



~ the dawn of a new day ~

Welcome to the Bay of Islands Marina Customer Handbook

Your comfort and enjoyment comes first.
Enjoy your stay and help us maintain our beautiful environment.

24/7 Baffin Street
Opua
Bay of Islands 0200
New Zealand
www.bayofislandsmarina.co.nz

Marina: Phone: +64 9 402 7124 x 1
Boatyard: Phone: +64 9 402 7124 x 2
info@boimarina.co.nz
enquiries@boimarina.co.nz
boatyard@boimarina.co.nz

VHF Channel 73

Welcome to Opua, Your Gateway to New Zealand's Cruising Paradise

The Bay of Islands and the northeastern coast of New Zealand offer sheltered waters, stunning scenery, and secluded anchorages. Opua is your perfect starting point for exploring world-class cruising destinations.

Opua provides convenient access for all your essential boat services, including ship chandlers, boat building and engineering workshops. You'll also find rental cars, restaurants, a welcoming yacht club, and a general store within easy walking distance.

Our friendly Marina office staff can assist you with up-to-date information, including some environmental restrictions aimed at protecting the marine environment to ensure your stay is enjoyable, safe, and hassle-free.

We've created this comprehensive handbook with boaters and cruisers in mind. It covers everything you need to know before arriving and after settling into your berth at the Bay of Islands Marina, whether you're traveling locally or internationally.

We hope you find this handbook useful. Your feedback is always appreciated. Don't miss the highlight feature, "Pacific Passages to New Zealand," in the last section. It offers valuable insights for sailing south and complementing the services of professional weather routers.

MARINA OFFICE HOURS:

Our friendly staff are here 7 days a week [except Xmas day] to make your stay a memorable one.

Hours are from 08:15 to 17:00. Please feel free to pop in anytime for assistance.

VISITORS LOUNGE:

Available 24/7 to Marina & Boatyard users only.

- ❖ Accessed by FOB or daily PIN code, located above the laundry.
- ❖ Please feel free to utilise our showers, toilets, TV, computer/meeting room, water cooler, book exchange and a few children's toys.
- ❖ Lounge is equipped with a heat pump/air conditioner, please be aware of open windows and turn off when departing for the night.
- ❖ All children under 15 must always be accompanied by an adult.
- ❖ Please keep tidy.

FREE WIFI:

Available for Marina & Boatyard users.

- ❖ Coverage in the customer lounge and around the marina office only (not available on the docks).
- ❖ Password: FNHL Guest.
- ❖ Free NZ 2 Degrees SIM cards available from the Marina office.

MARINA ACCESS:

FOB's and PIN codes are provided for your safety – please follow these instructions:

- ❖ FOB's (electronic keys) or access codes are provided on check in, these allow access through the gates to the piers, showers, toilets and customer lounge, refuse stations and car parks.
- ❖ Please do not share these codes with unauthorised users.
- ❖ Daily PIN codes are temporary and are updated daily at 8.15 am.
- ❖ Once your FOB has been returned on check out you will receive the daily PIN code to gain access to your vessel for departure.
- ❖ Gates must be closed by berth users and must not be wedged open.
- ❖ Security cameras operate 24 hours a day.

CHECK-OUT:

- ❖ All Marina Berths and Swing Moorings must be vacated by NOON.
Arrivals after NOON.
- ❖ K-Dock: Work dock.
Departures by 09.00 am.
Arrivals after 09.00 am.
- ❖ Heading Offshore:
Due to some Customs departure appointments being outside of these times, please stay in touch with the Marina Office to organise berth departure times.

PAYMENTS:

Daily or discounted monthly rates are available.

- ❖ Monthly payments are required in advance to take advantage of the discounted rate and to secure your booking.
- ❖ One month's notice in advance is required to terminate.
- ❖ A 2% payment fee is charged on all credit card transactions.
- ❖ No surcharge for EFTPOS card when inserted or swiped, this does not apply if card is Pay Waved.

