



The Poole Yacht Club

Marine Conservation Team
Marine Management Organisation
Lancaster House
Hampshire Court
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE4 7YH

Dear Sirs

Response to the Studland Bay Habitat Protection Strategy, September 2021

Poole Yacht Club supports the need to protect the important habitats and species designated in the Studland Bay Marine Conservation Zone. However we still have significant concerns about the proposed measures in the above strategy.

We welcome the voluntary approach to the No Anchor Zones (VNAZ) and that you are proposing to allow initially up to 100 Eco moorings to meet the need for continued access for boaters.

At present your policy appears to delegate the responsibility for access to moorings to the licence holders without any conditions of maintaining public access. When the MCZ was granted the Minister stated that there must be continued access for the public. Your own document also refers to this aspect.

Our significant concerns are as follows:

1. It seems wholly wrong that any body or person could be granted a licence without any protection for historic public access. Were this not to happen it would be a significant failure of public policy.
2. Your Strategy indicates that it will be more difficult to get a licence for a mooring in your proposed inshore area. This is where the majority of the boaters anchor for shelter and access to the shore. You need to help resolve this issue or your initiative is likely to fail causing resentment and noncompliance with the Voluntary No Anchor Zones (VNAZ).
3. You are suggesting that boat users get together to put a mooring solution forward. You need to understand that there is no current coherent group that represents all users, who can facilitate, or currently have sufficient detailed knowledge, experience, and have the financial resources to achieve this. You appear to be interpreting your role too narrowly as a licencing authority. It needs a more collaborative approach led by yourselves to find a solution that will work for all.

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We have stated our support for the protection of habitats and species in Studland Bay. This must be done in a way that provides public access to moor or anchor in the bay. We cannot see that your strategy does this adequately and ask that you address the above issues.

Yours Faithfully

John Yonwin

Commodore Poole Yacht Club
Brian Snelgrove, General Committee.
Howard Davidson, Member.