

NORTHLAND OBC DELEGATES REPORT TO THE NEW ZEALAND TRAILER BOAT FEDERATION AGM 2009

The outboard boating club of Northland Inc., is very proactive in regard to belonging to other organisations which influence boating and fishing in general. We have a committee member on the Whangarei harbour reserves trust that is administered by the Department of Conservation, representing a marine sporting body. We also have a committee member on the M.fish Northern region non-commercial fishing forum, and of course on the NZ trailer boat federation.

Incidentally the June M.fish fishing forum was cancelled at short notice due - it was said - because of departmental reorganisation. I have since attended the replacement meeting held in July. The review of their organisation was to allow improvements to the effectiveness and efficiency of the services they provide. We in Whangarei are fortunate to have the Minister of Fisheries – the honourable Phil Heatley, as our local M.P.

The harbour reserves have been regularly patrolled by officers from the Department of Conservation and a number of people have been prosecuted for breaching the regulations.

In last year's report I spoke about the 5 knot buoy that was planned for installation outside the ramps in Parua bay. Whilst it is now in position there are still those boaters that flaunt the rules.

A lot of maintenance money has been spent at the ramps over this past year. Repairs have been carried out to the ends of the pontoons – 300 cubic metres of mud was removed from in front of the ramps during April and in May, and the area in the compound at the ramps was stabilised, re-metalled and tar sealed. For two or three days our members had to use the public ramp and thankfully we didn't have any complaints, the job was project managed by a committee member.

During the spring of last year the previous government introduced "biofuel" as an additive to petrol. With progressively planned percentages of this ethanol in our petrol the operation of marine engines of all sorts was jeopardised. There was a dearth of information about this problem. However with the change of Government the problem disappeared, when the 'biofuel' additions were cancelled. What a relief!

Some not so good information though is that half the range of outboard two stroke motors currently being imported into New Zealand, are banned from sale in most western countries. Some of these countries actually produce them. Two stroke motors apparently produce up to ten times more "bad" emissions than four stroke marine engines.

The annual subscriptions and the joining fee have been increased for 09 -10 year. New applications for membership are still coming in, in spite of 'harder times'. The administration manager ensures that the club affairs run smoothly and is a real asset to the club.

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