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a Marina
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In FOCUS

As we move through another busy and exciting year for the marina industry, there is plenty happening across TYHA, and I am delighted to see the continued momentum across our membership and wider marina network.

Members will be pleased to hear that we are making good progress on the revised TYHA Code of Practice. The development of this important industry best practice code has involved close collaboration with Marina Projects and our legal team to ensure the revised edition reflects the needs and challenges facing today's marina operators. We expect the new CoP to be available to members very shortly.

Also relevant (particularly to UK marinas) is the newly published British Marine / TYHA, Managing for Health and Safety in Marinas and Boatyards CoP, providing the marine industry with comprehensive best practice guidance for managing health and



Jon White
TYHA General Manager

safety within marina and boatyard environments.

Our Gold Anchor marina and international member network continues to grow, which is extremely encouraging. It is fantastic to see more marinas recognising the value of Gold Anchor accreditation and its role in demonstrating their commitment to quality and excellence. In celebration we look forward to this year's TYHA Marina of the Year Awards,

proudly sponsored by Haven Knox-Johnston, when we will celebrate the outstanding achievements of Gold Anchor accredited marinas across our network.

There is certainly plenty to look forward to, and I thank all our members and industry partners for their continued support. I look forward to seeing many of you at Southampton International Boat Show where we are particularly excited to unveil our newly designed TYHA Find a Marina stand.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Paul Simpson, who has recently retired from the TYHA Board following many years of dedicated service to TYHA and the wider leisure marine industry. On behalf of TYHA and the marina industry thank you Paul!




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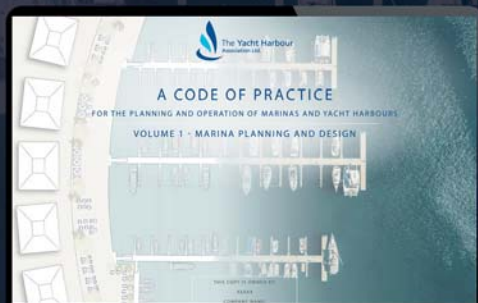
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Oyster Pontoons

Inland and Coastal shows how simple solutions can affect real changes for biodiversity in marinas

At Inland and Coastal, we're always looking for ways to make our pontoons do more than simply provide a place to tie up. Our latest project, developed with Ulster Wildlife at Glenarm

Marina in County Antrim, shows just how far that thinking can go – a working pontoon doubling as a nursery for one of Europe's most threatened marine species.

Native oysters were once abundant around the UK and

Ireland, but populations have collapsed by an estimated 95% since the 19th century, driven by overfishing, habitat loss, disease and pollution. A single oyster can filter up to 200 litres of seawater a day and restored reefs improve

water clarity, support seagrass recovery and provide habitat for fish and other marine species.

Ulster Wildlife has been at the forefront of bringing them back, installing Northern Ireland's first native oyster nursery at Bangor Marina in 2022. When the local nature conservation charity wanted to expand to Glenarm, they came to us with a brief: a submerged platform that could hold significantly more oysters than a basket-based system, while staying easy to access for monitoring, on a limited budget.

"This pontoon design was an experiment to see how oyster nurseries – which typically use baskets attached to the side of pontoons – could be adapted to be directly integrated into the pontoon," explains Dr Nick Baker-Horne of Ulster Wildlife. "I outlined our desires and Inland and Coastal designed a great pontoon that met our needs."

Kevin Treacy, Project Engineer at Inland and Coastal who led the design, comments: "Starting with our standard GRP-decked leisure pontoon, we fabricated a base that could fit between the spacing of our floats and be bolted to the underside. To allow ease of access, we modified the deck, introducing hinged hatches to access the sunken platform from deck level."

The result, at first glance, looks like any standard 6m x 3m pontoon – but with a sunken platform built in beneath it.

That integration removes the need for individual cages, instead creating one large area where a true oyster reef can establish. Since installation, Ulster Wildlife has placed 5,000 juvenile oysters (spat) onto the base and early results are encouraging. Raising the platform off the seabed has noticeably improved survival rates by protecting young oysters from predation at their most vulnerable stage. The design also needs less upkeep than basket systems, as less marine growth builds up on the structure.

"It's been a great addition to the nursery at Glenarm, allowing us to deploy 10 times more oysters onto the site," says Dr Baker-Horne.

Crucially, the pontoon hasn't sacrificed any berthing space, since it's built on our standard leisure pontoon and can still be used for mooring alongside. Ulster Wildlife has since added an underwater machine learning camera (a form of AI) by Eco-Detect to monitor how fish and other species use the structure as a reef and is already exploring how the design could house rescued seagrass fragments too.

For us, Glenarm is proof that pontoon infrastructure can support genuine conservation outcomes without compromising on function. If your marina is interested in exploring something similar, we'd love to hear from you: sales@inlandandcoastal.com



Dual purpose pontoon design



To find out more about how Ulster Wildlife are restoring the native oyster, visit: www.ulsterwildlife.org/native-oysters



“ ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG AT BUCKLER'S HARD To Reveal More

From July 20th - 7th August the Buckler's Hard Shipyard Trust will be partnering with the Maritime Archaeology Trust and local volunteers to continue the work of surveying the historic village slipways and shipyard. Following on from last year's dig, when so much remaining structure was revealed and artefacts found, the team hope to find more in the lower intertidal area of slipway 2 as well as the locations of a building and shipyard Capstan positions.

There will be a free exhibition in the 'Dig Tent' by the slipways of the story of the shipyard which will include last year's artefacts that were dug up and any newly discovered items. A team of volunteers will be digging both in the land as well as divers working in the Beaulieu River at the lowest part of the slipway. A team of Army divers from 17 Port and Maritime Regiment Royal Logistic Corps (RLC) from Marchwood, Southampton will be joining the archaeologists to assist and train in river diving operations.

