

## Boat safety

- Watch the weather
- Don't overload
- Wear tested lifejackets (vessels under 6m)
- Carry full equipment for the boat's purposes
- Ensure engine reliability and carry reserve fuel
- Keep a good lookout
- Know the:
  - Otago Regional Council Harbour Bylaws
  - Collision Regulations
  - General Harbour Regulations (Nautical and Miscellaneous)
  - Distress Signals
- Guard against fire
- Don't mix drinking and boating
- Tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return.

## Jet skis

Otago Harbour is a popular playground for jet ski riders. Operating these fast and fun packed machines does carry certain responsibilities, including showing consideration for other water users and knowing harbour bylaws.

## Know the 5 knot rule

Do not travel at speeds greater than 5 knots within:

- 200 metres of shore
- 50 metres of anyone swimming or fishing
- 50 metres of any other vessel, whether moored or underway
- 200 metres of an "International Code A" flag
- Any waterway less than 400 metres wide.

The driver of any power boat capable of speeds in excess of 10 knots must be over 15 years old.

Do not exceed 25 knots within Otago Harbour.

## To avoid a collision



*Vessel overtaking another: Every overtaking vessel gives way (this includes a sailing vessel).*



*Power vessels meeting head on: Each alters to starboard.*



*Power vessels meeting: The vessel having the other on the starboard side gives way.*



*Power vessels give way to the sailing vessel.*



*All vessels give way to vessels of over 500 gross tons.*

## For your safety

Do not approach within 50 metres of the LPG berth or any vessel moored alongside.

Approach the passage between Goat and Quarantine Islands with caution as there may be a ship coming the other way. Dangerous currents also occur in this area.

Do not hamper the navigation and passage of large ships as they have a restricted ability to manoeuvre and stop.

If in doubt give way. This applies to all craft including windsurfers, jet skis, rowers, yachts and powerboats. Windsurfers, for your own safety, keep out of the main channel.

Remember, respect and consideration for others will enable everyone to use and enjoy the whole harbour.

## Do's & don'ts

- Don't:
- Anchor in or near the channels
  - Drift in or near the channels
  - Tie up or secure to a beacon
  - Place setnets in or near the channels.

- Do:
- Keep to the starboard (right hand) side of channels
  - Ensure that all motor boat exhausts are efficiently silenced
  - Have the name of your boat prominently and permanently marked
  - Show proper navigation lights
  - Be aware of tides and their effects.

## Small boat accidents

After every small boat accident, a report must be submitted to Maritime NZ, by the people involved.

Any damage to harbour navigational aids or other harbour structures must also be reported to the Otago Regional Council Harbourmaster as soon as possible after the accident.

These reports play a valuable role in maritime safety education and the creation of safer boating environments for everyone. The information they contain helps identify significant trends in boating accidents, as well as the development of maritime notices and rules. User friendly accident report forms are available from the Dunedin office Maritime NZ or on their website.

## Communications

Vessels over 11 metres in length must contact Harbour Control before proceeding into the Victoria Channel (Upper Harbour). Harbour Control may be contacted by phoning 021 229 8882 or on VHF Channels 16 and 14.

VN - 2102 - 21

# Otago Harbour Boating Guide



Photo: Tomas Sobek



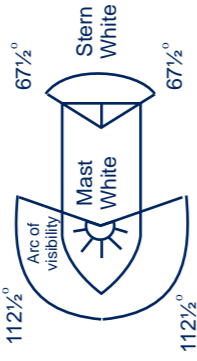
## Harbourmaster

The Harbourmaster is appointed by the Otago Regional Council and should be contacted for general safety and navigation advice and for permission to stage events and in cases of conflict over harbour use.

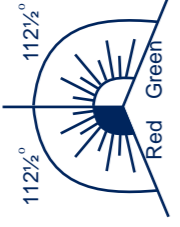
*The Harbourmaster can be contacted at the*

*Otago Regional Council,  
70 Stafford Street,  
Private Bag 1954,  
Dunedin.  
Phone 474 0827 or email  
harbourmaster@orc.govt.nz  
A/Hrs 0800 800 033*

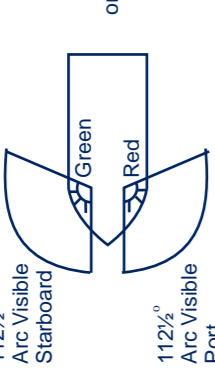
### Masthead & Stern



### Combined Lantern



### Port and Starboard



112½°  
Arc Visible  
Starboard

112½°  
Arc Visible  
Port

## Navigation lights

Navigation lights required on most power driven vessels operating on water by night (sunset to sunrise) and in times of reduced visibility are shown below. Please refer to the Shipping (Distress Signals & Prevention or Collisions) Regulations 1988, for full details.

