

Policy 10 Enjoying Sailing and Boating

Chichester Harbour is one of the busiest recreational harbours in the country. The estuary will continue to be managed for the peaceful enjoyment of sailing and boating.

Chichester Harbour remains an unspoilt and peaceful estuary enjoyed by an estimated 25,000 sailors each year. **The 2018 Chichester Harbour Residents and Visitor Survey identified the three most popular reasons for sailing in the Harbour: its natural location, with access to the Solent; the scenic landscape qualities; and the favourable sailing conditions.** There is a balance to maintain between encouraging people to enjoy the Harbour afloat, while also preventing congestion and the dangers that come with it. Since it was established in 1971, the Conservancy has taken steps to manage the number of boats on the Harbour, to reduce conflict between different interest groups on the water and to improve the boating infrastructure.



This is achieved by using a prescriptive moorings policy to control the number of vessels; keeping areas of the Harbour clear for sailing; and supporting sailing clubs and boatyards. The Conservancy promotes peaceful enjoyment by encouraging courtesy and good behaviour, rather than relying on rules and regulations to control vessels.

The Conservancy facilitates opportunities for non-sailors to enjoy the Harbour by boat. It operates *Solar Heritage*, a solar powered catamaran, with space for up to 50 passengers. The vessel takes trips around Chichester Harbour all year round, with commentary from experienced guides about the importance of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. *Solar Heritage* has also been adapted for wheelchair users. The engines are virtually silent, so as she glides along, passengers can admire the view and the habitats and birdlife that help make Chichester Harbour so special.

The Friends of Chichester Harbour, in partnership with Emsworth Yacht Harbour operate a passenger vessel, called oysterboat *Terror*, which is considered in Policy 15, Historic Environment and Heritage Assets.

Several commercial passenger vessels also operate in Chichester Harbour, collectively enhancing the visitor experience.

MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES	PRINCIPAL PARTNERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The peaceful enjoyment of sailing can be disturbed by congestion and overcrowding on the water, particularly at weekends in the summer. • There may also be conflicts between different types of vessels and a lack of understanding and consideration of the needs of others. • Linked to recreational disturbance, there is a growing need to better manage the impact of recreational boating and facilities on the environmentally designated sites and species. • Differing objectives between the management of marinas and the management of the AONB. • Increasing pressure for marina berths to be used for people living onboard, or 'Beds-on-Board' rentals. • Increasing concern for water quality, which affects the experience of sailors and boaters. • Changing market conditions, including an aging population of recreational sailors and boaters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associated British Ports • British Marine • British Ports Association • Chichester Harbour Conservancy • Chichester Harbour Federation • Friends of Chichester Harbour • Langstone Cutters Gig Club • Langstone Pilot Gig Club • Langstone Harbour Board • Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) • Recreational and Sports Anglers • Royal National Lifeboat Association (RNLI) • Royal Yachting Association (RYA) • Solent Forum • Sussex Marine & Coastal Forum • UK Harbour Masters' Association

Actions to be taken by Chichester Harbour Conservancy:

- 10.1 To maintain up-to-date byelaws and Harbour Directions for the management and regulation of all types of vessels in order to ensure the safe and peaceful use of the Harbour.
- 10.2 To maintain a patrol presence on the Harbour to enforce byelaws, give directions and to offer advice and assistance to mariners.
- 10.3 To continue to increase maritime awareness and knowledge among Harbour users.
- 10.4 To maintain and exercise a Harbour Emergency Plan liaising and co-ordinating, as appropriate, with other emergency services and local authorities.
- 10.5 To maintain and enforce the 8-knot speed limit.
- 10.6 To discourage an overall increase in size of vessels using the Harbour.
- 10.7 To monitor vessel movements to determine levels of congestion.
- 10.8 To maintain a ban on water skiing, kite surfing and similar activities.
- 10.9 To encourage the development of sail and small boat training.
- 10.10 To licence commercial vessels and masters operating within the Harbour carrying fewer than 12 passengers. (Issued subject to the conditions of the Conservancy).
- 10.11 To continue to operate the *Solar Heritage* catamaran, a year-round passenger vessel, and plan for her long-term replacement.

Actions to be taken by other stakeholders:

- 10.12 To provide opportunities for people to learn how to safely sail and boat in Chichester Harbour.
- 10.13 To raise awareness of the Solent Seals Code of Conduct.

