

Moorings

Auckland has one of the highest rates of recreational boat ownership in the world. So providing enough storage in suitable locations for the region's 150,000 pleasure craft is an issue.

Storage options range from simple swing moorings to berths at commercial marinas such as at Westhaven and Gulf Harbour.

This fact sheet provides basic information on how to apply for a coastal permit for a mooring outside a marina or identified mooring management area (MMA).



■ Mooring management areas

The Auckland Regional Plan: Coastal (ARP:C) has defined MMAs for the Auckland region. The purpose of MMAs is to encourage the concentration of moorings within defined areas for management purposes and to ensure efficient use is made of the coastal marine area (CMA¹).

The rules relating to MMAs are contained in chapter 24 of the ARP:C. You don't need resource consent for a mooring in an MMA unless it is already full (maximum numbers are given in ARP:C Schedule 5). The Auckland Regional Council (ARC) Harbourmaster allocates moorings within MMAs.

Contact the Harbourmaster to find out how to get or transfer a mooring within a MMA:

Phone: 09 362 0397

Email: harbourmaster@arc.govt.nz

Website: www.arc.govt.nz/harbourmaster.

■ Other moorings

Moorings outside a MMA or an established marina require a coastal permit under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA 1991).

Moorings can have adverse effects on the environment e.g. the natural character of the coast and landscape; scenic and amenity values; public access and other uses of the CMA; navigation and safety.

Moorings are generally discouraged outside MMAs in the Auckland region in order to prevent their proliferation. You need to apply to the ARC for a coastal permit if you wish to lay a mooring outside a MMA. If an existing mooring doesn't have a permit, the owner is required to get one so they can lawfully continue to occupy the site.

An application for a coastal permit for a mooring outside a MMA is generally considered inappropriate (policy 24.4.4 ARPC) unless:

- There are compelling reasons why a mooring outside a MMA is necessary
- There is no MMA with available space nearby
- It can be demonstrated that short term anchorage as opposed to a permanent mooring is not a practical option
- The mooring and moored vessel will not adversely affect the navigation and safety of other vessels, other recreational use or activity, existing activities or activities that have been granted resource consent, or restrict public access to and along the CMA
- There are no practical land-based storage options.

Shared use of moorings is encouraged to reduce the number of them.

¹ The coastal marine area includes the foreshore, the seabed, coastal water and the air above the sea from the mean high water springs mark out to the 12 nautical mile territorial limit.

■ How do I apply for a coastal permit for a mooring?

An application to lay and use a mooring, including for occupation of the CMA, can be made on a coastal permit application form from the ARC. Copies are available online at www.arc.govt.nz or by contacting us on 09 366 2000, press 1.

■ What should I include with my application?

- Completed application form
- Detailed description of proposal, including location map and GPS co-ordinates
- Details of mooring including dimensions (swing of mooring etc)
- Details of the proposed use of the mooring, including details of vessel(s)
- Consideration of alternatives e.g. land based storage, shared mooring, MMA
- Written approval from the ARC Harbourmaster's Office with respect to navigation and safety issues
- An assessment of effects on the environment (AEE).

An AEE is an important part of your application for a coastal permit. It provides information about any environmental effects (good and bad) of your proposal, and helps the ARC decide whether to grant a permit.

Your AEE should address whether the mooring and any moored vessel will affect the following matters:

- The navigation and safety of other vessels
- Other recreational use of the CMA
- The operation of any existing activity
- Public access to and along the CMA
- Natural character
- Landscape
- Natural features and ecosystems
- Matters of significance to Tāngata Whenua
- Cultural heritage.



■ For more information

Contact the ARC on 366 2000, press 1 for information and advice on:

- The suitability of your plans for the location
- What resource consents you require
- The supporting information and consultation you'll need to include with your application.

The ARC has a range of fact sheets that relate to the use of the region's coastline. Copies are available online at www.arc.govt.nz or upon request. Topics include:

- Our Coast and Sea, who do I Contact
- So you want to Carry out Works in the Coastal Marine Area
- What to Include in an Assessment of Environmental Effects for a Coastal Permit
- Jetties, Ramps and Other Structures
- Public Access to Auckland's Coast
- Managing Coastal Erosion

How do I contact the ARC?

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toll free 0800 80 60 40

Fax: 09 366 2155

Email: info@arc.govt.nz

Website: www.arc.govt.nz

