

Guidance to vessel masters and operators on the permissible anchoring of vessels at Akaroa Harbour

The Regional Coastal Environment Plan for the Canterbury Region (RCEP) and other legislation, provide for the ability of vessels to navigate in Akaroa Harbour. The RCEP allows as a permitted activity, the disturbance of the seabed of up to 5m³ in any 12-month period. This note provides guidance on the current size of vessel, and number of anchoring visits, a vessel may make to Akaroa and be unlikely to breach the 5m³ rule. This guidance will be reviewed as further information is obtained.

From 1 November 2021:

- Only two vessels greater than 100 m length between perpendiculars (LBP), may anchor in Akaroa Harbour at any one time, and
- No vessel of greater than 50,000 tonnes displacement may anchor within Akaroa Harbour without consent or scientific evidence of no adverse effects, and
- Allowable visits anchoring per 12 month period:
 - i. Vessels < 100m LBP: multiple visits
 - ii. Vessels >100m but < 150m LBP: 3 visits
 - iii. Vessels >150m but < 200m LBP: 2 visits
 - iv. Vessels >200m but < 260m LBP: 1 visit
 - v. Vessels > 260m LBP: Consent or scientific evidence of no adverse effects required

Note: when relying on this guidance, once anchored, a vessel may not utilise thrusters or propulsion machinery to assist passenger embarkation/disembarkation without the explicit permission from the Harbourmaster's Office.

Akaroa now has four anchorages available for vessels as shown below.

Anchorage No1:

43°49.300'S 172°55.350'E for vessels over 8.0 metres draft

Anchorage No6:

43°48.740'S 172°55.830'E for vessels 8.0 metres draft or less

Anchorage No7:

43°48.540'S 172°56.560'E for vessels 5.0 m draft or less

Anchorage No4:

43°48.390'S 172°57.020'E for vessels 4.0 metres draft or less

Further information is available from the Environment Canterbury Harbourmaster's Office here: <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/do-it-online/harbourmasters-office/commercial-shipping/cruise-ships/>