There is a free family archaeology day on 31st July from 10am - 4pm when there will be special activities and displays with prizes for families to win. Help us identify objects, take part in quizzes and try digging.

The dig is being funded through the Buckler's Hard Shipyard Trust through donations and with help from the Beaulieu Estate and contractors Pete and John Niccolls. A large number of enthusiastic volunteers from local history, archaeology groups and the nearby community and



students will join to work on the excavation of the site. Last year the dig featured on the BBC's Digging for Britain series 13, episode 3, which is still available on BBC iPlayer to view to see what was revealed last year.

It is hoped that the remaining structures will shine new light on our understanding of the historic shipyard where 55 ships were built for the Royal Navy between 1744 and 1815.

The Maritime Archaeology Trust along with volunteers from the Southampton Archaeological Society recently carried out a ground penetrating radar survey to try to establish the area's most likely to have structures in the ground.

Buckler's Hard Shipyard Trust chairman Mary Montagu-Scott said: "There is so much to learn about this historic shipyard that remains buried under the

ground. We hope that we will find evidence of our industrial past, both on land and in the river mud."

Lauren Tidbury from the Maritime Archaeology trust said: "No other private yard built as many ships for the Royal Navy during this period and this makes it uniquely suited for learning about traditional shipbuilding due to its remarkable survival. At Buckler's Hard you can actually see the whole of the infrastructure needed to build ships of that size all set in the perfectly preserved 18th century village. This has been a wonderful opportunity for students and volunteers to take part and expose the structures, revealing them for all to see and from which we have increased our understanding of the shipyard site."

Following the dig, the area will be backfilled to protect the structure and work will be done to

record and conserve the artefacts.

For more information of the dig follow @bucklershardshipyardtrust on social media.

The Buckler's Hard Shipyard Trust's mission is to bring the story of Buckler's Hard shipyard alive, with its rich history from medieval times to shipbuilding in the 18th and 19th centuries, its role in WW2, the global footprint of ships originating from it and its rural village community and preserve it for future generations.

Buckler's Hard is open seven days a week in the heart of the New Forest National Park, with its beautiful riverside historic setting and maritime museum telling its story.

For more details see www.bucklershard.co.uk or call 01590 616203

WHITE MILLS SECURES FOUR GOLD ANCHORS, AGAIN!

White Mills Marina on the River Nene at Earls Barton in Northamptonshire has once again achieved four anchors in The Yacht Harbour Association's prestigious Gold Anchor scheme.

The fabulous news could not have been more timely, just at the start of this year's boating season and three weeks before the annual Crick Boat Show.

Commenting on the achievement, Director of White Mills Marina Ben Skinner said, "The Gold Anchor awards are a fantastic benchmark for marinas

to work towards. For a medium sized family run marina situated on the inland waterways to achieve four anchors is awesome. It is a true testament to the dedication and hard work put in by the entire White Mills team to ensure we go above and beyond on every level, resulting in boaters receiving top notch customer service combined with first class facilities and services."

This year has seen the opening of a brand-new facilities block which, with individual showers and WC facilities, provides complete privacy to the many boaters and campers

visiting the marina each season. In addition, in response to a recent boater's survey, a new lounge overlooking the stunning marina is also now fully operational.

Ben continued, "Last month the marina celebrated its tenth birthday and we could not have asked for a better way to celebrate our first decade than to achieve Four Gold Anchor status. Huge thanks to The Yacht Harbour Association for appreciating and recognising our efforts to create an award winning marina."



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TYHA MARINA AWARDS 2026 THE COUNTDOWN BEGINS!

It's nearly that time... the highly anticipated TYHA Marina Awards 2026, proudly anchored by Haven Knox-Johnston are almost here!

Following another fantastic year of nominations and voting, the response from berth holders, marina customers and the wider boating community has once again been exceptional. Voting officially closed on 28th August 2026 and after all votes were carefully counted and independently verified, we are delighted to confirm that our finalists and winners have now been decided.

The excitement is building as we prepare to celebrate the very best of the marina industry at the TYHA Marina Awards Ceremony, taking place on

Wednesday 23rd September 2026 at 4:00pm on the Boating Stage at the Southampton International Boat Show.

Hosted by TYHA General Manager Jon White, TYHA Chair Jonathan Dyke and Paul Knox-Johnston of Haven Knox-Johnston, this year's ceremony promises to be a fantastic celebration of excellence, innovation, customer service and environmental leadership across the marina sector. The TYHA Marina Awards recognise the outstanding achievements of TYHA Gold Anchor accredited marinas, celebrating those that consistently deliver exceptional facilities, customer experiences and operational standards. Every TYHA Member Marina holding Gold Anchor status is eligible to be recognised across a range of prestigious award categories.

This year's award categories are:

- Marina Employee of the Year
- Marina Team of the Year
- Coastal Marina of the Year
 - Under 250 Berths
- Coastal Marina of the Year
 - Over 250 Berths
- Inland Marina of the Year
- International Marina of the Year
- Superyacht Marina of the Year
- Sustainable Marina of the Year

These awards showcase the very highest standards within the marina industry, recognising organisations and individuals who continue to raise the bar and inspire others through their commitment to excellence.

We extend our sincere thanks to Haven Knox-Johnston for their continued support and sponsorship of the TYHA Marina Awards, helping us celebrate the achievements of marinas and their dedicated teams throughout the UK and internationally.

Whether you are a finalist, winner, nominee, or supporter of the industry, we look forward to welcoming you to the ceremony as we celebrate another outstanding year for the TYHA marina community. We wish all of our finalists the very best of luck and can't wait to reveal this year's winners!



Discover the winners
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ABC Leisure Group is one of the UK's leading inland waterways operators, with 16 start locations offering self-catering, self-drive holiday narrowboats, day boats, fully electric day boats and waterside holiday lets.