LIVEBOARDS:

- ❖ Short term stay-boards are permitted.
- ❖ Long term live-boards are only permitted with prior approval from the Marina Manager.
- ❖ Holding tanks and onshore toileting facilities must be used.
- ❖ No discharging is permitted. The Marina and swing mooring fields are a NO discharge area
- ❖ Daily & monthly rates are available.

CASH OUT FACILITIES:

- ❖ ATM machines are in the Opuā General Store (5min walk from the Marina) and in the township of Paihia.
- ❖ All banks are now located in Kerikeri township (30 minutes' drive).

PLAYGROUND & PUBLIC BBQ AREA:

Please feel free to utilise these facilities while you enjoy your stay with us.

- ❖ Located between G and H piers for public use.
- ❖ Recommended to supervise young children and help us keep both areas clean after use for the next visitors.

LAUNDRY:

Located next to the Marina Office.

- ❖ Open 24/7.
- ❖ Operated by credit card or EFTPOS – instructions clearly detailed in the laundry.
- ❖ Owned and operated by Liquid Laundry: phone: 06-8788095 ext. 718
email: tania@liquidlaundromats.co.nz

INSURANCE:

All vessels in the Marina & Boatyard are required to have a minimum of NZ\$5 million third party insurance. A copy of current insurance must be provided to the Marina or Boatyard Offices.

- ❖ Short term policies can be obtained through The Marina Shop:
Phone: 09 402 6093 or email: info@thamarinashop.com

POWER:

If your vessel is hardwired a current NZ Electrical Warrant of Fitness is required to be sighted by the Marina Office before connecting.

- ❖ Charges are daily or monthly unless metered (see marina rates for charges).
- ❖ Available 240-volt 50Hz. Connection: Blue male connector (3-pronged marina type).
- ❖ EWOFF's can only be issued by a certified Electrical Inspector.

Local inspectors:

Powasafe: Craig Thomson Phone: 021 766 379 or email: info@powasafe.co.nz

Tight Lines Electrical: Mobile: 021 0847 9242 or email: admin@tightlineselectrical.co.nz

Please book for appointment.

SINGLE APPLIANCE USE:

Vessels NOT hardwired may plug in only:

- ❖ If the cord is tagged (annual requirement).
- ❖ A power unit adapter is used, also to be tagged annually.
- ❖ Must NOT be left unattended at any stage, including overnight.

Power cords and units are available for short term rental through the Marina office. For extended use please visit one of the local Electrical or Chandlery stores.

WATER:

Water in the Marina is drinkable/potable.

- ❖ If coming from offshore make your water or have water prior to your arrival as the Quarantine Dock has no water available or power services.
- ❖ Northland Water does contain Chlorine.
- ❖ Please conserve water during the summer months (the summer population has a huge increase).
- ❖ Free water is available on fuel dock and on the T-end of J-dock (keep your stays short for water please).

COURTESY TROLLIES:

Trollies are available at the beginning of each pier head. Please return to the same position and don't leave them on the piers. Please think of other users and leave trollies clean for the next user.

MOORING LINES:

Please use your own mooring lines. If lines are provided, they are generally the berth holders property and set up for their own vessels – please do not alter.

SHOWERS & TOILETS:

Showers & toilets are in the Visitors Lounge (above the laundry) for Marina & Boatyard customers.

- ❖ Access by FOB or daily PIN number.
- ❖ Showers require \$2.00 coins for 5 minutes (change available in the Marina office).

Public and disabled showers & toilets available in the green building opposite B/C dock in the northern carpark.

- ❖ Access by FOB, daily PIN number or the daily shower PIN.

Public toilets.

- ❖ Located on the west side of the northern carpark building (same as above).
- ❖ To the rear of the laundry.

SHOWERS: \$2 coins required; however our showers will be upgraded shortly to allow payment online.

SEWAGE:

The Bay of Islands Marina is an accredited "Clean Marina" and proud to be doing our part to protect our local environment and surrounding marine ecosystems.

