Wellington Regional Council

Harbourmaster's Direction 5/2025

Channel dredging – Traffic management and exclusion zone.

1. Preamble

This direction is issued pursuant to section 33F of the Maritime Transport Act 1994 (the **MTA**) enabling the Harbourmaster to ensure maritime safety.

The Dredge *Albatross* (pictured below) will be carrying out dredging work within the harbour. This work will start around 24 November 2025. It is expected to take up to 28 days.

The vessel will be working 24 hours.

There will be a Wellington Pilot on the vessel managing communications and traffic movements.

There will be dredging work undertaken at the following locations:

- Thorndon Container berth and approaches (main CentrePort wharf)
- Outward tracks between Falcon Shoal and the Front leading light
- Inwards track south of Steeple rock and adjacent to Hinds Point.
- Seaview tanker berth

This Direction places an exclusion zone of 100metres from the Albatross while the vessel is dredging.

The dredging spoil area is north of Point Jerningham as detailed in the attached CenterPort Operational notice.

2. Application

This direction applies in the areas that the dredge is working and the dumping ground.

3. Navigation Requirements

Under MTA 33F(1)(c)(i) :

1) Vessels over 500 GRT are to navigate in accordance with the attached CentrePort Operational notice regarding traffic management while dredge is working. This requires only one vessel over 500GRT in the channel at a time while the dredge is working in the channel.
2) Vessels over 500GRT are to take advice from the Pilot on board the Albatross
3) Other vessels are to remain at least 100 metres from the *Albatross* unless specifically allowed to approach by myself or the Pilot on board.

Vessels in the area are requested to heed advice given from CentrePort, Police, Harbourmaster or Coastguard vessels regarding the dredging work as appropriate.

4. Liability

The Wellington Regional Council shall not, in any case, be responsible for any loss or damage arising from the negligence of the master or crew of any vessel to which this direction applies, or for any loss, damage or incident involving the wharves.