For Carl Onens, Managing Director at ABC Leisure Group, good marina operations are built around a simple but important principle: data should only need to be handled once.

"For us, good marina operations mean only handling data once and making sure the right information is available to the people who need it. When teams are working across multiple locations and systems, reducing duplicated data handling makes a real difference to day-to-day efficiency."



The challenge

Before moving to EliteMarinas, ABC Leisure was using a system that had become a strategic risk for the business.

"Our previous system had become a strategic risk for the business because it was reliant on one person. Alongside that, we were seeing a significant increase in cost, so it prompted us to look again at whether our existing systems were still the right fit for where the business needed to go."

For a business operating across 16 start locations, ABC Leisure wanted to reduce risk, remove unnecessary duplication and create a stronger operational foundation for the future.

Advice to other marina operators

Disconnected systems often create effort that becomes normal over time. Re-keying information, checking data between systems, maintaining spreadsheets and relying on manual workarounds all take time away from the work that moves the business forward.

"Manual workarounds can become part of the day-to-day without you realising how much time they are taking. For us, the value of EliteMarinas is in reducing that additional workload and giving the business a more efficient way to manage information as we continue to evolve."

For other operators, the question is not only whether their current systems still work, but how much extra work they are creating behind the scenes.



“£1M+ Nottingham Castle Waterside and Marina Redevelopment

Led by Aquavista, advances with upgraded infrastructure and smart energy rollout

The £1 million+ redevelopment of Nottingham Castle Waterside & Marina is progressing through a coordinated infrastructure programme led by marina operator Aquavista Waterside & Marinas, supported by a multi-partner delivery team led by Rolec, alongside Metpow and PowerPark.

The transformation of the Nottingham waterside location forms part of Aquavista's wider investment strategy across its UK marina portfolio and will deliver upgraded pontoons, improved utilities, enhanced safety systems and modernised visitor amenities. The redevelopment also supports the introduction of residential moorings from 2026.

A key focus of the project is the creation of a more dependable, efficient and future-proof marina infrastructure system, delivered through close collaboration between specialist partners across electrical works, infrastructure hardware and smart energy management systems.

Rolec is supplying marina electrical and shore power infrastructure, providing the core hardware foundation for upgraded berth-side utility provision. PowerPark, Rolec's electrical installation partner of almost 10 years, is delivering essential electrical upgrade works across the site, helping to modernise the existing infrastructure and strengthen system resilience, reliability, and capacity for future demand.

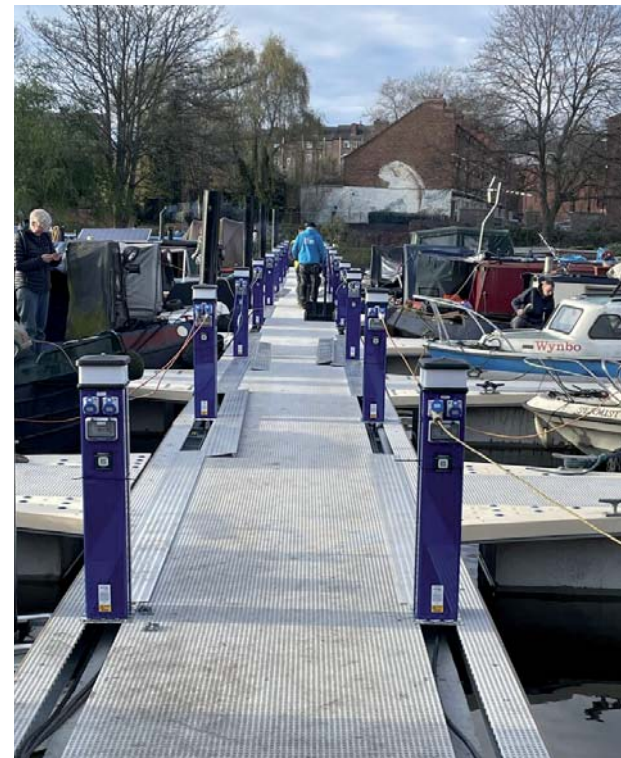
Metpow, Rolec's smart energy management technology partner, is implementing its advanced software platform integrated with Rolec's hardware, enabling real-time monitoring of utilities and automated billing across marina berths. This delivers enhanced operational visibility and efficiency for site management teams, while reducing manual processes.

The integrated system will enable real-time monitoring of electricity usage across berths, automated energy billing for marina users, improved operational visibility for marina

management and a more resilient and efficient electrical infrastructure across the site. The combined works from Rolec, PowerPark and Metpow are designed to support Aquavista's long-term vision for modernised, data-driven marina operations, improving both operational performance and the berth holder experience.

A spokesperson for Aquavista said: 'This redevelopment represents a significant step forward for Nottingham Castle Waterside & Marina. By working closely with specialist partners across infrastructure, electrical works and smart energy management, we are delivering a more modern, efficient, and resilient marina environment for our customers.'

Tim Butler, Key Client Engineer at Rolec, said: 'We're proud to continue our long-standing relationship with Aquavista on this exciting redevelopment at Nottingham Castle Waterside & Marina. This project brings together strong



complementary expertise across the delivery team to support a smarter, more connected approach to marina energy infrastructure. With over 20 years of partnership with Aquavista, this work builds on a trusted foundation and continues our focus on delivering resilient, scalable and future-proof electrical infrastructure across the site.'

Ed Jones, CEO at Metpow, added: 'This project reflects the growing need for connected infrastructure in UK marinas. Working alongside Rolec and Aquavista, we are helping to modernise how energy is delivered, monitored and managed at the waterside.'