- ❖ The Marina and swing mooring fields are a NO discharge area – use your holding tanks and the onshore facilities.
- ❖ A free 24/7 pump out facility is available on the fuel dock (at the entrance to the Marina).

BAY OF ISLANDS DOCKMASTER:

Please ensure that the overall length of your vessel is provided on booking.

- ❖ No overhangs are permitted.
- ❖ Ensure vessel fits comfortably between the piles.

Our Dockmasters are available for:

- ❖ Line handling on arrival or departure.
- ❖ Tender assistance for berthage and swing moorings.
- ❖ Towage in and around the Marina, no long haul available (charges may apply).
- ❖ Berth line checks.
- ❖ Power plinth support.
- ❖ Assistance with fuelling.
- ❖ Call Shane or Monika for direct assistance on:
Mobile: 021 582 810 or VHF Channel 73 email: dockmaster@boimarina.co.nz

CAR PARKING:

- ❖ Berth holders are entitled to one annual car pass – please display on your dashboard/windscreen.
- ❖ Berth occupiers are entitled to one free car pass with their berthage.
- ❖ Please display your car pass on your dashboard/windscreen.
- ❖ Yellow lined car parks in the southern car park are designated for berth holders/renters only.
- ❖ Free car parking for public use is located on the roadside and the white lined car parks in the southern car park.
- ❖ Free trailer/car parking is limited to the trailer car park just to the south of the Marina Office.
- ❖ During the summer peak season parking will be available for trailers and vehicles in the Boatyard. \$20.00 per night per unit.
- ❖ Please do not leave any valuables visible in your vehicles and make sure they are locked.

HAUL OUT:

If you are requiring a haul out for cleaning, antifouling, repairs etc.

Please contact Bay of Islands Boatyard for bookings:

Phone: 09 402 7124 x 2 email: boatyard@boimarina.co.nz

VHF – LOW POWER:

- ❖ Marina Office: VHF Channel 73 Call sign: Bay of Islands Marina.
- ❖ Please use low power within the Marina area.
- ❖ Local radio for trip and weather reports:
Russell Radio: VHF 63 and 03, 10 hours a day (9am to 7pm), 365 days a year.
Phone: 09 403 7218 Mobile: 021 841 131 email: Russell.radio@outlook.com

DINGHIES:

Dinghy docks are located near the boat ramp (G-dock) and next to the Opuia General Store and Opuia Cruising Club. Please check with them for usage rules.

- ❖ Do not leave dinghies in empty berths or leave floating in the waterways, this can cause accidents.
- ❖ Keep your outboard down and do not side tie please.

FUEL:

The fuel dock is located at the entrance to the Marina.

- ❖ Self-service 24/7.
- ❖ Eftpos and credit card with PIN number.
- ❖ No fuel cards accepted sorry.
- ❖ Marina Office is manned 7 days a week if assistance is required.
- ❖ Please note that construction will commence approximately early 2025 for upgrading.
- ❖ Once construction is completed Petrol will be available – not available at present.
- ❖ Petrol is available on Paihia and Russell wharfs.

FUEL BUNKERING:

For large amounts of fuel, bunkering is permitted on the main Opuia wharf with prior bookings through the Marina Office.

Main Suppliers: McFall Fuels: Phone: 0800 623 255 email: fuelorders@mcfallfuel.co.nz
Mini Tankers: Phone: 0800 111 666 email: support@minitankers.co.nz

TRANSFER OF FUEL:

Under no circumstances is any vessel permitted to refuel in the Marina or on the main Opuia wharf by their own personal means (be that privately owned fuel tanker or jerry-cans).

- ❖ For further information on the regulations under the Maritime Transport Act please see the Marina Office.
- ❖ Please report any spills to Northland Regional Council - Phone: 0800-504 639

OFFSHORE BOUND:

GST exclusive diesel available for all vessels departing New Zealand.