## General information

The Otago Harbour is 22km long with an average width of 2.3km. Divided into two parts by the peninsula at Port Chalmers and Portobello, and Quarantine and Goat Islands, the two areas are referred to as the Upper Harbour (between Dunedin and the islands) and the Lower Harbour.

Otago Harbour is dominated by a deep main channel which runs almost its entire length. While the Lower Harbour Channel is dredged to a minimum depth of 12.2m and minimum width of 180m, the Upper Harbour Channel is 7.6m deep and 76m wide. More commonly referred to as "Victoria Channel", the Upper Harbour Channel has a rock training wall for nearly 10km along its eastern side which is submerged at high tide. A smaller undredged channel, the Eastern Channel provides access for small craft from the Victoria Channel through to the eastern side of the Upper Harbour. It is marked with a series of piles identified by the letters A-T.

The exchange of waters in the Lower Harbour is almost total in each tidal cycle and strong currents near the narrow entrance and the main channel mean all harbour users must ensure they are safely equipped at all times. About 30% of Otago Harbour is intertidal, resulting in sand banks appearing in some areas at low tide. This means caution is required when moving into shallower areas.

Waves within the harbour are wind generated and are dominated by N & NE, S & SW directions. During summer a NE sea breeze is often generated during the afternoon and can become quite fresh. Water temperatures within the harbour typically vary between 9 °C and 12 °C. All users should be aware of the risk of hypothermia and take appropriate precautions.

## Pollution regulations

It is illegal to dispose of many materials and substances from ships and boats into the sea, such as oil, sewage, garbage and noxious liquid substances. Only specified discharges under controlled conditions are permitted.

A pamphlet on marine disposal prepared by the Maritime NZ is available from our Dunedin office, 70 Stafford Street.

If you do see pollution in Otago Harbour, please call the Otago Regional Council's 24 Hour Pollution Hotline: Freephone 0800 800 033

## Small Craft Launching Ramps

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>1 Kitchener Street Reserve</b><br/>Concrete<br/>Limited trailer access<br/>Ample parking<br/>Exposed to N</p> | <p><b>6 Macandrew Bay</b><br/>Concrete<br/>Limited parking<br/>Exposed to SW</p>   |
| <p><b>2 Vauxhall</b><br/>Concrete and wood<br/>Limited parking<br/>Sheltered</p>                                    | <p><b>7 Broad Bay</b><br/>Concrete<br/>Limited parking<br/>Exposed to E &amp; W</p>  |
| <p><b>3 Boat Harbour (2)</b><br/>Concrete or brick<br/>Ample parking<br/>Exposed to E &amp; SE</p>                  | <p><b>8 Back Beach</b><br/>Concrete<br/>Limited parking. Caution<br/>required due to Port<br/>operations<br/>Sheltered</p> |
| <p><b>4 Ravensbourne</b><br/>Concrete<br/>No vehicle access<br/>Exposed to SW &amp; NE</p>                          | <p><b>9 Careys Bay</b><br/>Concrete and masonry<br/>Limited parking<br/>Exposed to E</p>                                   |
| <p><b>5 Ravensbourne</b><br/>Concrete<br/>No vehicle access<br/>Exposed to SW &amp; NE</p>                          | <p><b>10 Wellers Rock</b><br/>Natural (Sand beach)<br/>Restricted access<br/>No parking<br/>Exposed to N &amp; NE</p>      |

