

### Studland Bay 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 to protect the seagrass beds from damage by anchors. Safety of life at sea should come first so the right to anchor during an emergency is unaffected. 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
  - 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, a consultation by Dorset Council is underway to adjust the speed limit zone to match the VNAZ zone in future.

**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. 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 active Local Notices are available here: [www.phc.co.uk/safety/local-notice-to-mariners](http://www.phc.co.uk/safety/local-notice-to-mariners)