Sewage from your **vessel**

Untreated sewage cannot be discharged into the water unless it is a minimum of 1000 metres from shore. For bays and harbours, this measurement must be taken from a line drawn between the heads as per rule 7.7 in the Regional Coastal Environment Plan for the Canterbury Region. While this distance may differ from other regional councils we have determined that more protection is needed in our region, and have increased the protected area accordingly.

Dump stations for disposal can be found throughout New Zealand at certain petrol stations, campsites, and some marinas, or your vessel may have treatment facilities onboard. Alternatively, use local public toilets before heading out.

Refuelling and **oil spills**

Refuel your trailer vessel at a station prior to heading out on the water.

When refuelling on the water ensure that you:

- are moored securely and sheltered from unexpected bumps
- have a rag for cleaning up any spills
- have a sorbent pad for any accidental spills on the water
- have the correct safety equipment on board, such as a fire extinguisher.

Report an environmental **incident**

0800 765 588

Or use the Snap, Send Solve app.

ecan.govt.nz/boating-practices

Environment Canterbury Regional Council
Kaunihera Taiao ki Waitaha

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Good boat maintenance practices

Protect yourself, other water users and the environment by observing these guidelines.

Help keep Canterbury/Waitaha waterways and coastal marine areas beautiful now and in the future.

Boat cleaning, maintenance, and **biofouling**

Protect our beautiful waterways and marine ecosystems by keeping a clean hull. Limiting the fouling on your hull stops pests from catching a ride with you into uncontaminated areas or transferring from your vessel to others when moored in a marina.

At least once a year, get your vessel out of the water for a full warrant of fitness. Check the hull for any damage, remove unwanted organisms, growth, sand, paint or biofoul, make any repairs and ensure your vessel has clear identification.

- Any work should take place far from the water's edge or stormwater drains to prevent contaminants, such as paint, from spilling and reaching the water.
- Any discharge that arises from this work should be disposed of to trade waste or captured using a drop cloth under the vessel to dispose appropriately.
- Large vessels should contact the dry dock for a space.
- It is not advised to complete works such as sanding, grinding and painting on the water as the likelihood of contaminants reaching the water is very high.
- Remove larger fouling organisms by hand. Don't throw these back into the water where they can reproduce, dispose of them in a secure bin.
- Other equipment such as trailers, anchors, dive and fishing gear should be washed with freshwater after use, and then thoroughly air dried before using in a new location.
- Always check your boat is clean before you move.
- Antifouling paint cover is the easiest way to keep your vessel clean, but some ingredients, such as copper, can harm marine life. Always apply and remove antifouling paint with careful consideration.

Ballast water

The other way pest species can be transported into, or around, a region is via ballast water. Boaties should apply the Check, Clean, Dry principles as much as possible when taking a vessel out of the water before it is transported or taken to a new environment.

Prior to leaving a waterway, empty the vessel of all water, including any ballast water. Once on a trailer, flush it through with clean fresh water and use a disinfectant treatment.

Then refill the vessel with new ballast water when you enter the new environment.

Storing your **vessel**

When storing your vessel on land, check if any hazardous substances are leaking or at risk of leaking.

- Leaking hazardous substances may cause contamination to land and/or have the potential to reach a stormwater drain which can enter a waterway or coastal marine area.
- By providing protection in the form of a bund, drip tray, shelter or trade waste system you can protect your boat, the ground below and waterways.
- If you are storing your vessel on water (on a mooring, marina or anchorage), ensure it is well secured, with any loose items stowed away.
- A vessel being moored should be seaworthy, meaning in a fit condition to navigate safely on the water, with no inorganic material or hazardous substances being deposited in the water.

Bilge waste

The bilge is the lowest part of the vessel where water, fuel, oil, debris, and other substances tend to collect. You can discharge clean water to a waterway or the sea, but as soon as it contains contaminants it is considered waste that cannot be discharged onto water or land.

You can discharge your waste by:

- Using absorbents to clean up the substances and dispose of them at an appropriate place.
- Using a vacuum system to pump into containers for offshore disposal.
- Installing an oil/water separator that captures the hydrocarbons for appropriate disposal.