

**WEST HIGHLAND ANCHORAGES
AND MOORINGS ASSOCIATION**

www.whamassoc.org.uk



Tobermory, Isle of Mull

WHAM – PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

1. To maintain safe and unobstructed access to the anchorages and mooring areas of western Scotland and the Hebrides.
2. To help to ensure protection of the marine environment.
3. To promote and encourage responsible and considerate use of our seas and to further the aims of recreational sailors in and around western Scotland, working with The Crown Estate, The Scottish Government, Scottish Natural Heritage, Royal Yachting Association Scotland and other organisations.
4. To respond on behalf of members to such matters as planning applications or consultations on marine energy and all other developments affecting the use of the seas.
5. To help promote thoughtful and considerate use of our waters by marine based organisations and individuals.

OFFICE BEARERS

Chairman:

Robert Clement (retires 2011)

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An abandoned and dangerously insecure keep box in Loch Moidart, now removed by WHAM.



MOORING AND ANCHORING GUIDANCE FOR VISITORS AND CHARTERERS

Part of WHAM's rôle is to preserve anchoring areas throughout the west coast. These are generally marked on charts or described in Sailing Directions (SDs) and pilots.

The following guidance is offered to all, including visitors and Scottish based skippers:

- Most locations with moorings will have an adjacent anchoring area that you can use. For your own safety do not anchor close to moorings.
- Be careful in areas designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) or Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), as anchoring may be prohibited, or the anchoring location specified. Loch Creran, with its protected Serpulid Reefs is

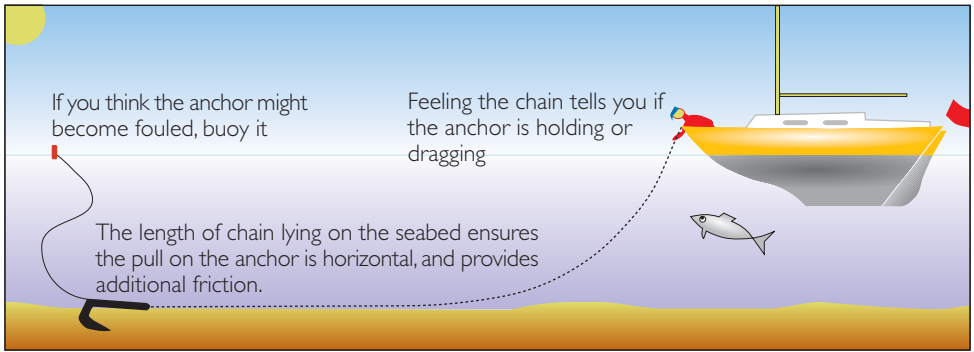
an example. These areas are few, and are usually mentioned in SDs and pilots.

- The proximity of finfish and shellfish farms should be avoided. Oyster beds may be difficult to detect near high water, and should also be avoided.
- Do not use private moorings without permission. They may not be in safe condition or strong enough or the resident craft may return! Even if permission is given, you use any mooring at your own risk.
- Public visitor moorings are available in many locations, and are usually marked with their safe working weight.

ANCHORING TECHNIQUE

To obtain maximum enjoyment of Scotland's west coast it is vital to be able to anchor safely. Settling into a beautiful secluded spot for lunch or for the night will add greatly to your cruising satisfaction.

- Having suitable anchor, chain and windlass on larger craft, is essential. If you are chartering a yacht it will be suitably equipped.
- Charts, SDs and pilots will guide you to suitable places, but once there some decisions must be made. The key points are:
 - 1 Choose a spot clear of moorings, other anchored craft, and other obstructions.
 - 2 Anticipate the effect of tidal range, tidal stream and forecast wind.
 - 3 Check that depth is sufficient at low water wherever you might swing.
 - 4 Determine the seabed conditions, if possible. Rock or weed will not provide good holding.
 - 5 Other anchored craft will usually indicate how you will lie. Dropping your anchor close to the stern of another boat will ensure that you lie behind it, and swing in the same way. Make sure that any craft astern of you will be safely distant, and that craft abeam are at least two boat lengths away.
 - 6 You are obliged to continue to keep clear of craft that are already anchored. If you are too close, they will tell you!
- Once a spot has been identified, the following sequence should produce a successful result:
 - 1 Move slowly upwind from the selected spot to where you think the anchor should lie.
 - 2 Drop your anchor without delay until it finds the seabed.
 - 3 Continue to pay out chain as the boat drifts back. This will lay it along the seabed.
 - 4 Gradually brake the anchor windlass so as to apply some slight tension in the chain until the boat comes to a halt.



