

Harbours Department Report

Mike Pryce, Manager

June 2000

1. Harbour Navigation Aids

All navigation aids are operating satisfactorily.

New securing chains were fitted to the fendering at the Front Leading Light.

2. Oil Pollution Response

Six oil pollution reports were received but none required any clean-up action.

Departmental Activities

- Between 22 and 24 May Manager Harbours attended a Maritime Safety Authority revalidation Oil Pollution Managers training course at Te Atatu, Auckland.
- On 30 May Manager Harbours attended the official Maritime Safety Authority debrief into the Tier 3 oil pollution response after the sinking of the fishing vessel *Seafresh 1* in the Chatham Islands on 17 March.
- On 31 May Manager Harbours participated in a working group meeting to draft proposed model harbour bylaws in conjunction with the Maritime Safety Authority.
- On the 7 and 8 June, Harbour Ranger Grant Nalder attended a Maritime Safety Authority revalidation Oil Spill Equipment Operator's training course at Te Atatu, Auckland.
- On the weekend of 10 & 11 June Manager Harbours adjudicated in the annual "Caltex Cup" competition on Wellington Harbour, held between competing volunteer Coastguard duty rescue crews.

3. General Events/Information

- On 10 May Fast Cat Ferries celebrated the completion of the first year of commercial operation of their fast ferry *Incat 050*. The vessel is scheduled to be off service from 17 to 31 July for drydocking and annual survey in Newcastle, N.S.W.

4. Review Of Harbour Bylaws

As mentioned above, a working group from Regional Councils has held several meetings to draft proposed model harbour bylaws in conjunction with the Maritime Safety Authority.

Maritime Safety Authority agreed to write a paper before the end of June 2000 containing their views on how they see this process progressing.

The current situation is as follows.

Existing harbour bylaws continue until 31 March 2003, after which date they will expire, unless they are renewed prior to that date.

New bylaws made under the new legislation cannot be inconsistent with Maritime Rules. However, some of these maritime rules have not yet been produced.

In addition, it is understood that the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Division of the Ministry of Labour are in the process of revising their "Guidelines for Health and Safety in Port Operations" in order to make it an "Approved Code Of Practice for Safety and Health in Port Operations" under section 20 of the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992. When this is in force by mid-2000, the Maritime Safety Authority will then go through the General Harbour Regulations 1968 to determine their relevance with a view to incorporating these in Maritime Rules.

Dependant on what is included in these maritime rules will have an effect on what may need to be included in revised harbour bylaws. For example, if a maritime rule is made requiring the compulsory carriage of lifejackets then it will not need to be included in harbour bylaws.

This is another reason why the group is working in conjunction with the Maritime Safety Authority and the Ministry of Transport in drafting these model bylaws.

The issue of revised harbour bylaws will be of central interest at the next scheduled meeting of the Harbour Masters Special Interest Group meeting on 20 July 2000.

Mike Pryce
Manager, Harbours