

So what changed?

The new Navigation Safety Bylaw comes into effect on 1 July 2017.

The key changes that take effect from this date have been listed here.

Lifejackets

People on board vessels 6m or less must wear a properly fitting lifejacket at all times **unless** the skipper has assessed the risk and advised it is safe to not wear one. There are a number of exceptions to this rule, and these have not changed. All other vessels are still required to carry a proper fitting lifejacket for everyone on board.

Naming of vessels

To help with identification, powered vessels over 4m and non-powered vessels over 6m are required to be clearly marked with a name or number. Smaller vessels are encouraged to ensure some form of identification is on their vessel to help with determining ownership or knowing who we may be looking for in event of an emergency.

Jetski/Personal Water Craft

All Jetski/Personal Water Craft using Bay of Plenty waterways will need to register online through Auckland Council. To find out how visit **www.boprc.govt.nz/pwc**

Moving Prohibited Zone

A moving prohibited zone has been established for large vessels over 500 tonnes underway in the navigation channel of Tauranga Harbour. This means that boaties are not allowed to navigate in the channel 500m in front of, and 50m each side of, large vessels.

Hunters Creek

For safety reasons, the Hunters Creek ski area is closed to ski traffic for 2 hours either side of low tide. During this time the 5 knot rule applies.

Tauranga Harbour port area

Recreational boats need to stay 50m away from large vessels berthed at the commercial wharves.

Reserved areas and speed uplifting

To ensure popular boating spots are shared safely minor changes have been made to some reserved areas and some new ones have been established too. This information is best viewed online at www.boprc.govt.nz/harbourmaster or on signage on site. These include:

- New non-watersports area at Waipu Bay in Tauranga Harbour
- Adjustment to the reserved area in Matutu Arm, Lake Rotoiti
- Limited speed uplifting for jetboat operator on Lake Rotorua
- New reserved area for swimming in Whakatāne Harbour
- New reserved area for swimming at Lake Aniwanīwa

For more detail on the boating rules for Bay of Plenty check out www.boprc.govt.nz/harbourmaster or collect a copy of the new Bylaw or Boating in the Bay of Plenty booklet from our Whakatāne, Tauranga, Mount Maunganui or Rotorua office.