- ❖ If the vessel is berthed in the Marina fuelling is permitted 24 hours in advance of departure.
- ❖ If the vessel is not berthed in the Marina fuelling must be undertaken on the day of departure.
- ❖ Fuel is available 24/7 by Eftpos and credit card with PIN number.
- ❖ Fuel.
 - Bring fuel receipts to the Marina Office and check out.
 - Provide credit card details to Marina staff.
 - Clear Customs.
 - NZ Customs are located in the white square building to the south in the Marina Industrial estate. Signs of Norths Sails and Total Yacht Care are on the front of the building. NZ Customs are upstairs.
Mobile: 029 602 1669 email: Yachts@customs.govt.nz
 - Return directly to your vessel.
 - Email your Customs clearance form within 24 hours (no later) to info@boimarina.co.nz
 - Your GST will be refunded back to your credit card.

MARINE PESTS:

Please help us keep our home clean by following the Northland Regional Councils requirements:

- ❖ A waterblast within ONE month prior to arrival in northland waters.
- ❖ Or an antifoul within SIX months prior to arrival in northland waters.

From offshore please see Ministry of Primary Industries website for details:

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/import/border-clearance/ships-and-boats-border-clearance/biofouling/biofouling-management/>

- ❖ Phone: 0800 008333 email: vessels@mpi.govt.nz

REFUSE:

We appreciate your efforts in helping us to keep the area tidy and free of rubbish.

- ❖ Refuse/Recycling stations are located opposite B and I docks.
- ❖ Stations are for Marina users only – access by way of FOB or PIN.
- ❖ Casual users are welcome \$5.00 per bag – recyclables are chargeable – payable in the Marina Office and a PIN is issued for one time access.
- ❖ Prepaid bags are available from the Opuā General Store for curb side collection on Tuesday's.
- ❖ Whangāe Refuse Transfer Station: Phone: 0800 101010
Located just past the Opuā Industrial Estate (on the way to Kawakawa) approx. 5 minutes from the Marina. Vehicle is required.
Monday to Friday: 07.30 to 17.00 & Saturday & Sunday: 09.00 to 17.00.

<https://www.fndc.govt.nz/Services/rubbish-and-Recycling/rubbish-and-recycling-stations/Whangae-Refuse-Transfer-Station>

RECYCLING:

Two large Refuse/Recycling stations are located opposite B and I docks.

Please separate items:

- ❖ Glass
- ❖ Tins & Aluminium Cans
- ❖ Paper
- ❖ Cardboard
- ❖ Plastics – please check numbers accepted.
- ❖ Casual users are welcome \$5.00 per large bag – payable in the Marina Office and a PIN is issued for one time access.
- ❖ Recycling is also available free of charge at the Whangāe Refuse Transfer Station (see above).

WASTE OIL:

Waste oil container located in the Boatyard for Marina and Boatyard customers only.

- ❖ Waste oils collected for recycling.
- ❖ Oil must be uncontaminated – NO diesel or other debris.
- ❖ Used Rags Bin also collected for recycling.
- ❖ Solvents and old batteries; please ask at Boatyard Office for disposal instructions.

HEALTH & SAFETY:

Please adhere to the following to create a safe environment for all.

- ❖ NO welding, grinding, sanding, water-blasting or spray painting is allowed in the Marina.
- ❖ When employing a contractor to work on your vessel it is the boat owner's responsibility to ensure that the contractor has signed in with the Marina or Boatyard Office and has current Contractors Insurance.
- ❖ No fishing or collecting seafood in the Marina.
- ❖ No diving in the Marina or cycling on the docks.
- ❖ Defibrillators are located outside both the Marina & Boatyard Offices & the Opuā General Store.
- ❖ All piers are equipped with emergency ladders, life rings and fire extinguishers.
- ❖ Please report any concerns with the facilities ASAP to the Marina Office.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS:**Police/Fire/Ambulance: 111**

