

Guidance to ship operators and masters on vessel emissions, scrubbers, and fuel use:

Regional councils, Maritime New Zealand, the Ministry for the Environment, and harbourmasters are currently working on a nationwide strategy to address the implementation of MARPOL VI regulations in New Zealand. While this is being progressed, the following guidance is in place for the Coastal Marine waters of the Greater Wellington Region.

Navigation safety

A Harbourmasters Direction is in place and requires that any vessel wishing to utilise a different fuel for manoeuvring or use in a sensitive area must change over to that fuel at least four hours prior to entering the region's waters.

The vessel must remain on the same fuel until it has departed from the region's waters and may not change the fuels used while within the region's waters.

Discharges and contaminants

The requirements of MARPOL Annex VI came into force around the world on 1 January 2020. This note provides guidance on compliance with requirements of MARPOL Annex VI, best practice and the level of public expectation for vessels operating within Greater Wellington Regions region Coastal Marine Area waters in regard to the discharge of contaminants from vessels.

All vessels within the waters of the Greater Wellington region should:

- utilise MARPOL Annex VI compliant fuel; or
- operate closed-loop exhaust gas cleaning systems, certified and approved in accordance with the International

Maritime Guidelines and retain any effluent on board until able to dispose of at the next available port facility

Vessels fitted with open-loop scrubbers should:

- only operate open-loop exhaust gas cleaning systems, certified and approved in accordance with the International Maritime Guidelines, if water treatment post scrubbers are in place (ie, there is no direct untreated discharge to water) and retaining any contaminants on board until able to dispose of at the next available port facility; and
- not use open-loop scrubbers while alongside a berth in port or while at anchor. Please be aware that any reports of an untreated discharge into the coastal marine area will be investigated by the regional council's pollution response team. Further direction will become available as national policy is created.

The discharge off ships needs to be compliant with The Resource Management Act 1991 as well as the [Resource Management \(Marine Pollution\) Regulations 1998](#).