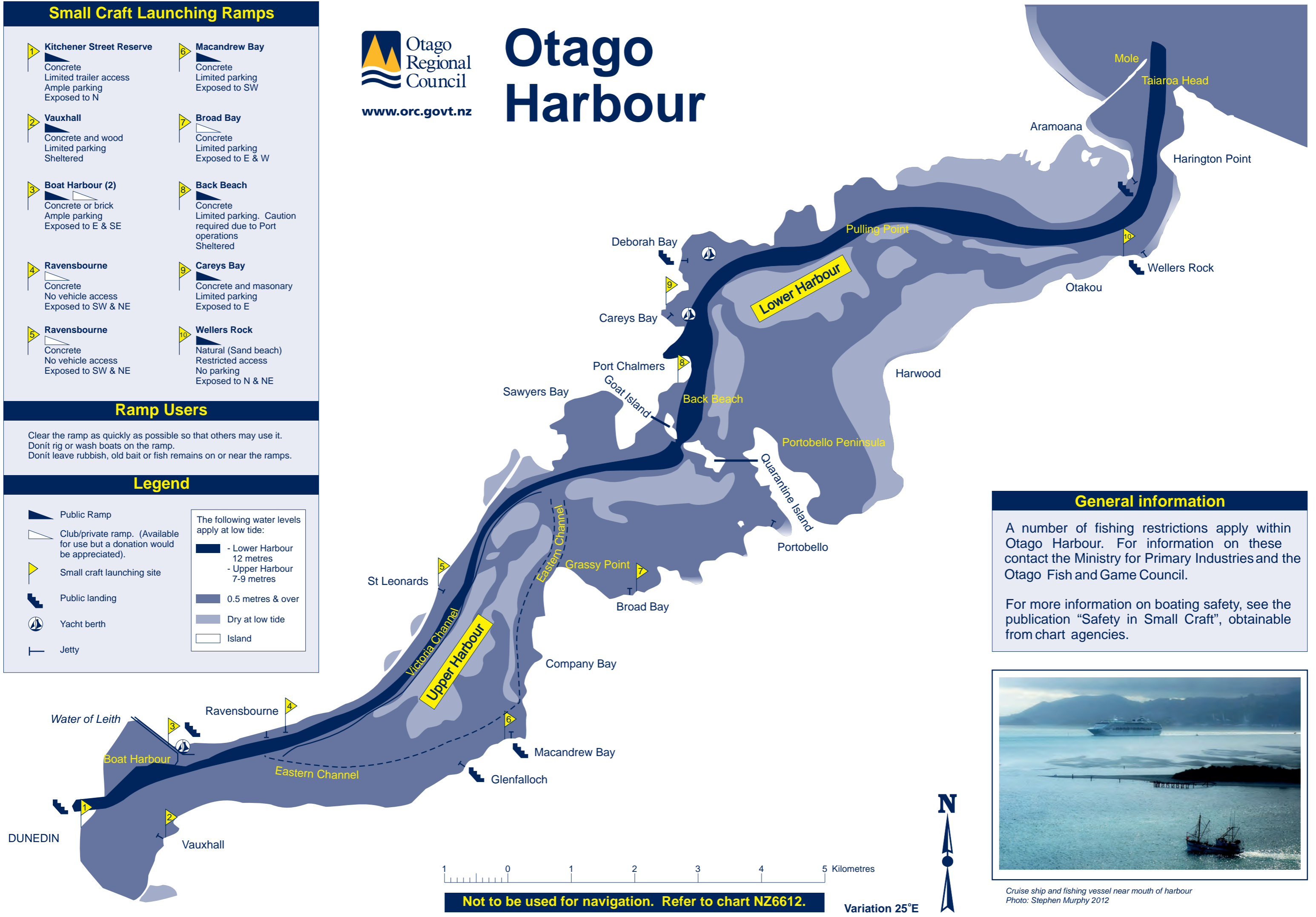
## Ramp Users

Clear the ramp as quickly as possible so that others may use it.  
Don't rig or wash boats on the ramp.  
Don't leave rubbish, old bait or fish remains on or near the ramps.

## Legend

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p> Public Ramp</p> <p> Club/private ramp. (Available for use but a donation would be appreciated).</p> <p> Small craft launching site</p> <p> Public landing</p> <p> Yacht berth</p> <p> Jetty</p> | <p>The following water levels apply at low tide:</p> <p> - Lower Harbour<br/>12 metres</p> <p> - Upper Harbour<br/>7-9 metres</p> <p> 0.5 metres &amp; over</p> <p> Dry at low tide</p> <p> Island</p> |
|---|--|

# Otago Harbour



## General information

A number of fishing restrictions apply within Otago Harbour. For information on these contact the Ministry for Primary Industries and the Otago Fish and Game Council.

For more information on boating safety, see the publication "Safety in Small Craft", obtainable from chart agencies.



Cruise ship and fishing vessel near mouth of harbour  
Photo: Stephen Murphy 2012