- ❖ Mark Seabrook – Marina Manager: 021 0256 0599
- ❖ Rhys Dempster – Boatyard Manager: 027 246 9423
- ❖ Jane Wubben – Marina Office: 027 275 0622
- ❖ Dockmasters – Shane or Monika: 021 582 810 (08.30 to 17.00 – 7 days)
- ❖ Terry Munden – Maintenance Manager: 021 931 134
- ❖ Northland Security – Tiny: 021468 287
- ❖ Northland Regional Council: 24/7 Hotline
 - Environmental Emergency Response: 0800 504 639
 - Harbourmaster Emergency Response: 0800 504 639
- ❖ Electrical: Tight Lines – Kane MacDonald: 021 0847 9242
- ❖ Plumber: Total Plumbing – Owen: 021 635 673

LOCAL SERVICES:

Grocery stores: Opua General Store (by entrance to main Opua wharf).
Paihia: 5 minutes by car, Kerikeri 20 Minutes, Whangarei one hour.

Grocery online Deliveries:

www.countdown.co.nz - daily.

www.newworld.co.nz – Wednesday & Saturdays.

Orders can be delivered to the Marina Office, however space is limited and no refrigeration is available. It is recommended that the driver phones ahead and you meet the delivery van on arrival.

Schools: Opua Primary School, Paihia Primary School, Bay of Islands College in Kawakawa for secondary pupils.

Gas Bottle Refills: Caltex Service Station in Paihia – opposite Woolworths – fills on the spot.
Swap a bottle at Total Marine, Baffin Street, Opua – NZ 9kg bottles only.
For non NZ standard bottles - Cater Marine in Opua.

Paihia: For more local information please contact the Paihia I-site Information Centre located on the main Paihia wharf:
Marsden Road, Paihia: Phone: 09 402 7345 email: paihia@fndc.govt.nz

Coping/scanning: Available in the Marina Office for a fee (no commercial usage please).

Opua Restaurants: Marina Café – located near Marina Office.
Opua Cruising Club – near the Opua General Store.
Opua General Store – cabinet food, pizzas from 16.00
Old Store Takeaways - hamburgers, chips, roast meals (on occasions) etc.

Medical: **EMERGENCY SERVICES: POLICE/FIRE/AMBULANCE: 111**

DOCTORS: Paihia Medical Services:

1, 76 Marsden Road, Paihia

Phone: 09 402 8407

email: reception@paihiamedical.co.nz

PHARMACY: Paihia Pharmacy: 4 Williams Road, Paihia

Phone: 09 402 7034

email: paihiapharmacy@xtra.co.nz

Monday to Friday: 8.30 to 17.00

Saturday & Sunday: 09.00 to 15.00

HEALTHLINE:

Phone: 0800 611 116
24/7 Free health advice services.

HOSPITAL

Bay of Islands Hospital
Hospital Road
Kawakawa
Phone: 09 404 0280

LABORATORIES:

Awanui Labs
7 Bayview Road
Paihia
Phone: 09 438 4243
email: nth.collections@awanuilabs.co.nz