- 5 To check that the anchor is holding, feel the chain forward of the bow fairlead. If it is rumbling or jumping the anchor is dragging.
- 6 If it is firm, apply reverse engine power to dig the anchor in.
- 7 Start with a chain scope of three times the depth of water; or 20 metres, whichever is most.
- 8 If strong tide or winds are anticipated, use more scope.
- 9 Note some transits to establish that you are stationary, and for reference later.
- 10 Finally, if you don't think you are securely anchored, raise the anchor and repeat the process. It is easier now than at 0200!

THE HISTORY OF WHAM

The West Highland Anchorages and Moorings Association was founded in 1985 as a direct result of the growing realisation that there were rapidly increasing pressures on the marine environment which, if not understood and if necessary contested, would result in serious and lasting deterioration in the facilities, environment, right of free anchorage and freedom of navigation on our seas.

WHAM now consists of some 60 member organisations in western Scotland and the Hebrides including the majority of Moorings Associations, boatyards, clubs and other organisations, including Royal Highland YC, Clyde Cruising Club, Ocean Youth Trust, Argyll Charter Boats, Oban Port Users and others.

In the intervening years WHAM has established excellent working relationships with, inter alia, The Crown Estate, The Scottish Government, Local Authorities, fish and shellfish farmers, local fishermen, and is recognised as a knowledgeable

and helpful organisation whose aims coincide with those of most marine users and whose views are taken account of (even if not always acted upon).

It is worth commenting that there has been no reduction in pressures over the intervening 25 years. Indeed more pressures have arisen with the advent of wind and tidal power; attempts to restrict navigation in channels, changes in licences, and a significant and continuing pressure on mooring space generally.

Fortunately, the requirements of leisure and recreational boating are now taken seriously by government and other administrative bodies, and WHAM is a key part of the consultation system that has developed over the past few years. Our vigilance will help ensure that your freedom to navigate, anchor, and generally enjoy the wonderful west coast of Scotland, is protected for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

FORMING A MOORING ASSOCIATION

Moorings Associations are groups of boatowners who each other with, for example:

- applying for necessary licences and consents, paying the fees required, and, if thought necessary, arranging insurance
- laying, maintaining and policing moorings
- improving facilities for launching and recovering boats
- obtaining permission for access to the shore near the moorings
- making arrangements for storing dinghies, outboard motors, etc.

The licences and consents required are as follows:

- Crown Estate Act 1961. The vast majority of the seabed is the property of Crown Estate, from whom a licence must be obtained and rental paid.
- Consent under the Coast Protection Act 1949 (CPA), or its successor the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010. This is administered by the Scottish Government and is a requirement before a Crown Estate licence is granted.

Experience has shown that the following points are relevant:

- An association may obtain a licence and a consent to enable it to administer several areas in a vicinity. It is best to apply for areas, rather than for individual mooring positions, so that there

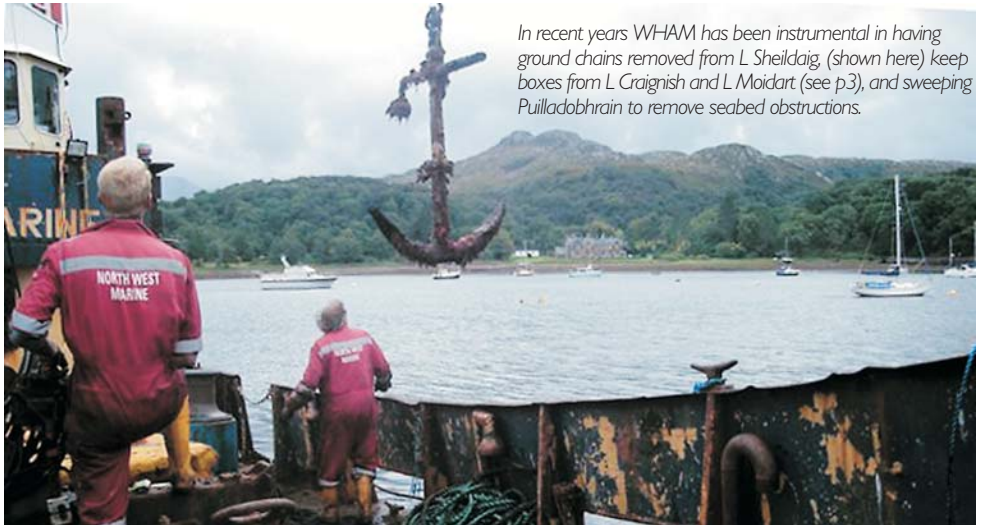
is space for more moorings as more boatowners make application.

- If the proposed mooring area is clear, then application should be made for a licence. Associations can apply to have an area licensed, giving it the right to lay and manage their members' moorings without additional consents being required. If there are already licensed moorings in the area and the owners do not wish to join the Association, then the area can still be granted but the licence will exclude the existing moorings.

