



2026 Marsden Cove Marina Route 66 Briefing Document

Essential Information for Skippers and Crew

Briefing presentation at RYC 1900 Thurs, 26/2/2026

BEFORE THE RACE

1. **Read the Sailing Instructions.** Take special note of Scheds.
 - a. Sailing Instructions are at richmondyc.org.nz/route66 in both PDF and HTML.
2. Ensure that your boat meets safety requirements (Cat 4+ CatA+) and your VHF is in good working order.
3. Single-handed/two-handed boats have special safety requirements, see the NOR and SIs.
4. Complete crew details online via TES - crew emergency contact details must be provided.
5. Marsden Cove Marina requires all berthing boats to provide a copy of valid 3rd-party insurance upon request: please email this to info@richmondyc.org.nz, also print one off and keep it on the boat.
 - a. Currently a maximum of 70 boats can be accommodated within Marsden Cove Marina, therefore, all boats must be prepared and equipped to raft up.
 - b. Any boat wanting a private berth must arrange with Marsden Cove Marina at least one day prior. Phone 09 432 7740 email info@marsdencovemarina.co.nz
6. Tracking is required - be sure to set up the PredictWind Tracker App (see SIs, clause 22.1).
 - a. PredictWind Tracking is required for the PredictWind spot prize, worth over \$500! *Support the sponsors and they will continue to support the race!*
7. Check the weather - we recommend PredictWind!
8. Weekend Parking at Westhaven for crew: Ticketing at Westhaven has been suspended on the white parks for Friday of the R66 weekend (note: no restrictions apply on Saturday and Sunday). Parking in the yellow parks is restricted to berth-holders and will be enforced as usual.
9. Westhaven Marina Gate Access code will be X350350 and then the arrow key and will be operational from 7am to allow crew access.
10. Check the Westhaven Tower Friday morning - we will notify if the alternate start at Narrow Neck will be used by putting a big '2' up by 08:00.
11. Tides for Auckland:

Friday 6/3/26	LOW	0.6m	0400 hours
Friday 6/3/26	HIGH	3.4m	1024 hours

DURING THE RACE

1. Keep a listening watch on your VHF (Channel 16 as well as the race channels) – you might be a stricken boat's best chance at survival.
2. The following scheds are **mandatory**: (*More information on scheds is in the SIs.*)
 - a. Soon after rounding Cape Rodney: Call Route66/Onerahi Patrol) on VHF CH 18 OR phone/text to Bryce Bindon 021 519 589
 - b. Approximately 3nm from the finish (on VHF CH 18)

3. The Finish will be notified (No 9 Buoy or No 4 Buoy) during acknowledgement of the Cape Rodney Sched.
4. **If you retire: Reply to the I2R text and use the “I have retired button” as well as contacting the race officers.**
5. Northport has become busier, so please monitor VHF CH 11 for shipping movements at Northport.
 - a. For known shipping movements at Whangarei/Auckland refer to these websites:
<https://www.poal.co.nz/operations>
<https://northport.co.nz/inportpage/northportships>
<https://northport.co.nz/weatherfeed>
6. Please mind your COLREGS obligations, especially ensuring that your navigation lights are on between sunset and sunrise. Note SI clause 1.11. Competitors shall abide by harbour regulations, including the ‘500 ton rule’ or risk disqualification. In accordance with RRS 42.3(i) a boat racing may use its engine to avoid grounding or to get clear after grounding provided the boat does not gain an advantage in the race. In addition, a boat racing may use its engine to comply with harbour regulations to give way to a vessel under pilot provided the boat does not gain advantage in the race. Any use of engines during a race shall be notified to the Race Officer as soon as practical.