- Post Office:** Opuā General Store also the local Courier Company – NZ Post.
- Bus Services:** To Auckland.
approx. 4 hours travel time from the bus stop on the top of the Opuā Hill (please note this on bookings).
Bookings online: Intercity: www.intercity.co.nz
- Local Buses:** Mid-North Link to Kerikeri & Waipapa.
Departures every Tuesday and Thursdays from the Opuā General Store at 10.50.
Please be there 30 minutes beforehand.
- Taxi Services:** Bay Cabs: Mobile: 021 283 8494 www.baycabs.co.nz
Haruru Cabs: Phone: 0800 402 6292 Mobile: 0274 875 032
Paihia Taxis: Phone: 09 402 7506 www.paihiataxis.nz
- Airport Shuttle:** Sandz Airport Shuttle: Sandy Prior www.book.heygoldie.com/Sandz-Airport-Shuttle
Mobile: 021 135 9903 email: info@sandzairportshuttle.nz
Super Shuttle: Phone: 0800 shuttle (748885) Mobile: 021 975 124
Book online: www.supershuttle.co.nz
- Mail/Courier deliveries only:**
Courtesy service only – we are not a depot.
The Marina Office is only a small area, please keep parcels to a reasonable size and under 20kgs. Please collect ASAP.
Address:
c/o Vessel Name
Customer Name
24/7 Baffin Street Opuā 0200
Bay of Islands
New Zealand
- Bike Trails:** Waitangi Mountain Bike Park: <https://ridewaitangi.nz/>
Mobile: 021187 8192 email: admin@wmbp.nz
Bike rental available.
- Twin Coast Cycle Trail: <https://twincoastcycletrail.kiwi.nz/opua-to-kawakawa/>
Mobile: 021 196 1601 email: admin@twincoastcycletrail.kiwi.nz
Train bookings essential.
- Walks:** Visit <https://www.alltrails.com/new-zealand/northland/opua> for a selection of trails.

PACIFIC PASSAGES TO NEW ZEALAND

After months of cruising with the reliable trade winds at your back, turning south towards New Zealand's higher latitudes and cyclone-safe harbours can feel daunting. However, with a bit of planning and an understanding of regional weather patterns, this leg of your journey can be easily managed – and you'll find that reaching New Zealand is a highlight of your entire voyage.

The ideal time for this passage coincides with the start of the southwest Pacific cyclone season, in late October or early November. Typically, high-pressure systems move from Australia's east coast across the Tasman Sea towards New Zealand, taking 5-7 days. The winds circulating counterclockwise around these highs provide the easterly trade winds in tropical waters.

The key is to time your departure so that you're about three days from New Zealand when the centre of a high-pressure system is directly south, or even better, directly overhead. This positioning will eventually shift the winds to the northerly quadrant, aiding your approach.

However, this strategy may require departing the tropical islands and 'head into the teeth' of southeasterly trade winds. Don't be concerned if you can't lay a direct course towards New Zealand, particularly if you're sailing from Vanuatu or New Caledonia. Typically, as you approach the centre of the high-pressure system within two or three days, the winds will abate, and you may need to motor for a couple of days or longer.

Take advantage of updated weather forecasts during these calmer conditions to position yourself advantageously for the anticipated wind shift once you've passed through the high.

A good forecasting site to use is www.passageweather.com. You can also access weather statistics for the South Pacific by downloading the relevant pilot charts for the month from this site. www.metvuw.com offers a 10-day forecast, which can be helpful for pre-departure planning for sailors who don't have the means to download weather data while underway.

Arriving in New Zealand

Your ideal first port of call in New Zealand is Opuia in the Bay of Islands. Not only is Opuia the northernmost port of entry into the country, but it's also the easiest to approach, even at night.

The Bay of Islands' approach is wide and deep and unaffected by tides, and well-marked with navigation aids. Whereas Whangarei, Auckland, or Tauranga approaches have commercial traffic to contend with. Whilst onshore storms with high seas are dangerous and an approach should then not be attempted, rough or very rough sea conditions should provide no problems for a well-founded vessel.

Be sure to update your ETA by calling Maritime Radio ZLM on Channel 16 VHF once you are about 30 miles off the New Zealand coast. They operate 24/7 and will pass your information on to New Zealand Customs.

Approaching The Bay of Islands

The following information has been taken out of the NZ charts 'NZ 5124 plans in the Bay of Islands' and 'NZ 512 Cape Karikari to Cape Brett' (04.09.2024) and is supplemented with local knowledge. All bearings are true, and the local variation is 19 east.

This information is a guide only: In no way can the information given here relieve the master of any vessel from doing his own prudent navigation.

The entrance to the Bay of Islands lies between **Tikitiki Rock (35°09.123'S 174°06.51'E)** to the west and **Cape Brett (35°10.5'S 174°20.0'E)** to the east. During daylight, **Cape Brett** and the nearby island of **Motukokako** are prominent landmarks.

