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Voluntary No Anchor Zone – VNAZ

Visiting Studland this boating season?
Check out the VNAZ coordinates using the QR code below.



Photo Credit boatfolk

Our next phase eco-mooring installations are now here!

The SBMP are proud to announce a further win for marine wildlife and boaters alike at Studland Bay, as the next installation of 21 eco-moorings is nearly complete. This follows the 10 that were installed in 2021. In addition, 12 existing moorings have been converted into eco-moorings (belonging to private owners) bringing the total number installed in the bay to 43.

The installation of eco-moorings provides an environmentally friendly alternative to regular anchors, which can damage the seabed and seagrass meadows.



Photo Credit boatfolk

The special design of the moorings, using a helical screw and elastic cord, allows boating to continue in the VNAZ without damaging the seagrass – meaning wildlife can thrive beneath the shore.

The installation is possible following the successful fundraising that saw the partnership come together to raise £66,000 through a mixture of crowdfunding, corporate partners such as SEA LIFE and the SEA LIFE TRUST and THE PIG-on the beach, private individuals and donations. Thank you to everyone who has pledged their support!

One of the SBMP's next top priorities will be finalise plans for the installation of VNAZ marker buoys in partnership with the Ocean Conservation Trust, which we hope will be achieved this season.



THE PIG-on the beach team members Oli & Hannah with SBMP members Sara & Neil

Photo Credit Sara Parker

We were delighted to be asked by eco-mooring sponsor THE PIG-on the beach to provide staff training on how eco-moorings function to protect marine life in the VNAZ. The team can now confidently spread the word to their friends and customers! Huge thanks for their support.

Research & Monitoring Group (RMG)

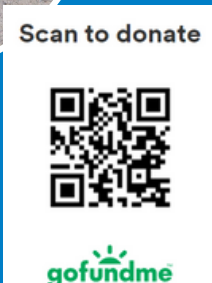
An exciting area of progress within the SBMP has been the establishment of the RMG in Feb 2023. As a partnership we are very fortunate to be working with leading experts in marine conservation, with experience across numerous different fields including marine ecology, social science, oceanography, marine policy and coastal dynamics from 10 different academic and environmental institutions. One of the main objectives for the group is to help communicate the science of Studland, bringing it to the public in a straight forward format and plugging the knowledge gaps identified in the public consultation last year.

Sponsorship and donations



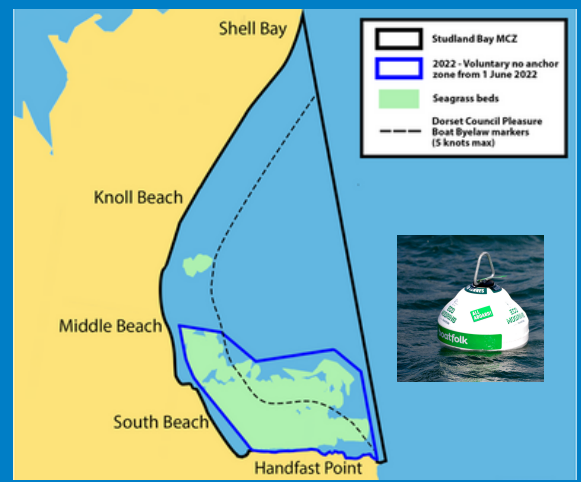
Photo Credit The Seahorse Trust

SBMP partner The Seahorse Trust continue to collect donations on behalf of the SBMP through: gofundme.com/bbf296f. Please pledge your support for marine wildlife.



The Studland Bay Marine Partnership are currently finalising details of how boat users, who benefit themselves and the seagrass by using an eco-mooring this season, can donate a mooring fee via a simple to use App. The partnership is also working towards a sponsorship scheme for local businesses or individuals to pledge their support - if you'd like further details on mooring fee donations

Working with communities to promote, enhance and protect our coast.



MMO Map of the VNAZ

or how to sponsor an eco-mooring to remember a loved one who loved Studland, or just to join us in protecting Studland's precious seagrass habitats for generations to come, please contact Dorset Coast Forum Project Officer Sara Parker.



Marina Group boatfolk, who are installing the eco-moorings, won the prestigious Environmental Award at last year's Southampton Boat Show and invited the SBMP to raise awareness of the project on their show stand

Further News & Events:

For our latest news & events and to register for an e-news edition of the newsletter go to:

www.dorsetcoasthaveyoursay.co.uk/studland-bay-marine-partnership

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Featured on Springwatch BBC i-Player Episode 7