7. Tides at Marsden Point for Friday and Saturday are:

Friday 6/3/25	LOW	0.6m	1647 hours
Friday 6/3/25	HIGH	2.7m	2259 hours
Saturday 7/3/25	LOW	0.7m	0459 hours
Saturday 7/3/25	HIGH	2.7m	1113 hours

8. There are numerous navigational hazards when approaching Marsden Point, see Chart NZ 5214 and read the SIs for more details. No. 7 buoy is a course obstruction and should only be passed on the channel side.
9. Any time between now and Friday night, make a post on the Richmond Facebook page with the hashtag #RYCRoute66 and your boat will go into the draw to win a(nother) bottle of rum at the prizegiving!

AFTER THE RACE

1. As you approach Marsden Cove Marina call the Race DockMaster on VHF Ch 77 for berthing instructions. Competitors will be rafted up on the sales berth.
2. **Be prepared with docking lines and fenders** as you come into the marina – mooring lines are not provided by the marina. If possible please dock alongside a boat of similar deck height to yours.
3. **Any boats wanting a private berth must contact the MCM office (phone 09 432 7740) at least one day prior to make arrangements.**
4. After settling and tidying your boat, please proceed to the Race office, located in the berth holders lounge in the Marina administration building. Please complete the online Finish Declaration form before you collect your race pack, at <https://richmondyc.org.nz/route66/>



5. Please be respectful to the residents, users, and the team at **Marsden Cove Marina** – they are a wonderful sponsor of the event. This means keep the party noise down after 2200 hours.
6. The system for codes has changed from previous years:
 - a. Code for gates, toilets and rubbish as follows: 55772
 - b. For hot showers, you will need to pay for a personal code at the Marina office.**
7. There will be no bbq breakfast available this year. We encourage you to visit the local cafes and bakery.

8. Prizegiving will start at 0930 hours Saturday morning – this will be at the **Marsden Cove Fishing Club**, behind The Marina Cafe & Restaurant. We have line and handicap prizes for each division plus spot prizes to give away; set your alarm so you don't sleep through it! The prize pool is ~\$5,000 this year thanks to **Burnsco, Safety at Sea, Sailutions, PredictWind, Mariner Marine Insurance, Ropeye/A-Z Marine Services, Floating Dock Services and Mount Gay!**
9. Route 66 T Shirts will be available at the prize giving for \$40.
10. We encourage competitors to arrange informal get-togethers at Bon Accord on their way back to Auckland.

(BE SAFE, SAIL WELL, HAVE FUN! See you at Marsden Cove!)

SPONSORS

Thank you to our generous sponsors:

	<p>Route 66's title sponsor is Marsden Cove Marina, a world-class 230-berth marina just inside the entrance to Whangarei Harbour. www.marsdencovemarina.co.nz</p>
	<p>Sponsor of 1st prizes for all divisions is Burnsco Westhaven. Burnsco is the biggest seller of marine, RV and motorhome accessories in New Zealand. www.burnsco.co.nz</p>
	<p>Sponsor of 2nd prizes for all divisions, Safety At Sea (a division of Kiwi Yachting) specialises in offering the world's leading marine safety products and aviation survival equipment. www.safetyatsea.co.nz</p>
	<p>Sponsor of 3rd prizes for all divisions, Sailutions supplies and services a complete range of superior quality yacht rigging fittings and marine hardware from top Swedish sailing brands Seldén, Rutgerson, and Furlex. www.sailutions.co.nz</p>
	<p>Line prizes are sponsored by Ropeye / A-Z Marine Services: A-Z Marine Services is a maintenance and management business – “as little or as much as the owner requires” – and has been the NZ dealer for Ropeye since 2013.</p>
	<p>Skipper prizes are sponsored by: PredictWind, the world leader in wind forecasting. www.predictwind.com</p>
 	<p>Spot prizes are sponsored by: Mariner Insurance, the boat insurance specialists who will help you get the protection you need while you are out on the water, so you can enjoy your boating with peace of mind. www.marinermarine.co.nz Floating Dock Services, the quick and easy way to haul out your boat at Westhaven Marina. www.floatingdockservices.co.nz</p>

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MAP OF MARSDEN COVE MARINA