At night, the lighthouse of **Cape Brett** is visible for approximately 17 nautical miles (Fl. 15s). From the waypoint provided below, you can navigate using just two major lights all the way to the Q Dock in Opuia, provided you adhere to these recommendations: Your recommended approach **waypoint** should now be **(35°06.213'S 174°13.0'E)**. From here, you should be able to see the **Waitangi sector light (35°16.279'S 174°05.0'E)** towards the southwest, **bearing 213°-124°**.

By staying within its fixed white sector, you will reach the green (Q.G.) **Brampton Bank buoy (35°14.8'S 174°06.05'E)** after 10.5 nautical miles from the aforementioned waypoint. Upon turning south, you will then spot the upper or rear fixed blue (Fl. Bu.) **lead light (35°18.072'S 174°06.513'E)** and if you line it up with its lower or middle white (Q.W.1s.) this will guide you through the channel markers towards **Opua bearing 172°24'**.

Make sure you leave all green markers to starboard once you enter the **Veronica Channel**, as it will become rapidly shallow on the wrong side of the green markers. ALAI buoyage system applies in New Zealand waters. Remember, the **IALA-A buoyage system is in use in New Zealand waters**.

Once you reach the last green buoy (FL.G.1s), which is also aligned with the **lead light**, turn towards the fixed **green marker (F.G.)** at the head of the **main wharf (35°09.125'S 174°08.745'E)**, now bearing 139° true at approximately 1500 meters.

As you follow the main wharf, the red light (Q.R.1s) on the head of the **breakwater (35°18.771'S 174°07.337'E)** at the **Bay of Islands Marina** will come into view. This breakwater also serves as the **Q dock**, where you must tie up and await customs clearance.

You can tie up on the inside or outside, depending on wind, space, and the size of your vessel. There is a dedicated **Superyacht Berth** alongside the main wharf that can be used as a **Q dock** by prior arrangement only.

Approaching in daylight is similar. **The Waitangi sector light** is clearly visible even during the day. Particularly in the early morning or evening, favour the **alternating green/white or even the green** rather than white sector. This will keep you clear of the path of potential cruise ship traffic, which will use the white sector for their approach or departure.

Be aware that as per local bylaw, all vessels **over 500t are stand on vessels** within the Bay of Islands harbour limits. These vessels unusually require a local pilot. As you may know, pilots are old, retired seafarers and have therefore a bold head and a red nose from drinking, so the pilot flag is white over red. At night, these display an additional white over red light. All other vessels must give way in accordance with the **COLREGs** (Conventions on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea).

This also applies to the numerous passenger ferries between Paihia and Russell, and the Opua car ferries. The Opua **lead light** displays an upper or rear white light (Oc.6s) during the day, and its lower or middle section is a white, rectangular wooden structure. You can usually spot it visually from the **Brampton Bank buoy**.

Once secured at the **Q dock**, you may wish to call the Marina office on Channel 73 VHF between 09:00 and 17:00 to confirm or make a booking, or customs on Channel 14 VHF to notify them of your arrival. Calls outside these hours may not be answered. Be mindful that, depending on the tide, a strong current may be present in the Veronica Channel. This current also flows through the marina. You can easily determine the flow's direction and strength by observing the wake of buoys or piles. Don't hesitate to ask for assistance when docking in these conditions.

WEATHER ROUTERS

The following weather routers and passage planners have extensive experience operating in the South Pacific and both come highly regarded. Numerous cruisers have utilised their services, and we recommend contacting them if you wish to minimise the risk of encountering adverse weather conditions.

[Bob McDavitt](#) - Meteorologist and Weather Router.

[John Martin](#) - Assists skippers with weather and passage planning.

This guide to the approaches to the Bay of Islands has been provided to you, courtesy of the charity www.manawanuiproject.org Your direct support or your recommendation of their cause to your friends will be highly appreciated.