- If the area desired is in the vicinity of a designated anchorage identified by an anchor symbol on an Admiralty or Imray chart, or is listed in the Clyde Cruising Club SDs or Imray Yachtsman's Pilots, and therefore recognised by the Hydrographer and the Admiralty, check with WHAM that the moorings are not likely to be an obstruction to navigation as defined by the CPA, or its successor.

- The Crown Estate Moorings Officer will check that mooring areas preserve suitable anchorage space.

- WHAM will be very happy to offer advice based on twenty years of experience working on behalf of Moorings Associations.



In recent years WHAM has been instrumental in having ground chains removed from L. Sheildaig, (shown here) keep boxes from L. Craignish and L. Moidart (see p3), and sweeping Puilladobhrain to remove seabed obstructions.

WHAM ADMINISTRATIVE AREA MULL OF KINTYRE TO LOCH ERIBOLL

Crown Estate
Administrative
Areas

North West (L Nevis to L Eriboll, Outer Hebrides and Skye)
South West (Solway Firth to L Nevis and Inner Isles)

ALL SCOTLAND

Pontoon Berths: 7,222

Moorings: 5,379

WEST COAST

Kintyre to Gairloch, inc Hebrides

Pontoon Berths: 1,030

Moorings: 2,637

Source: SAILING TOURISM IN SCOTLAND

Scottish Enterprise: February 2010

BARRA

SUIST

N UIST

HARRIS

LEWIS

SKYE

L GAIRLOCH

L TORRIDON

L NEVIS

LOCHABER

ARDNAMURCHAN

MULL

OBAN

JURA

ISLAY

KINTYRE

GIGHA

ULLAPOOL

WEST HIGHLAND ANCHORAGES AND MOORINGS ASSOCIATION: MOORING CONSENTS AND LICENCES



A Seabed Licence in accordance with the Crown Estate Act 1961 is required:

The Crown Estate, 6 Bell's Brae, Edinburgh, EH4 3BJ. Tel: 0131 260 6070

Andrew Wood, Partner responsible for West Coast: Western and Northern Isles
Bidwells Perth: 01738 630666

Alastair Campbell, Manager of North West Area: Mallaig to Whiten Head, Durness, Including Isles
of Rhum, Eigg and Muck. Also responsible for Western Isles and Orkney and Shetland.
Bidwells Inverness: 01463 796050

Graeme Ferguson, Manager of Argyll Area: Mallaig to Lochgoilhead
Bidwells Fort William: 01397 702433

Darren Hirst, Manager and Team co ordinator: Responsible for Lochgoilhead to Solway Firth including
Isles of Bute and Arran.
Bidwells Perth: 01739 630666

Marine and Mooring Officers:

P-J Korbel: Solway to South shore of Loch Nevis
Office: 01546 600123, Mobile 07768 501111

Rob Adam. North shore of Loch Nevis to Whiten Head, Durness
Office: 01445741339, Mobile 07775 652911



**It is the Law that every mooring on the coast of Scotland requires consent under the Coast
Protection Act 1949.**

Apply to: The Scottish Government at the following address:

Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team, PO Box 101, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB

Tel: +44 (0)1224 295579

Email: env_prot@marlab.ac.uk

For enquiries related to Section 34 of the Coast Protection Act 1949, please e-mail
Gordon.Hastie@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Paul Bancks, Coastal Manager for Scotland with The Crown Estate, explains their role in managing moorings in Scotland.

Even though everyone is familiar with the concept of land ownership, many people are surprised to learn that the seabed around the UK is owned by the Crown and The Crown Estate is the organisation managing seabed activities out to the 12 nautical mile territorial limit.

To manage the provision of moorings, we have a licensing system in place and staff dedicated to helping coastal communities make the most of this limited resource.

P-J Korbel and Rob Adam are Marine Officers for The Crown Estate. Employed by our managing agents, Bidwells, and based in Argyll and Wester Ross respectively, they work with a wide range of marine users and stakeholders in the north and west of Scotland where the majority of moorings are found. As well as working closely with WHAM we also maintain close links with other bodies with an interest in moorings such as the Scottish Government, Northern Lighthouse Board, RYA Scotland and the Clyde Moorings Committee.

Members of WHAM are part of a network of over 50 Moorings Associations across Scotland. Once established, a Moorings Association is given a licence for an area of seabed enabling it to manage the moorings in its specific area. Moorings Associations are suitable for groups of ten or more moorings and provide a degree of security as pressure on areas traditionally occupied by moorings increases. In return for setting up an Association each mooring owner receives a 50% reduction on the annual licence fee.

