

Harbourmaster's Office

Recommendations

That the Board:

- i. note the recent transfer of the harbourmaster department from Auckland Council to Auckland Transport.
- ii. note the roles and responsibilities of the harbourmaster department.

Executive summary

The function of the harbourmaster was transferred from Auckland Council to Auckland Transport on 27 April 2015 as result of an AC restructure. Delegated at the same time were several other maritime related functions of the council managed by the harbourmaster department including wreck removal, the ability to deal with abandoned vessels and the region's oil spill response function.

The harbourmaster is a statutory appointment; the powers of the harbourmaster are legislated in the Maritime Transport Act 1994.

The three main roles of the harbourmasters department are ensuring maritime safety on the regions navigable waters, management of moorings within mooring management areas and marine oil spill response.

Strategic context

The introduction of the Harbourmaster unit into Transport Services increases the One Network capability and operational efficiency of coordinating and managing transport across Auckland. The Harbourmasters Unit provides the ability for organisation to:

- coordinate and integrate public transport and other water services with land based transport
- integrate and coordinate land and water based incident/emergency response and event planning, coordination and delivery
- enhance land and water based transport communications by utilising Auckland Transport Operations Centre (ATOC) as single point of contact for operations and leveraging the monitoring and combination of technology solutions that the organisation offers

- enhance regional safety and security services through integration with ATOC and a united approach to working with Police (and customs) and Civil Defence.

Background

The harbourmaster department is based at the Marine Rescue Centre at Mechanics Bay, with a smaller satellite base at Sandspit. The department consists of 12 permanent staff, 14 casual staff and 6 honorary harbour wardens.

The harbourmaster has jurisdiction of all navigable waters within the Auckland region extending out to the 12 mile territorial limit.



The harbourmasters key partners are the Police Maritime Unit, Maritime New Zealand and Ports of Auckland.
The departments' role covers three main areas: maritime safety, mooring management and marine oil spill response.

Maritime Safety

- enforcing the Navigation Safety Bylaw, (including wearing and carriage of lifejackets, speed limits, no anchoring areas)
- management of buoys and beacons throughout region
- removal of navigational hazards
- management of electricity cables crossing waterways
- management of on-water events
- examination and regular assessments of pilots and pilot exempt masters
- educational campaigns promoting safe boating practices
- maritime safety signage
- compliance with Port and Harbour Safety Code
- promulgation of navigational warnings and Notices to Mariners
- issuing formal Harbourmaster Directions where necessary
- wreck removal
- issuing of commercial vessel licences for small vessels
- management of vessels seeking to enter areas of restricted access to large vessels
- registration of personal watercraft (PWC)
- reviewing resource consents within the coastal marine area for potential safety issues
- liaison with various harbour users groups in order to manage conflicting uses of the regions waters
- deployment of virtual and synthetic aids to navigation of offshore hazards.

Mooring Management

- management of moored vessels
- administration of annual mooring licences
- disposal of derelict and abandoned vessels
- ensuring that moorings are inspected by recognised contractors within set timeframes
- approval and auditing of mooring service providers
- ownership of 308 pile moorings at Te Atatu, Panmure and Sandspit.

Marine Oil Spill Response

- responsibility for responding to small to mid-range marine oil spills
- training of regional responders
- maintenance and management of response equipment loaned to region by Maritime New Zealand
- approval of response plans for fuel transfer sites and the auditing of those plans
- harbourmaster staff are members of the National Response Team at a managerial level and may be deployed to large spills nationally
- development of regional oil spill contingency plan.


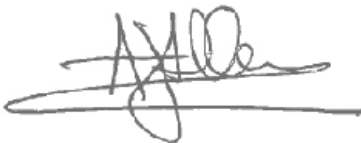
In order to carry out the above functions, the harbourmasters department have a number of floating assets. These include four patrol vessels and two multi-role vessels. In addition to harbourmaster duties, the vessels are available to assist the council with deployment of personnel and assets, including rural fire equipment, to the Hauraki Gulf islands. The national police dive squad often use the multi-role vessels during searches within the Auckland region. The harbourmasters department have a contract with Spark to patrol the international cable zone to ensure that no vessels anchor or fish within the zone.



Next steps

With the move to Auckland Transport, there are opportunities for the harbourmasters department to work more collaboratively with the Auckland Transport Operations Centre during major on-water events and to drive closer alignment in terms of operational response to incidents across multiple modes.

Document ownership

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