

Studland Bay Voluntary No Anchoring Zone and Seasonal Restrictions

This notice is issued on behalf of the Marine Management Organisation and Dorset Council

Mariners are advised that deployment of the seasonal system of buoys within the Studland Bay Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) will be completed during April. These buoys have three roles and are shown on the below chart which, for completeness, also shows the harbour's Swash Channel marker buoys in red and green. Most of this area is beyond Poole Harbour Limits (where the Harbour Master's byelaws apply) which is marked by the purple line.



- 1) Voluntary No Anchoring Zone (VNAZ)** (the green line) is marked by branded yellow buoys and was established in 2022 to protect the seagrass beds from damage by anchors. Studland seagrass is:
 - home to protected species of seahorse, pipefish and rays
 - a nursery ground for commercially important fish species
 - helps protect the coastline from erosion.
 - traps carbon to help mitigate impacts of climate change
 - Safety of life at sea will always come first – the right to anchor in this important refuge during an emergency continues.
 - More info [here](#)
- 2) Eco-moorings:** (the white dots) Within the above area are 87 Eco-moorings (with 10 left in place over the winter months) which are to be used as an alternative to anchoring. The locations of these Eco-Moorings are shown by the white dots. More information is available [here](#).
- 3) Seasonal Speed Limit:** (the red line) 300 metres from the shoreline, Dorset Council Byelaws set a speed limit of 5 knots whilst these yellow buoys are deployed. This zone currently extends through the VNAZ and Eco-moorings, work is underway at Dorset Council to review the speed limit zone to reduce potential confusion and reduce risk of incident.

Whilst workboats are visibly engaged in deployment or retrieval of buoys or moorings, all other vessels should transit these areas at slow speeds with minimum wash.

Mariners are reminded that Radar, AIS, CCTV, Telephone and VHF Channels are recorded 24/7

Owners, Agents, Charterers, Marinas, Yacht Clubs and Recreational Water Sport Organisations should ensure that the contents of this Notice are made known to the masters or persons in charge of their vessels or craft. Local Notice 17 of 2025 is hereby superseded. This notice is self-cancelling on retrieval of the marker buoys and majority of the Eco-moorings in the Autumn.

HARRY GREGORY
HARBOUR MASTER

All Local Notices are available on the PHC website: www.phc.co.uk/safety/local-notice-to-mariners