

KAIKŌURA CHARTER BOAT INDUSTRY TE KOROWAI O TE TAI Ō MAROKURA CODE OF PRACTICE October 2015



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FOREWORD

This Kaikōura Charter Boat Industry Code of Practice sets local industry standards for sustainable operations of charter vessels operating in the area of Te Korowai o Te Tai ō Marokura, Kaikōura, as in Figure 1 below. The Code is designed for all forms of charter vessel operations between the Clarence River and the Conway River to the limits of the Territorial Sea. The Code provides a framework to help employers and employees of the Charter boat Industry to promote sustainable fishing practices, develop a successful and respected charter industry, support the Te Korowai Strategy and implement the Kaikōura Marine Management Act 2014. It is a practical approach that aims to include local fishers working within the charter boat industry while also considering the comfort, safety and enjoyment of clients. This Code has been developed by local charter fishers with Te Korowai o Te Tai ō Marokura.

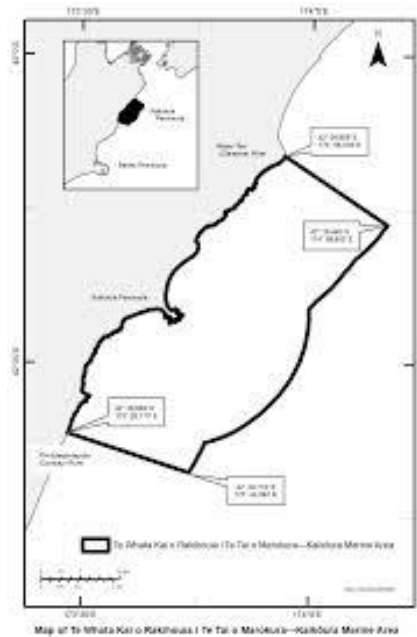


Figure 1 Area of Te Tai ō Marokura to which the Code applies

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 CHARTER FISHING CODE OF PRACTICE

1.1.1 Minimum standards

This Code of Practice sets out the minimum standards agreed by local operators and endorsed by Te Korowai o Te Tai ō Marokura, the Kaikōura Coastal Marine Guardians.

1.1.2 Recognition

All charter companies signatory to the Code, and recognised as compliant with its provisions, will be publicly recognised and endorsed by Te Korowai as sustainable operators. This will include recognition on the Te Korowai website, in publications and in public and media statements. A certificate of compliance will be provided to each operator together with display materials and a right to advertise as code

compliant using the Te Korowai logo. Te Korowai will not endorse any charter operator that is not a member of the Kaikoura Charter Fishers Incorporated Society.

1.1.3 Compliance

The signatory operators and Te Korowai will establish monitoring and audit procedures that give both parties reasonable and practical assurance that each signatory operator complies with the Code. Where issues are identified the parties will investigate to establish the facts and agree on action to be taken to correct the situation.

1.1.4 Complementary to legal requirements

The Code is not a legally binding agreement and in no way replicates or replaces the responsibility of operators to comply with laws and regulations.¹ Rather, it sets a higher standard that places signatory operators as leaders in sustainable fishing practices in Te Tai o Marokura. This Code has been developed to complement recreational fishing regulations under the Fisheries Act 1996 and to guide signatory charter operators in best practices for the context of Te Tai o Marokura the Te Korowai area surrounding Kaikoura.

1.2 PURPOSE OF THIS CODE

1.2.1 Purpose

The purpose of this Code is to achieve recognition of the commitment to quality of service by participating operators by promoting safety, best practice hosting, sustainability and fishery abundance.

1.2.2 Objectives

The objectives of the code are:

1. To provide for public recognition and endorsement of sustainable and responsible charter fishing operators by Te Korowai o Te Tai o Marokura.
2. To enable sharing of ideas and achieving improved ways of working.
3. To allow individual operators to practice their business in an exclusive way, and deal with unusual or unexpected situations using their own judgement, own special needs and responsibilities.
4. To promote fishing practices and activities that are sustainable and support fisheries abundance.

¹ All amateur-fishing charter vessel operators must register with MPI before they can run any trips. Once registered, they must file reports. Registering and reporting ensures operators can be contacted and that their interests are taken into account in fisheries management decisions. See <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/travel-and-recreation/fishing/charter-fishing-vessel-operators/>. All operators must also comply with the requirements The Maritime Operator Safety System (MOSS) came into effect on 1 July 2014, replacing the former Safe Ship Management (SSM) system. MOSS requires maritime operators to develop and maintain their own safety system covering all vessels in their operation. See <http://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/Commercial/Safety-management-systems/MOSS/default.asp>.

1.3 WHY WE NEED A CODE?

1.3.1 Pressure

An increasing number of recreational fishers within the Te Korowai area places pressure on the sustainability of fish stocks and the marine ecosystem.

1.3.2 Attitude

A structured and careful approach by all operators can ensure the quality of the experience for every customer and build the reputation of the industry.