Dannielle Harvey, Business Development Director at PowerPark, added: 'We're excited to be part of the team delivering the refurbishment of Nottingham Castle Waterside & Marina. It's been a great collaborative effort to improve the overall infrastructure and customer experience. The dedication from everyone involved has been clear and we look forward to seeing the benefits these electrical upgrades will bring to berth holders and visitors.'

The Nottingham Castle Waterside & Marina redevelopment forms part of Aquavista's ongoing investment programme across its UK marina network and is expected to continue in phases through 2026.

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Bridging the Gap Why Marina Compliance Needs a Practical Touch

By David Parkinson IMM, CertIOSH, DipNEBOSH

I spent ten years in hands-on roles, working my way up to manager and eventually area manager, having worked across North Wales, England, and Scotland.

I then chose to merge these two distinct paths: practical marina operations and health and safety compliance.

When the updated Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC) pulled Marinas into its scope last year, it was clear that the regulatory landscape had fundamentally shifted. Today, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) has marinas firmly on its radar, and maybe its not a bad thing for us.

Generic health and safety systems simply do not work for marinas. Having managed these environments myself, I realized that operators needed a system built by someone who actually understands the day-to-day realities of the job and makes

all these new PMSC hoops easier to navigate under the ethos of KEEP IT SIMPLE. That is why I built our Marina Safety Management System. Instead, it is packed with practical, ready-to-use templates and “in portal” systems tailored specifically to our industry such as incident reporting forms, contractor questionnaires, daily site diary etc...

Furthermore, the system seamlessly integrates access to our Designated Person (DP) Marina service, ensuring your marina meets the independent assurance requirements demanded by the PMSC at least once a year.

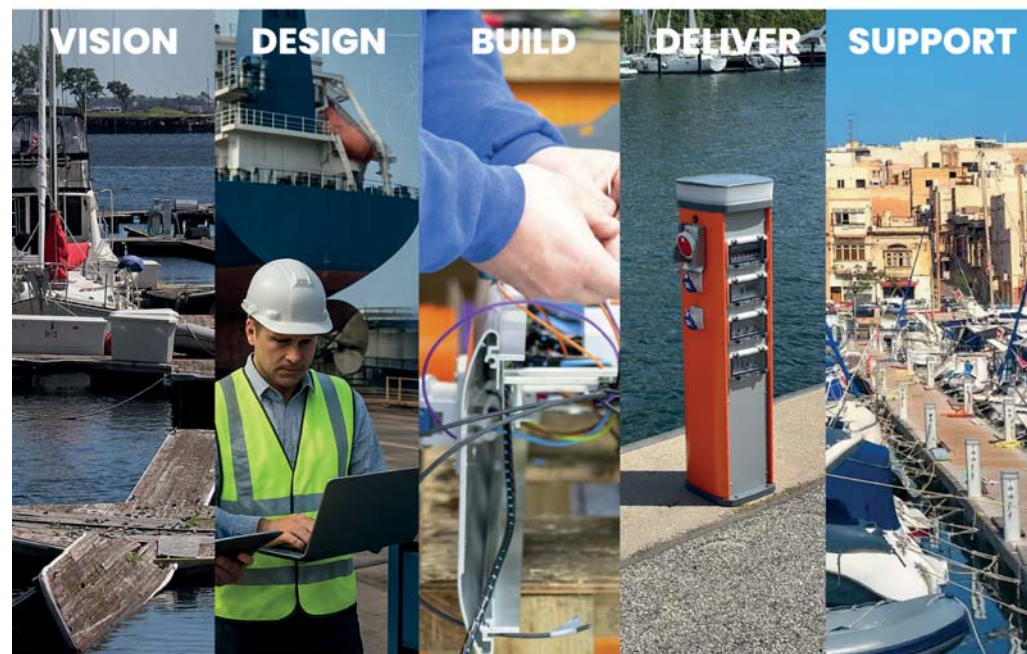
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One of Ewan's biggest achievements has been helping to build new marina pontoons. Working alongside Jonah, he has played a key role in more than three sections of the marina, building over 100 plus pontoon fingers and walkways ranging from 28ft to 42ft. He has also learned how to fabricate boat stands for vessels on the hardstanding, as well as cradles for both sailing yachts and powerboats.

Alongside his work at Kip Marina, Ewan has completed training through West College Scotland in Greenock for his modern apprenticeship, with classroom learning and real-world experience. His apprenticeship has become an important part of the marina's recent multi-million-pound investment programme over the last few years, helping deliver significant infrastructure improvements and facilities at Scotland Premier Marina.

Now in the final year of his apprenticeship, Ewan is continuing to upgrade the latest in our replacement program in J pontoon and L pontoon sections.

Ewan's development reflects the commitment of everyone at Kip Marina, where experienced staff have shared their knowledge and skills to help him succeed. His achievements so far are a credit to both his dedication and the supportive team around him and he has a bright future ahead in the marine industry.

“ Kip Marina Apprentice Ewan Mclaughlin Welder and Fabricator

Ewan's journey at Kip Marina began as a summer worker, taking on a wide variety of tasks around the Marina and boatyard. This hands-on experience gave him an understanding of how the marina operates and gave him an idea for his future career while still at school.

