

Draft Navigation Safety Bylaw 2026 feedback

* Compulsory question

Your contact details

Only your name will be publicly visible as part of your submission.

Name	<input type="text" value="REDACTED"/>
Organisation (if you are submitting on behalf of an organisation):	<input type="text" value="Otago Peninsula Community Board"/>
Email address:	<input type="text" value="REDACTED"/>
Phone number	<input type="text" value="REDACTED"/>
Postal address	<input type="text" value="REDACTED"/>
Do you wish to speak to your submission at a public hearing?	<input type="button" value="Yes"/>

Please make sure you have provided your contact details (email and/or phone number) so we can be in touch to arrange a time. Hearings can be in person or online. Hearings will be livestreamed.

Hearings will be sometime in late February to March 2026 (date will be confirmed closer to the time).

Your feedback

Please give us your feedback on the changes to the Navigation Safety Bylaw 2020, as outlined in the Draft Navigation Safety Bylaw 2026. What would you change? What do you support or not support?

Please find attached the Otago Peninsula Community Board's Submission. Paul would appreciate an email advising receipt of this submission if there is not an automatic response provided.

Upload any supporting documents (optional)

Upload any documents you have to support your feedback, or upload your feedback itself. For visual and audio feedback, please include the links in a document.

Accepted file formats: PDF, Word, Excel, JPG, PNG.

Max size of each file: 5 MB

Maximum number of files you can upload: 3

File upload

 Otago Peninsula Community Board Su...pdf

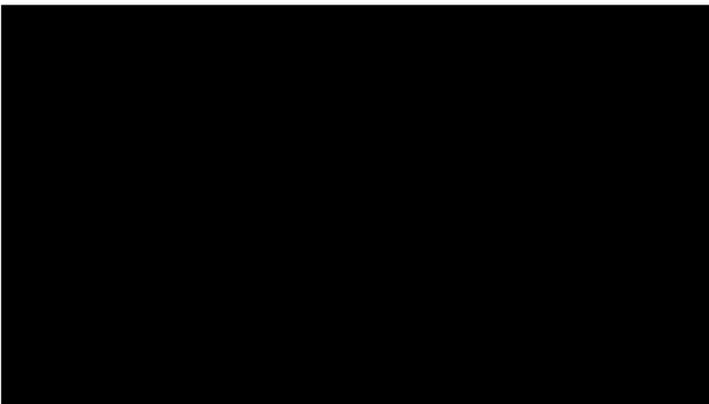
About you (optional)

What area do you live in?

Which age group are you in?

Which of the following describe/s you? Select all that apply.

Please specify.





**Submission to the Otago Regional Council's Draft Otago Navigation Safety Bylaw 2026
Submitted by the Otago Peninsula Community Board**

The Otago Peninsula and its accessibility to the harbour has meant our community has been a recreational and commercial maritime region for generations. Our community has three active boating clubs, significant recreational users, tourism operators and many local and overseas visitors. Both the health of the harbour and the safety of its users are paramount to the Peninsula.

The Board submits the following on the *Draft Otago Navigation Safety Bylaw 2026*

1. The Board supports clause 6 regarding mandatory use of life jackets for vessels under 6 metres.
2. Clause 7 in relation to ages of operators of vessels capable of exceeding 10 knots needs clarification and distinction between wind powered and mechanical powered vessels. Experience has shown that foiling boats are capable of higher speeds based on new technology and these are part of the development of the yacht racing community's activities. There is a significant difference between their use in racing or recreationally and mechanically powered boats. This aspect of the draft bylaw concerns our yachting fraternity.
3. The Board understands the safety concerns raised in clause 9 regarding fishing and swimming activities when vessels are berthing or departing from public jetties or wharves. It needs to be made clear to the public that this is not a prohibition of use for those activities, but rather a safety measure while boats are docking or departing. Jetties and wharves are important recreational facilities in the Otago Peninsula and are largely managed by the Dunedin City Council for public access and enjoyment.
4. In clause 14 relating to appendix d of the draft referring to special speed zones the Board notes that there is no map of the 5 knot areas around our main harbour sites at Macandrew Bay, Broad Bay and Portobello. These areas and its associated speed restrictions (currently marked by buoys) should be included in the draft for clarity.
5. Clause 17 in regards to rules relating to marine mammals should reference national legislation and conservation managements applicable to both commercial and recreational vessels. Otago Harbour has seen increasing numbers of marine mammals in recent years that has from time to time seen conflicts that could be avoided if the rules were clearer.



Other Issues

- There is no definition of 'unseaworthy'; it appears to be just an arbitrary decision of the Harbour Master or one of his deputies. There appears to be no rules around the decision and no recourse to challenge it.
- Yacht clubs and recreational users are powerless to enforce the 5 knot speed restrictions in Macandrew Bay, Broad Bay and Portobello.
- Clause 16 relating to special events or ceremonies is unnecessarily restrictive to yachting clubs who place temporary navigation buoys out to create courses during the racing season. These courses have existed for generations and have been well known in boating circles for many years. These activities should be exempt from this clause and clauses related to markers and buoys.
- There is no acknowledgement of Te Rūnaka o Ōtākou as the kaitiaki of the Otago Harbour in the draft bylaw. There is no discussion within the draft bylaw of their role in harbour management or the implementation of rahui or other tikanga for the area.
- All launching sites on the Otago Peninsula require updated signage reflecting the changes in this draft bylaw.

The Board would like to be heard at any hearings held for this bylaw.

Kind regards

