and your position will be offered to someone else on the waiting list.

Moorings for sale or lease

As highlighted in our December newsletter we have put together a register listing moorings for sale, or lease and those interested in buying or leasing a mooring. There has been much interest and we have put some contacts together for a successful exchange of moorings. Please see the list of moorings available below, if you are interested in any of the moorings listed please contact Emma for details:

For sale	
Area	Vessel length overall
Akaroa	5.9m
Moncks Bay	12m
Akaroa	12m
Akaroa	11.6m
French Farm	8.5m
Cass bay	12m
Cass bay	10m
Moncks Bay	8.5m
Akaroa	6m

For lease	
Area	Vessel length overall
Akaroa	12m
Purau	11.9m
Akaroa	6m
Purau	12m
Cass bay	10m
Cass bay	11.2m

There are currently 23 people on the waiting list for moorings to buy or to lease in all the designated mooring areas. If you are considering selling or leasing your mooring and wish to put your details on the register please contact Emma for further details. Please note we only exchange contact details and are not involved in any way in the sale/lease process nor are we charging a fee for this service.

Please remember if you sell your mooring, obtain and complete a transfer of ownership form from www.ecan.govt.nz, Emma or Environment Canterbury Customer Services. Also if you lease/lend out your mooring please send in the lessees contact details and boat name and specifications. In case of emergency we will be able to contact them directly.

Enclosed: Part 5 of the new bylaws referring to swing moorings and the Boaties Booklet with information such as regional info, tides and VHF etc.

Safe Boating AND Safe Mooring!

If you have any queries please feel free to contact us.

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5. Moorings, Anchorages, Wharves, Landing Places

5.1 Vessels to be adequately moored or secured

- 5.1.1** The person in charge of a vessel shall ensure that it is properly and effectively secured to a dock, wharf, mooring or landing place when berthed, moored or anchored.
- 5.1.2** No person shall secure a vessel to any post, wharf, ring, fender, buoy or any other structure not intended for that purpose.
- 5.1.3** No person shall abandon any vessel or property on the banks or shore or in an intertidal area where it may refloat and create a navigation hazard or where it may interfere with the normal use of the waters by other persons.
- 5.1.4** No person shall cut, break, or destroy: the mooring of any vessel; or the fastening securing any vessel lying in a dock or at or near a wharf or landing place.
- 5.1.5** No person shall leave a vessel secured to a wharf overnight unattended without the permission of the owner of the wharf.

5.2 Access to and egress from a vessel

- 5.2.1** The Master and the owner of any large vessel that is berthed at a wharf or alongside another vessel shall:
- provide and maintain a sufficient and proper gangway for the access and egress of all persons having lawful business on the vessel;
 - provide sufficient lighting to illuminate the whole length of the gangway between sunset and sunrise;
 - ensure that every gangway and accommodation ladder provided is rigged at such an angle and in such a manner as will render it safe for any person using it;
 - ensure that every gangway and accommodation ladder is sited so as to ensure that no temporary pipelines associated with cargo-working operations, and, so far as practicable, no sling loads associated with cargo-working operations, pass overhead during the operations;
 - ensure that at all times the provisions for embarking or disembarking persons are safe;
 - ensure that a safety net is rigged, secured and maintained beneath the whole length of the gangway.
- 5.2.2** The Master of any large vessel shall not allow any passenger to embark or disembark:
- while the vessel is underway alongside a wharf; and
 - other than by a gangway provided for this purpose.
- 5.2.3** Clause 5.3.2 shall not apply in respect of members of the crew of the vessel, licensed or appointed Pilots, Harbourmasters, authorised shipping agents for the vessel or those persons on legitimate Government or Local Authority business.

5.3 Use of the vessel engine while a large vessel is moored, berthed or anchored

- 5.3.1** No person shall operate the propulsion system of a large vessel while it is lying at any wharf, or while it is being loaded or unloaded at any ramp without the permission of the Harbourmaster.
- 5.3.2** In addition to the requirements of Clause 5.3.1 the Master of the vessel shall ensure all persons at the wharf and on vessels in the immediate vicinity of that vessel and harbour control, are warned immediately prior to the propulsion system being tested.
- 5.3.3** Clause 5.3.1 shall not preclude the use of the propulsion system for the safe movement of a vessel to or from a landing place.