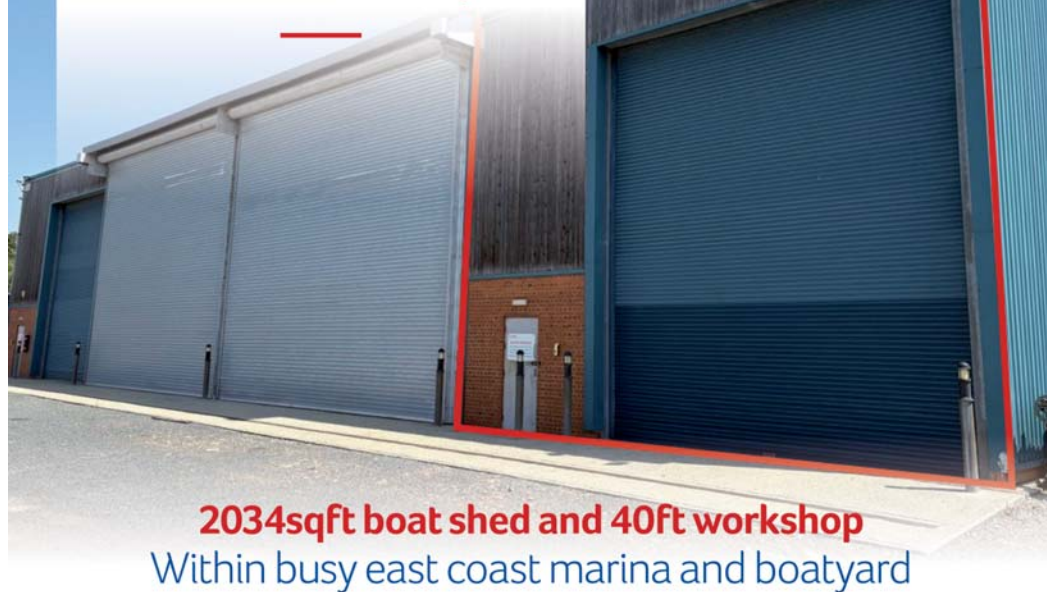
As his interest in engineering grew, Ewan began an apprenticeship in welding and fabrication under the guidance of Jonah, one of Kip Marina's longest-serving employees. Jonah's years of knowledge and experience have been amazing in helping Ewan develop his skills and the progress he has made has been outstanding and a big thanks to Jonah Millan for his teaching skills over the years.





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D-Marin Marsa Al Arab Marina offers 82 berths for yachts up to 61 metres, each enjoying spectacular views of the renowned Burj Al Arab and direct access to the open sea. Designed for discerning yacht owners, it seamlessly combines world-class marina facilities with exceptional hospitality, waterfront living, leisure and wellness, creating a yachting experience that extends far beyond the berth. Yacht owners who secure an annual berthing contract enjoy a complimentary membership, providing access to bespoke leisure and fitness experiences across Jumeirah's



beachfront portfolio in Dubai, together with a curated selection of complimentary and preferential offers to dine, stay and rejuvenate in style.

Further reinforcing its position among the world's leading superyacht destinations, D-Marin Marsa Al Arab Marina has earned three of the industry's most prestigious international accreditations: TYHA's 5 Gold Anchor, Clean Marina and Superyacht Ready



distinctions. Achieving the highest-level 5 Gold Anchor Award, presented by The Yacht Harbour Association (TYHA), places the marina among an elite group of destinations recognised for consistently delivering outstanding customer experience, premium facilities and world-class operational excellence. Together, these accreditations reflect D-Marin's unwavering commitment to excellence, sustainability and exceptional service for superyacht owners and captains alike.

D-Marin Marsa Al Arab Marina invites private yacht owners to discover a destination where internationally recognised marina standards, five-star hospitality and an unrivalled luxury waterfront lifestyle come together to create one of Middle East's most distinguished superyacht experiences.

To find out more about the stunning facilities, visit the website - www.d-marin.com

GOLD ANCHOR



JEDDAH YACHT CLUB



The marina offers 94 berths and can accommodate superyachts up to 120 meters. The unique yacht club recognizable by its dhow inspired sail, mast, and boom architectural design, rises 20 meters above sea level. Housed within and around marina is a worldclass selection of restaurants, lounge bars, boutiques and activities for owners, guests, captains and crew to enjoy.



D-MARIN MARSALA AL ARAB



Situated at the tip of Dubai's exclusive golden peninsula, D-Marin Marsa Al Arab Marina is the state-of-the-art superyacht marina offering 82 berths, for yachts up to 61 meters in length, all with breathtaking views of the renowned Jumeirah Burj Al Arab. Thoughtfully designed for discerning yacht owners, the marina combines privacy, luxury and direct access to the open sea.



TARBERT HARBOUR



Conveniently situated on the shores of Loch Fyne – within easy sailing distance of the marinas on the Clyde, and near to the Crinan Canal, the marina at Tarbert Harbour has evolved greatly over the years. Where you would once just drop anchor, there are now top quality pontoons suitable for all sorts of leisure vessels and a good range of facilities and services available – which we are constantly striving to improve.



COWES YACHT HAVEN



Cowes Yacht Haven represents the heart of the sailing world in Cowes. Whether you are looking to berth your boat or entertain corporate clients in a unique setting, Cowes Yacht Haven has it all. Centrally located, visitors have instant access to Cowes town centre, the Parade, with its range of Yacht Clubs, including the historic Royal Yacht Squadron, and beautiful Northwood Park, with its tennis courts and pleasant walks.

CLEAN MARINA



ALCAIDESA MARINA

Alcaidesa Marina is situated next to the western slopes of Gibraltar, within the natural harbour of the Bay of Gibraltar, offering excellent shelter and deep water access in all weather conditions. Its strategic location makes it an ideal marina near Gibraltar for yachts and boats navigating the Strait of Gibraltar.



D-MARIN MARSALA AL ARAB

D-Marin Marsa Al Arab Marina is proud to be Dubai's only Blue Flag-certified marina, a distinction that reflects our unwavering commitment to sustainability and environmental excellence. The marina is also a Gold Winner at the Abu Dhabi Maritime Awards 2025, recognised in the Outstanding Emerging Marina category.



BENITSES MARINA

Benitses Marina, a picturesque modern marina located in the heart of the Ionian Sea. Benitses Marina is located at the center of the historic town of Benitses, one of the most famous seaside villages on Corfu Island, just 9 km south of Corfu town and 20 minutes from the airport.