N G Nalder
Regional Harbourmaster
Wellington Regional Council
19 November 2025

Important Document
Information is Safety Critical

CentrePort Wellington

CENTREPORT MARINE: OPERATIONAL NOTICE

DREDGING OPERATIONS

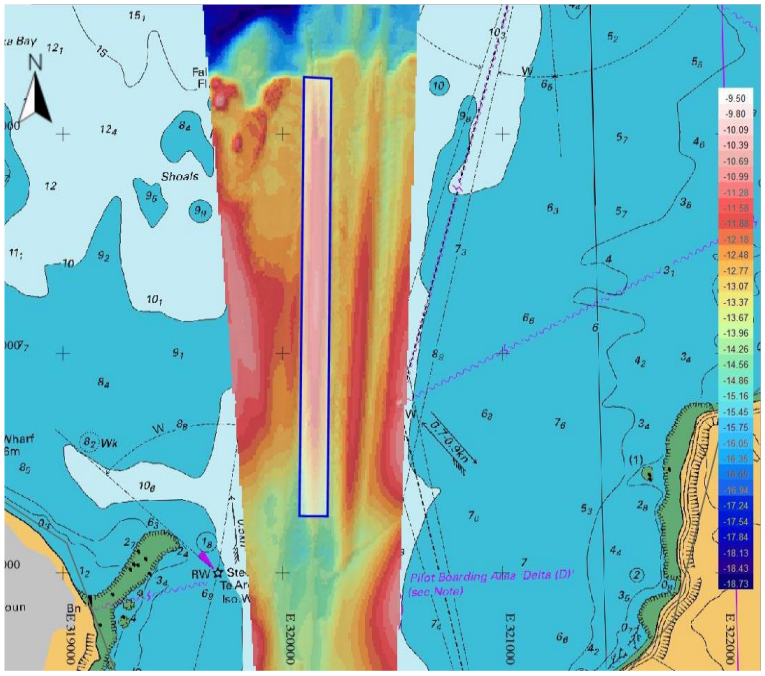
Effective: 20 November 2025

Objective	The objective of this notice is to ensure the safe and effective shipping traffic management of dredging operations in Wellington Harbour.
Who is responsible?	• GWRC Harbours Team • CentrePort Pilots • Albatros Dredge team • PEC Masters
Monitoring	• Incidents • Safety Reports • Harbour Tracks • Feedback
Process	**Legislation and standards to be Observed:** • Greater Wellington Regional Council Bylaws. • Maritime Rule 90 – Pilotage. • CentrePort Marine Standard Operating Procedures. • HM Directions • Inter-Islander and StraitNZ Pilotage SOPs. **Background:** The dredge *Albatros* will be undertaking berth and channel maintenance operations from 14 November. This notice seeks to support the safe navigation and co-ordination of PEC/Pilotage tasks in vicinity of the dredging sites as well as the safe co-ordination of shipping movements at other locations. (Hinds Point, Falcon Shoals, TCW, Seaview) **Equipment:** *Albatros* is a 75m loa trailing suction hopper dredger.

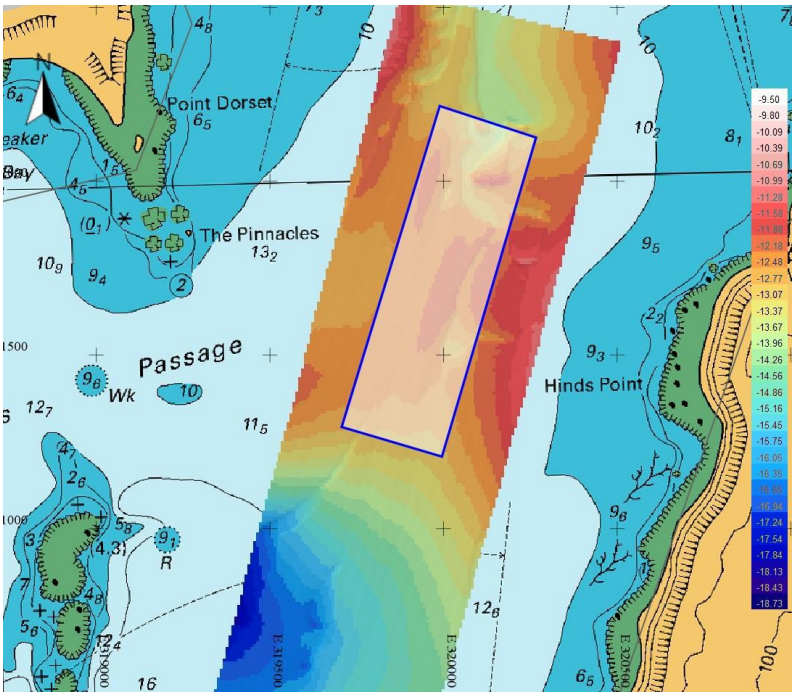
Harbour Dredging Locations:

1: Falcon Shoals:

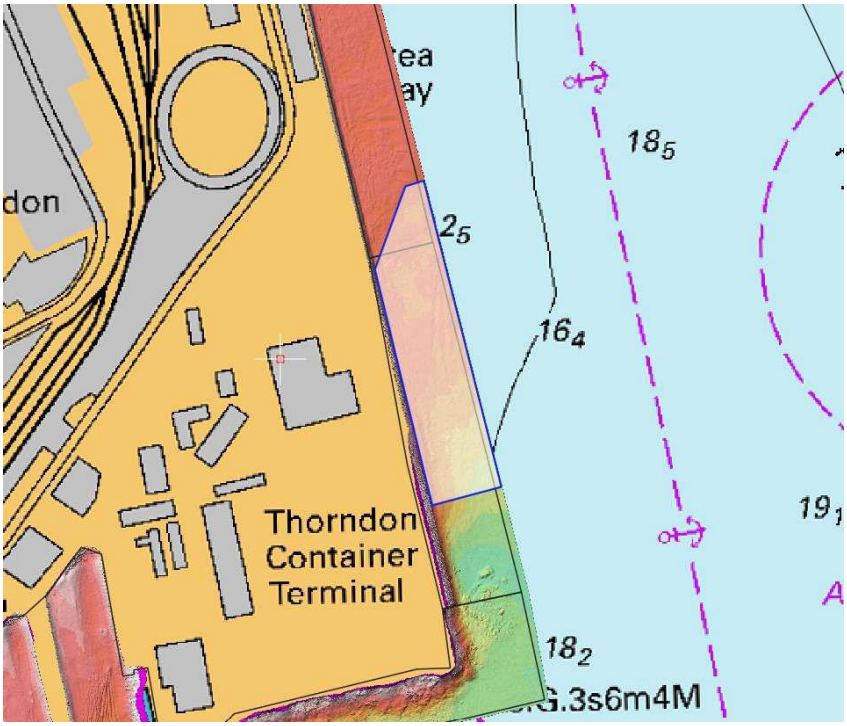
The Outward tracks between the Front lead and Falcon Shoal Beacon.