5.4 Entitlement to lay and use a Swing Mooring

- 5.4.1** No person shall lay a swing mooring, whether in a designated swing mooring area or not, unless:
- the mooring occupies a position that has been allocated by the Regional Harbourmaster; and
 - the mooring has been allocated a unique number by the Regional Harbourmaster; and
 - the swing mooring and its fittings meet any specifications and conditions set by the Regional Harbourmaster;
- 5.4.2** No person shall tie a vessel to or moor a vessel on a swing mooring unless the Regional Harbourmaster has authorised the use of the swing mooring for mooring that vessel or size of vessel;
- 5.4.3** No person shall reassign or transfer the ownership of a swing mooring without that person providing written notification* of the name and address of the new owner or assignee to the Regional Harbourmaster within 14 days of the reassignment or transfer, and the reassignment or transfer shall have no effect until notification is received.
- 5.4.4** No person shall tie a vessel to or moor a vessel on a swing mooring whose ownership has been reassigned or transferred unless the written approval of the Regional Harbourmaster has been obtained.
- 5.4.5** Clauses 5.4.2 and 5.4.4 shall not apply to a dinghy or other small pleasure craft under 6 metres used with the approval of the mooring owner to gain access to a vessel on the mooring.
- 5.4.6** No person shall lay and/or use a swing mooring unless all relevant fees have been paid to Environment Canterbury by the date specified by Environment Canterbury.

* Note: The transfer form which is required to be completed is available on the Environment Canterbury website or at the office of the Regional Harbourmaster.

5.5 Maintenance of moorings

- 5.5.1** The owner of a mooring shall maintain the mooring in a safe working condition so that other vessels in the area are not endangered. To establish that a mooring is in a safe working condition the owner of a mooring shall, at least every 12 months, ensure that the mooring equipment (including ropes, chains, sacrificial anodes, shackles and swivels) is inspected by a competent person; and shall provide confirmation of this inspection to Environment Canterbury within 21 days of the inspection.
- 5.5.2** The owner of a mooring shall mark the position of the mooring with floats or buoys marked with the unique number allocated by the Regional Harbourmaster whether the mooring is occupied by a vessel or not.
- 5.5.3** The Regional Harbourmaster may, if in his or her opinion any mooring is insufficient or in a poor state of repair, inspect the mooring and may require the swing mooring to be repaired within a specified period. If after inspection at the end of the specified period, the mooring has not been repaired to an acceptable standard in the opinion of the Harbourmaster, he or she may require the swing mooring to be removed. Such an instruction shall be in writing, and shall specify a reasonable time period for compliance.
- 5.5.4** The owner of a mooring shall comply with the instructions of the Regional Harbourmaster under Clause 5.5.3 to repair or remove a mooring. The owner of a mooring shall not re-lay the mooring until it has been inspected and approved by the Regional Harbourmaster or his or her agent.
- 5.5.5** If a requirement by the Regional Harbourmaster under Clause 5.5.3 is not met as soon as reasonably practicable, the Harbourmaster may take action to remove the swing mooring. The cost incurred may be recovered from the mooring owner in any court of competent jurisdiction as a debt due to Environment Canterbury.
- 5.5.6** If there has been no inspection and maintenance carried out as required by Clause 5.5.1 for a period exceeding three years, the Regional Harbourmaster may, after making reasonable attempts to contact the mooring holder, declare by public notice that the mooring is abandoned and that the authorisation to occupy is cancelled.

5.6 Relocation of a mooring

- 5.6.1** If in the opinion of the Regional Harbourmaster a mooring is in a position that causes a navigation hazard, or is not in the position allocated by the Regional Harbourmaster under Clause 5.4.1, the owner of a mooring shall shift a mooring to a position allocated by the Regional Harbourmaster. The Regional Harbourmaster's instruction shall be in writing, and shall specify a reasonable time for compliance.
- 5.6.2** If the owner of the mooring fails to move the mooring in accordance with an instruction given under Clause 5.6.1, the Regional Harbourmaster may take action to move that mooring to its correct position or to a position where it is no longer a hazard. The costs incurred may be recovered from the Master, owner or agent of the vessel in any court of competent jurisdiction as a debt due to Environment Canterbury.

5.7 Anchoring a vessel within or adjacent to a Swing Mooring Area or close to an occupied Swing Mooring

- 5.7.1** No person shall anchor a vessel within a swing mooring area reserved in these Bylaws.
- 5.7.2** No person shall anchor a vessel outside a swing mooring area within 50 metres of any buoy that marks the location of a swing mooring within a swing mooring area or within 50 metres of a vessel on a swing mooring.

5.8 Maintenance of maritime facilities

- 5.8.1** Where any wharf, quay, jetty, pier, dock, pile mooring, slipway, landing stage or other landing place has fallen into disrepair and is a danger or potential danger to navigation, the owner shall immediately either demolish and remove it, or make such repairs as are considered necessary by the Regional Harbourmaster to remove the danger or potential danger.