1.3.3 Coordination

A coordinated approach to fishery abundance can avoid wasted effort and environmental damage.

1.3.4 Cooperation and connection

A connected and cooperative industry, including operators, managers and employees, is more likely to achieve safety in a hazardous environment and public recognition and client appreciation.

1.4 WHO IS THE CODE FOR?

This Code has been prepared with and for the charter boat industry in the Te Korowai area by the charter fishing operators and Te Korowai o Te Tai o Marokura. Compliance with the approved Code of Practice is mandatory for all Te Korowai endorsed charter fishing operators carrying out business between the Clarence River in the North and the Conway River in the south within 12 nautical miles of the coast. It should be read in conjunction with the Fisheries Act 1996 and regulations under that Act.

1.5 VARIABLES ACKNOWLEDGED

Every charter boat operation is unique in terms of its organisational structure, market focus and layout. Ownership and management of each charter boat comes with its own special needs and responsibilities, and only those persons actively managing or working a vessel will know or understand the intricacies of that vessel. In recognising these individualities, the Code intentionally retains enough flexibility to accommodate these variables.

1.6 RECOGNITION BY TE KOROWAI O TE TAI O MAROKURA

Formal recognition of commitment to the Code by Te Korowai o Te Tai o Marokura Incorporated is required before operators can advertise as being code compliant. Te Korowai will not charge a fee for formal recognition. Endorsed operators will conduct compliance procedures in conjunction with Te Korowai to ensure that Code signatories operate as agreed. The compliance regime will be agreed annually after reviewing the results from the previous year. Where such procedures fail to produce adequate compliance Te Korowai may withdraw recognition from an operator.

2 CODE OF PRACTICE

Duties include but are not limited to the following:

	OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITIES	SKIPPER'S RESPONSIBILITIES	DECKHAND'S RESPONSIBILITIES
Legal compliance	Ensure their operations comply with the law.	Monitor and require compliance with fisheries regulations, and any other legal rules and regulations relating to the area.	
Awareness of the Code	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure skippers and deckhands are appropriately trained in the requirements of the Code of Practice. Ensure that copies of the Code of Practice, or a suitable summary of it, are available to all clients when operating within the Te Korowai area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be familiar with requirements of the Code of Practice and train deckhands as necessary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be familiar with requirements of the Code of Practice.
Compliance	Support compliance with fishing regulations for the area and the Code of Practice.	Monitor catches to support client compliance with fisheries regulations and the Code of Practice requirements.	
Te Korowai Strategy	Support implementation of the Te Korowai Strategy.		
Client experience	Promote the fishing experience, including fishing for a feed rather than fishing to the maximum allowed by regulations and recognising the need for lower limits where fish stocks are under pressure.		
Professional standards	Ensure all staff are appropriately presented and knowledgeable about the area and its special features.	Be appropriately presented and competent in communicating knowledge about the area and its special features.	
Fishing practices	Ensure all staff are competent in safe and sustainable fishing practices.	Brief clients in safe fishing practices, handling and release of fish.	
Health and safety	Ensure staff are committed and skilled in safe boating and fishing practices.	Induct all clients on board in safe boating procedures. Monitor boat and sea conditions and take timely action to avoid hazardous conditions.	

3 FISHING OPERATIONS

3.1 FISHING LIMITS

3.1.1 Fishing for a feed

A more conservative approach than the limits set in the Amateur Fishing Regulations 2013 will be encouraged. No signatory to the Code will promote business on the basis of quantity of fish for the client rather than the quality of the client experience. To actively support Te Korowai's Strategy and to encourage the abundance of our shared resources, signatory operators will encourage all clients to only take enough for a feed, rather than taking their full recreational limits. In addition, the signatory operators will annually review the need for voluntary limits and how all sectors can support stock recovery and abundance.

3.1.2 Conserving crayfish

Signatory operators voluntarily will require client fishers to limit themselves to taking one crayfish per fisher except rare and exceptional circumstances.

3.2 ANCHORING

Charter boats will anchor for no more than three hours of actual fishing time under this Code. Drift fishing is preferred to avoid depleting a particular rock/patch of fish and no limit is set for this practice.

4 TRAINING AND SUPERVISION

4.1 TRAINING AND SUPERVISION POLICIES

4.1.1 Crew

It is the responsibility of the owner to ensure that all crew members have appropriate training with regard to the Code of Practice.

4.1.2 Skipper

In the event that an operator is seen to be working outside of the Code, the skipper in command at the time accepts full responsibility for any breach of the Code.

5 BREACH OF CODE

In the event that a signatory operator is observed to be working outside of the Code, the operator in command at the time accepts full responsibility for any breach of the Code. Any confirmed breach of code must be rectified on all subsequent fishing activities. Repeated breaches of the Code may result in Te Korowai withdrawing recognition of the operator.

6 LIVING DOCUMENT

This Code is a living document which will be revised annually in October before the beginning of the busy season.