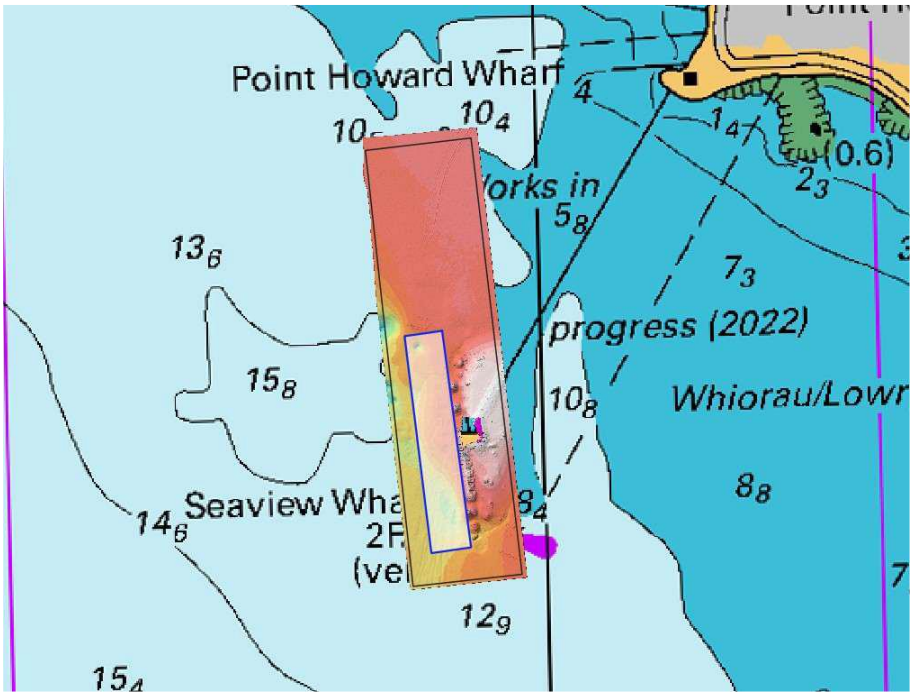
2: Hinds Point:



