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Navigation Safety

The Chatham Islands has about 360 kilometres of coastline that is used extensively for commercial fishing as well as recreation.

We are required by the [Local Government Act 2002\(external link\)](#) and the [Maritime Transport Act 1994\(external link\)](#) to promote, maintain and sustain a safe environment for both commercial and recreational maritime activities in the Chatham Islands' waterways.

Any accident or incident involving a cruise ship, or its tender operation, must be reported to the Harbourmaster immediately and followed up with a written report with 48 hours. A report must also be made to [Maritime New Zealand\(external link\)](#).

Harbour control is undertaken primarily to ensure safety in our waterways.

Chatham Islands Navigation Safety Bylaws 2013

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The Chatham Islands Council Navigation Safety Bylaws 2013 have been developed after wide consultation with the Chathams community, to support safe navigation practices, to reduce risk, and generally to manage boating and other activities in the Islands' coastal waters.

The Chatham Islands Navigation Safety Bylaws 2013 were reviewed in June 2021 by the Chatham Island Council and deemed fit for purpose. They also took this opportunity to approve a few definition and formatting improvements, but no major changes were required.

[Chatham Islands Harbourmaster's Direction 21-2](#)

[Download PDF \(231 KB\)](#)

[Chatham Islands Navigation Safety Bylaws 2013](#)

[Download PDF \(1.5 MB\)](#)

[Navigation Safety Brochure](#)

[Download PDF \(120 KB\)](#)

Large vessels

The Chatham Islands is remote, sparsely populated and has little in the way of infrastructure to deal with any possible shipping incident.

As such, no large vessel such as a cruise ship shall enter into, or remain within, the Chatham Islands Area of Restricted Access ('the Area') without the prior approval of the Harbourmaster.

Waitangi Harbour and Port are members of the [Port and Harbour Marine Safety Code \[PDF, 1.9 MB\]](#) ('the Code') and are deemed consistent with the Code by the Code review panel.

For more information on Navigation Safety Operating Requirements for large vessels:

[Chatham Islands Navigation Safety Operating Requirements](#)

[Download PDF \(2.7 MB\)](#)

[Chatham Islands Harbourmaster's Direction 21-2](#)

[Download PDF \(231 KB\)](#)

Marine oil spills

We prepare maintain and review [Regional Marine Oil Spill Contingency Plans](#) as required by the [Maritime Transport Act 1994](#)(external link).

Harbourmaster

Contact details for Regional Harbourmaster Joshua 'Joss' Thomas are as follows:

- Council office: [03 305 0033](tel:033050033)
- After hours: [03 305 0315](tel:033050315) or [027 305 0123](tel:0273050123)
- Email: harbourmaster@cic.govt.nz

Need help? Get in touch

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