



BLUE FLAG NEW ZEALAND

CODE OF CONDUCT | INDIVIDUAL BOAT OWNERS

BLUE FLAG NEW ZEALAND – PROMOTING A HEALTHY BLUE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

As a key user of our coastal waters, recreational boat owners greatly appreciate the natural beauty and environmental qualities of New Zealand's ocean and are therefore dedicated to keeping the coastal water clean. Blue Flag serves both to recognise and promote further environmentally friendly practices.

By signing this environmental code of conduct, as a boat owner, I agree to act in accord with the objectives outlined in this code and encourage other boaties to do the same.

IN ORDER TO PROTECT OUR MARINE ENVIRONMENT, I WILL:

▶ COLLECT ALL RUBBISH AND RECYCLE

Rubbish is harmful to wildlife and pollutes water. Collect all rubbish on board, including cigarette butts and use recycling facilities where appropriate.

▶ **INSTALL A HOLDING TANK** Sewage discharge depletes oxygen levels, thus destroying marine life. Install a holding tank, or an approved sewerage treatment system, and dispose of the contents at the appropriate waste receiving facilities at the marina.

▶ **DISPOSE OF HAZARDOUS WASTE CORRECTLY** Hazardous waste creates a major risk to the environment. Deliver hazardous waste (oil, paint, batteries, cleaning agents, etc) to the correct containers in the marina.

▶ **PREVENT OIL AND FUEL SPILLS** Even small amounts of fuel and oil can be fatal to birds and marine life. Use absorbing materials when refueling and in the bilge area. Learn how to best treat an accidental spill, to maximize safety and minimize environmental damage. Pollution or other violations of environmental regulations must be instantly reported to the authorities.

▶ AVOID IN-WATER HULL CLEANING

In-water hull cleaning can lead to the release of anti-foulants and exotic organisms into the marine environment. Reduce the release of toxic substances and exotic organisms into the water by avoiding in-water hull cleaning or other underwater processes wherever possible.

▶ USE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY PRODUCTS

Environmentally-friendly products help protect the marine environment. Use the most environmentally-friendly paints, anti-fouling agents, paint remover, detergents, shampoos etc.

▶ DISPOSE OF PLANT FRAGMENTS CORRECTLY

Remove plant fragments to prevent the spread of exotic pests. Remove all plant fragments from trailers, props, anchors, ropes, chains and fishing tackle to prevent the spread of exotic aquatic pests. Wrap in plastic bags before disposing of them on shore.

▶ **TAKE CARE WHEN ANCHORING** Protect the sea floor by anchoring carefully. Take care when anchoring to avoid damaging sea grass beds.



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▶ **PROTECT ANIMALS AND PLANTS IN THE SEA** This includes not disturbing breeding birds, seals or other marine mammals.

▶ **RESPECT PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS**
Protect and preserve natural areas. Look, learn and enjoy but don't disturb or remove anything from a marine reserve. Check your boat for rodent stowaways before anchoring near island reserves. Light no fires as these could devastate the islands habitats.

▶ **FOLLOW THE FISHING RULES** Everyone who fishes recreationally in New Zealand has a legal requirement to follow the recreational fishing rules. The rules change regularly and vary depending on the area you are fishing in - so check the rules for your fishing area every time you head out fishing.

▶ **REGULARLY MAINTAIN THE BOAT ENGINE**
A sick engine pollutes the environment. Ensure noise and air emissions are kept to a minimum by regularly tuning your boat engine.

NAME

BOAT NAME

EMAIL

SIGNATURE

NAME OF MARINA

PHONE

DATE