3: Thorndon Container Berth and approaches

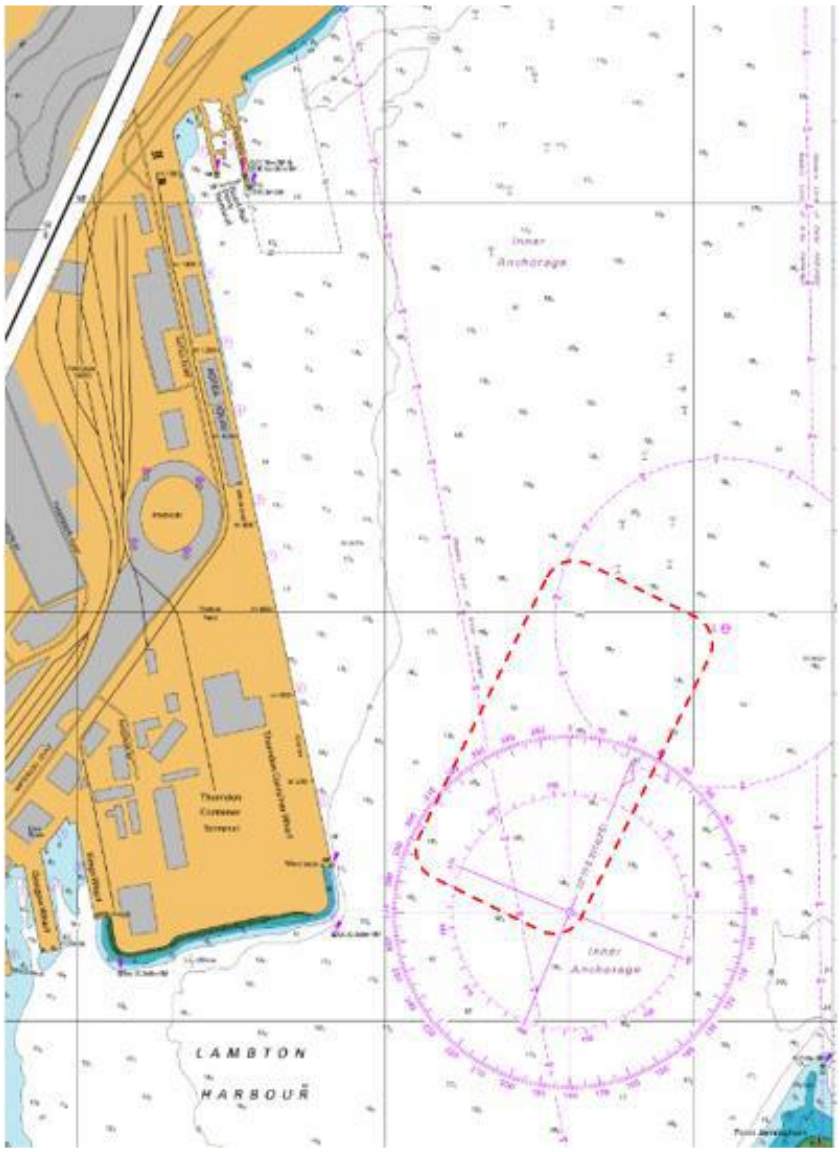


4: Seaview Wharf berth pocket



5: Spoil Ground:

The spoil site is East of TCW and NorthWest of Point Jerningham.



Operational Controls:

1. A CentrePort Pilot will be on-board the *Albatros* whenever the dredge is operating
2. The *Albatros* will be listening on VHF Channel 14.
3. When dredging at Falcon Shoals only one other vessel (> 500 GRT) is permitted in the Channel between Steeple Beacon and the Rear Lead in addition to the *Albatros*.
4. When dredging at Hinds Point only one other vessel (> 500 GRT) is permitted in the Channel between the Front Lead and Barret's Buoy in addition to the *Albatros*.
5. When dredging at Hinds point ETAs for outbound ferries to Steeple, and ETA's for inward ferries to Barrett Buoy are to be given to the *Albatros*.
6. The dredge may be passed while it is in operation. However, passing vessels may be requested to reduce speed and discuss with the pilot on the dredge the passing side, speed and distance required.
7. The pilot on *Albatros* will advise the order and timing of passing vessels in co-ordination with Beacon Hill.
8. Police / GWRC / CentrePort support vessels may be in attendance to support enforcement of Harbour Masters Instruction relating to any exclusion zone around *Albatros.*
9. Piloted vessels over 9m draft may require *Albatros* to vacate the channel dredge site. This will be co-ordinated on a case-by-case basis by the CentrePort pilots involved.
10. The pilot on Albatros will have an updated list of shipping movements.
11. The pilot on Albatros will have access to the CentrePort Marine Weather website for up-to-date weather observations and forecasts.
12. The *Albatros* will make the following standard radios calls:
    - 10 mins prior to departing the berth.
    - Departing the berth.
    - Arriving and departing dredge site.
    - Arriving and departing dump ground.