SUPERYACHT READY



D-MARIN MARSALA AL ARAB

Set at the tip of Dubai's exclusive golden peninsula, D-Marin Marsa Al Arab Marina is the city's definitive superyacht address, offering 82 exclusive berths for yachts up to 61 metres, framed by the iconic Jumeirah Burj Al Arab and Marsa Al Arab. Here, the superyacht experience extends far beyond the dock.



“ MDL Expands Penton Hook Marina with 18 new Barge and Narrowboat Berths

The investment will see the marina's existing X Pontoon reconfigured with the installation of nine new 14-metre angled pontoons, creating 18 berths suitable for barges and narrowboats of up to 20 metres in length. Scheduled for completion in August, the project responds to continued demand for quality berthing on this popular stretch of the Thames, while making more efficient use of the marina's existing infrastructure.

Alongside the new berths, MDL is carrying out a full refurbishment of its shower and washroom facilities. Used by both berth holders and visiting boaters, the facilities are being

modernised throughout, with upgraded fittings, new flooring, improved heating, energy-efficient LED lighting and a refreshed interior, creating a more modern and comfortable space.

Externally, the buildings will also benefit from new timber cladding and redecoration, creating a more contemporary appearance that complements the wider marina environment.

Benedict Moran, Marina Manager at Penton Hook Marina, comments: "These projects are all about investing in the long-term future of Penton Hook and ensuring we continue to meet the expectations of today's boat owners. Expanding our berthing capacity means we can welcome

more barge and narrowboat owners to enjoy everything Penton Hook has to offer.

"At the same time, we're investing in the facilities our berth holders and visiting boaters use every day. The improvements will make a real difference to the overall experience, creating more modern, comfortable facilities for everyone. We want Penton Hook to be a marina that people genuinely enjoy spending time in, and these improvements are another step towards that."

That commitment extends beyond the marina's infrastructure. Earlier this summer, Penton Hook Marina launched Fresh Off the Hook, a new waterfront street food initiative that brings a rotating line-up of independent food vendors to the marina each weekend, creating a welcoming social atmosphere for berth holders, visitors and the local community.

Situated on one of the most sought-after sections of the River Thames, Penton Hook Marina is one of the UK's largest inland marinas, offering extensive berthing, comprehensive boatyard services and direct access to some of the country's most scenic cruising waters.

Ideally positioned close to Runnymede, Windsor and the wider Thames Valley, the marina is a popular base for both leisure cruising and longer-term moorings.

For more information about Penton Hook Marina and MDL's network of 18 UK marina destinations, visit www.pentonhookmarina.co.uk



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CONFERENCES - 2026 / 2027

BRITISH MARINE INLAND CONFERENCE

The British Marine Inland Conference returns on 12 November 2026 at Cranfield University, bringing together inland waterway businesses, navigation authorities and industry leaders for a day of expert insight, networking and discussion on the future of inland boating.

The event will conclude with a networking reception and Gala Dinner, making it one of the sector's key annual gatherings.

To find out more and book your place, visit:

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/british-marine-inland-conference-2026-tickets-1993000783995

ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONICS CONFERENCE 2027

The British Marine Electrical & Electronics Conference returns on 25 February 2027 at Audleys Wood Hotel, Basingstoke, bringing together professionals from across the marine electrical and electronics sector for a day of expert presentations, industry updates and valuable networking. Following a two-year break, the refreshed conference promises insight into the latest technologies, legislation and market trends affecting the industry.

To find out more and book your place, visit:

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/british-marine-electrical-electronics-conference-2027-tickets-1996651074111

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03

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“Dura's award-winning sustainability innovation offers a circular future for marina infrastructure”

Dura Composites, a long-standing member of The Yacht Harbour Association (TYHA), has strengthened its reputation as one of the UK's leading innovators in sustainable infrastructure after winning the Environment and Sustainability Award at the prestigious Railway Innovation Awards.

While recognised by the rail industry, the innovation behind the award has significant relevance for marinas, harbours and waterfront infrastructure, where owners are increasingly seeking practical ways to reduce carbon emissions, improve whole-life asset performance and demonstrate environmental responsibility.

For more than 30 years, Dura has supplied high-performance Glass Reinforced Polymer (GRP) walkways, pontoons, access structures and other composite infrastructure across multiple sectors. The company was recognised for developing a world-first circular manufacturing process that enables end-of-life GRP products



to be recovered, repurposed into feedstock and reintroduced directly into the manufacture of new composite products.

Historically, composite materials have delivered exceptional durability but have presented challenges at the end of their operational life. Dura's innovation addresses this long-standing issue by creating a practical circular solution that reduces landfill, lowers embodied carbon and decreases reliance on virgin raw materials, without compromising the durability, safety or performance expected within demanding marine environments.

For marina operators facing increasing sustainability expectations, tighter environmental reporting and long-term asset management challenges, the development represents an important step towards more responsible infrastructure investment.

Stuart Burns, Managing Director of Dura Composites, said: "Winning the Environment and Sustainability Award is a fantastic recognition of the commitment, ingenuity and determination shown by our entire team over many years. While we've always focused on delivering high-performance infrastructure solutions, our ambition has been to fundamentally rethink what happens to those products beyond their working life.

"Our work to deliver carbon reduction innovation demonstrates that high-performance infrastructure doesn't have to end its life as waste. By creating a truly circular approach to composite materials, we're helping the rail industry reduce carbon, improve resource efficiency and build



infrastructure that performs throughout its lifecycle."

The Railway Innovation Awards celebrate organisations delivering transformational

advances in safety, performance and sustainability. Dura's success follows its recent King's Award for Enterprise in Sustainability, reinforcing the company's

position at the forefront of circular infrastructure innovation across the rail, marine and wider infrastructure sectors.



