

# Mahurangi Regatta 2026

## Mahurangi Action Inc.

### Shore-Side Activities Safety Plan

#### Hazards identified

##### General hazards

The general hazards that Mahurangi Regatta attendees face when visiting the Mahurangi Regional Park (West), particularly Sullivans Bay or Scotts Landing are similar to those that exist year-round, but exacerbated by the high number of visitors for the event:

1. Hazards accompanying private light vehicle movement and parking; particularly the hazard posed to small children by reversing vehicles;
2. New Zealand's up to 1.05 per 100,000 pop. beach-and-coastal fatal drowning rate (almost double Australia's rate);
3. Excessive exposure to solar ultraviolet radiation—the cause of more than 90% of skin cancer in New Zealand, which has the world's highest death rate from melanoma—350 per year.

##### Mahurangi Regatta specific hazards shore-side

There are specific hazards accompanying the Mahurangi Regatta. Ongoing specific hazards:

1. The greatest, is the launching of small boats at a beach at Sullivans Bay, where no vehicles are permitted on the beach on other days of the year.
2. Exposure of regatta participants and volunteers to solar ultraviolet radiation and without applying adequate protection and dehydration.
3. Sprain-and-bruise injuries to participants during beach running and novelty races.
4. Water aspiration and laryngospasm during swimming races—there is, however, a very low risk of actual drowning due to the intense scrutiny of onlookers.
5. Sprain-and-bruise injuries from dancing on the grass at Scotts Landing prize-giving dance;
6. Falls and lacerations from impact with marquee pegs;
7. Inebriation from alcohol abuse coupled with dehydration, periodically witnessed during the evening of the regatta, and its potential to lead to hepatic encephalopathy (HE) that can even result in coma.

# Plan to eliminate or minimise health & safety hazards

## General

### Hazards accompanying private-light-vehicle park access

From the time the Mahurangi Regatta was revived in 1977 and the Mahurangi Regional Park – West was opened by Sir Paul Reeves, park visitors during the Mahurangi Regatta were supervised by the organiser. During the four decades, park visitor numbers have steadily increased throughout the summer. Visitor numbers have steadily increased on the Saturday Regatta day. The Mahurangi Regatta has similar hazards in common with most of Auckland's regional parks, which are all predominantly private-light-vehicle accessed.

**Action summary – event day** St John ambulance and first responder deployment from 10 am to 4 pm at Sullivans Bay.

**Action summary – ongoing** Mahurangi Action's plan for reducing the regional parkland private light vehicle access hazard - particularly the hazard posed to small children by reversing vehicles - is to continue to advocate for the alternative of public transport regional park access at every opportunity, particularly when making [submissions on regional parks management plans](#).

## Parking and Traffic Management

### Sullivans Bay

**Action summary – event day** Adequate allocated parking is available in reserve.

### Scotts Landing

**Action summary – event day** Limited parking. Most Regatta participants arrive by sea. Sign-posted on Ridge Road at the top of the downhill slope to the Scott's Landing carpark stating that there is no available parking beyond this point. Dropoff only. Limited disabled parking inside gated reserved parking in Scotts Homestead grounds by arrangement.

### Launching and retrieving small craft at Sullivans Bay ramp

#### **Action summary – event day**

Early ramp inspection will be made to ensure it is safe for use.

Supervision and assistance is given by the organizers to safely launch small craft at the Sullivans Bay ramp. Two people will be allocated to ensure safe operation at the ramp. The ramp is marked out by tape lines on both sides and the supervisors will ensure safe turning and access to the ramp and that the ramp is clear of people during use. Manage for the slow, careful movement of trailers from the car-park down to the beach.

### Hazards associated with shore-side water contact competitions

**Action summary – event day** Identify volunteers with Surf Life Saving New Zealand experience or similar and deploy St John ambulance and first responder from 10 am to 4 pm at Sullivans Bay.

### Hazards associated with excessive exposure to solar ultraviolet radiation

**Action summary – event day** Hold traditional sand sculpture event ahead of the 10 am – 4 pm UV danger period or provide shade-cloth UV shelter.

### Hazard of from Scotts Landing marquee pegs

**Action summary – event day** In order to minimise tripping, laceration, and hazard falling onto pegs—particularly potential brain injury—bind or affix impact-absorbent material to all, or similarly comprehensively address.

### Hazard of from alcohol abuse coupled with dehydration

**Action summary – event day** No sale of alcohol at this event. Will conspicuously provide, and communicate the availability of drinking water.

**Action summary – ongoing** Mahurangi Action, as shore-side event organiser, continue to urge host and visiting yacht and boating clubs to actively discourage the overconsumption of alcohol, and encourage the family and community values of the event.

## **Plan monitoring**

**Monitoring summary – event day** A Regatta troubleshooter to monitor implementation of plan, or delegate responsibility for monitoring detail they are not personally able to.

**Monitoring summary – ongoing** Regatta committee to provide input to 2026 Mahurangi Regatta health and safety plan.