BRITISH MARINE COURSES

SHORT COURSES

- 7-Oct-26 HR - Managing people with confidence - online
- 13-Oct-26 Lithium-ion Battery Installation on Small Craft - online
- 14-15 Oct-26 Electric Propulsion Systems, Southampton
- 20-21 Oct-26 Practical Inland Broker, Staffordshire
- 21-Oct-26 Welcome Afloat Customer Service - online
- 22-Oct-26 HR - Hiring the right people - online
- 26-27 Oct-26 British Marine Electrical Technician, Poole
- 28-Oct-26 Marine Electronics Installer, Poole
- 2-Nov-26 Marina Water Safety Management for coastal/tidally affected venues, Barry Island
- 3-Nov-26 Mastering TikTok for your business - online
- 4-Nov-26 A new approach to Social Media content - online
- 4-Nov-26 Lithium-ion Battery Installation on Small Craft - online
- 5-Nov-26 Lithium-ion Essentials for professional advisers - online
- 9-10 Nov-26 Practical Yacht Broker, Whiteley
- 10-Nov-26 HR - Developing people who perform - online
- 11-Nov-26 Harnessing the potential of LinkedIn - online
- 17-Nov-26 Using AI for your Social Media - a beginners guide - online
- 18-Nov-26 A guide to creating video content for your socials - online
- 24-Nov-26 Introduction to Meta Advertising - online
- 24-25 Nov-26 Electric Propulsion Systems, Warwick
- 25-Nov-26 HR - Keeping great people - online
- 26-Nov-26 Port Marine & Facility Safety Code, Warwick
- 1-Dec-26 Marine Electrical Awareness - Warwick
- 7-8 Dec-26 British Marine Electrical Technician, Warwick
- 14-15 Dec-26 British Marine Electrical Technician, Southampton
- 16-Dec-26 Marine Electronics Installer, Southampton

IMM & AMM courses

- 26-29 Oct-26 IMM - Istanbul, Türkiye
- 2-5 Nov-26 IMM - Bucklers Hard, New Forest, UK

Other dates

- 22-Sep-26 Apprentice Graduation ceremony and Apprentice of the Year (invite only)
- 22-Sep-26 Marine Industry Careers Fair
- 23-Sep-26 CMO/CMM/CMP GMI Networking event at Southampton International Boat Show
- 18-Nov-26 CMO/CMM/CMP GMI Networking event at Metstrade

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MAJOR NEW £2.2M MARINA SLIPWAY PROJECT ANNOUNCED FOR TARBERT HARBOUR



Image is for visualisation purposes



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Tarbert Harbour has announced details of a major new £2.2m Marina Slipway Project, which on completion will significantly boost marine tourism and marine commerce opportunities; key economic drivers to the ongoing regeneration of the Argyllshire fishing village.

The project will see the creation of a new Marina Slipway with Increased Car Parking and Vessel Hard Standing Space, with works having commenced today and a completion date of 5th March, 2027. The £1.6m contract has been awarded to Charles Brand of Northern Ireland, following a competitive tendering process.

The project is being funded by Tarbert (Loch Fyne) Harbour

Authority (THA) with support from Highlands & Islands Enterprise, Crown Estates Scotland via Argyll and Bute Council, and Skipness Community Trust. The total project cost including design, build and purchase of equipment is £2.2m – a sign of intent from the THA board to ensure Tarbert remains a thriving village for many years to come.

This new Marina Slipway Project will comprise of a modern and environmentally friendly Watercraft Recovery Slipway with vessel wash down facility, while the Car Park Extension with up to 30 new spaces will deliver greatly welcomed capacity and economic benefits for the village.

Today's announcement represents a major milestone

in the inward investment by Tarbert (Loch Fyne) Harbour Authority (THA) – the not-for-profit Trust Port which operates Tarbert Harbour to contribute to the village's economic prosperity and sustainability.

As custodians of Tarbert Harbour, THA is focussed on sustainable tourism, coastal infrastructure and community enrichment. The Marina Slipway Project forms part of the Scottish Marine Tourism Strategy - "Giant Opportunities".

In addition to the new Marina Slipway Project, there are plans for the creation of a Community Water Sports and Activity Hub building and Kayak Pontoon, to complement the new slipway.

For more information visit www.tarbertharbour.co.uk

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Paul Simpson, (3rd from the left in picture)

TYHA's longest serving board member, has recently announced his resignation from the TYHA Council after 40 years of continuous service - 36 years of those as a Director.

After an initial career at sea in the Royal Navy, Paul entered the leisure marine industry in 1977, briefly as Harbour Manager at Newhaven Marina, before moving along the coast to the newly built Brighton Marina - then and still today Europe's largest man-made yacht harbour - where he was Harbour Manager and subsequently Director for 15 years until 1998. He then changed full time roles, although still marina based, by jointly setting up Waterside Properties the waterside and marina property specialists, where he was responsible for the successful expansion of the brand and its subsequent ongoing development.

Paul's initial involvement with The National Yacht Harbour Association (NYHA) began in 1986 not long after the trade association had been incorporated (1982) and when several of the original founders, Barrie Perry (MDL), Norman Smith (Salterns), Robin Walters (Walcon) and Dirk Khalis (Yacht Havens) were still very much involved. Due to their commitment and that of the other NYHA Council members, the Association quickly established itself as the leading UK authority in marina development and operation.

These were pivotal years in the development of the UK marina industry, with technical innovation and rapid expansion around much of the UK coastline and inland waterways, while the change



“ Paul Simpson to leave the TYHA Board

of name to THE YACHT HARBOUR ASSOCIATION, reflected the increasingly international influence and expertise of the Association.

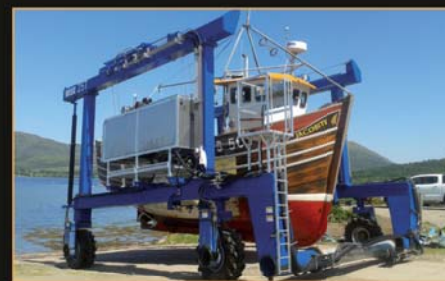
TYHA's collaboration joining with the then British Marine Industries Federation (BMIF) - now British Marine - in 1988, saw elected Chairman of Kent & Sussex Marine Industries, and subsequently the BMIF's first Boating Facilities and Environment Committee chairman in the early '90's. When ICOMIA, with considerable BMIF involvement, formed their Environment Committee in 1991 Paul was made the UK member and presented several papers

at International Marina Congresses in this capacity. In the early 2000's transferring from his role in marina management to waterside property sales and development enabled Paul to input valuable experience regarding the residential and commercial property market in a marina environment.

He believes that in today's challenging economic, technical and social environment TYHA's role within leisure boating is as relevant as ever - the newly updated Code of Practice (8th Edition) being firm proof of this. But also that the continuing strength of TYHA membership reflects the positive and welcoming attitude of the people working in our industry. As he puts it “working in the marina sector is essentially working in the hospitality business” and our members gladly reflect this.

Having recently enjoyed a most convivial farewell lunch on the River Hamble with fellow Board members, Paul remains a director of Waterside Properties and a TYHA member and continues to enjoy a busy retirement a mere stones throw from the water.

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FALMOUTH HARBOUR

Invests £50,000 in new Superyacht and Large Vessel Moorings

Falmouth Harbour has reinforced its position as one of the UK's leading deep-water ports with a £50,000 investment in new high-capacity mooring buoys, designed to support the evolving needs of Superyachts and large commercial vessels.

The new "self-fendering" Caldy and Frigate buoys have replaced the post-WW2 steel Admiralty buoys which have reached the end of their operational life.

The investment forms part of an ongoing programme to modernise harbour infrastructure and respond to increasing demand from larger



The old post-WW2 Admiralty steel mooring buoys have reached the end of their operational life. Photo – Falmouth Harbour.



The large-vessel mooring buoys are designed and built by Plymouth-based specialists AIS Marine and installed by Seawide Services. Photo – Falmouth Harbour.



The new "self-fendering", low-maintenance Frigate and Caldy Buoys fit the requirements of large commercial vessels and superyachts which visit Falmouth.

visiting vessels – which bring substantial additional revenue to the harbour and indirect economic benefit to the local marine sector and community.

The 3x2m buoys with a buoyancy of 7000kg are designed and built by Plymouth-based specialists AIS Marine – and unlike their steel predecessors they absorb impacts, leaving both buoys and vessels undamaged should they come into contact.

"The introduction of the new mooring buoys in Falmouth has been very well received by the Superyachts we have sent there so far this year," says MGMT Superyacht Agency's Mark Upton. "With the switch from steel to the new design buoys there is a far lower chance of any damage to the vessels using them – which means Captains and their crews feel more comfortable using the moorings."

"As always the team at Falmouth Harbour are on hand to support visiting yachts and provide their usual exceptional levels of service for which we and our clients are very grateful."

Miles Carden, CEO of Falmouth Harbour, says, "Falmouth has always been a natural haven for large vessels. This investment builds on that strength, providing modern, high-capacity moorings that meet the expectations of today's operators while retaining the flexibility and ease of access that sets the Harbour apart."

Strategically positioned within Falmouth's deep, naturally sheltered waters, the new moorings, installed by Seawide Services, are engineered to accommodate larger vessels which prefer a safe, flexible alternative to berthing alongside.

They are particularly suited to Superyachts and commercial operators seeking efficient turnaround with minimal constraint.

"We're pleased to support Falmouth Harbour with this investment in modern mooring infrastructure," says AIS Marine's Tim Phillips. "Our buoy systems are designed to deliver reliable performance in high-load environments."

"A key advantage is the minimal maintenance required compared to their traditional steel counterparts - and maximal flexibility they offer for port operators and vessel owners alike."

AIS Ltd, with its Marine division's Plymouth-based factory, is a globally recognised manufacturer of marine protection and buoyancy systems. AIS Marine specialises in high-performance mooring buoys, fendering and navigation aids, with products deployed across ports, offshore energy projects and commercial marine operations worldwide.

Falmouth Harbour - as the UK's gateway to the Atlantic Ocean - is a safe haven with deep-water access, minimal tidal restrictions and a vibrant town which offers a huge amount for visiting vessels - including the famous Chain Locker pub that has been welcoming seafarers for centuries.

For more information on the work of Falmouth Harbour's including its commercial, leisure and wide-ranging environmental initiatives visit www.falmouthharbour.co.uk or call the team on 01326 213537

“ Watchet Marina Celebrates 25 years as investment programme secures its future

Watchet Marina celebrated its 25th anniversary on Saturday as berth holders, visitors and members of the local community came together to mark the milestone and celebrate the marina's progress under Western Marinas.

Held at the Phoenix Centre on Watchet Esplanade, the anniversary event featured welcome drinks, a hog roast, a Best Dressed Boat competition and the marina's first boat jumble, bringing together people who have played a part in the marina's story over the past quarter of a century. The celebrations provided an opportunity to not only reflect on Watchet Marina's history, but also on the significant progress made since Western Marinas acquired the site in September 2024. Over the past 18 months, a sustained programme of investment has focused on restoring confidence, improving reliability and creating a marina fit for the future.

Recent improvements include the installation of new hammerhead pontoons, a complete replacement of the pontoon electrical, water and lighting infrastructure, new pontoon safety ladders, a vehicle access barrier and new washroom windows. Work is also progressing on the marina gate operating system, with further improvements planned, including a new fuel pump, marina gateway access ladders and refurbishment of the marina washrooms.

These latest improvements build on extensive work already completed since Western Marinas took ownership of the marina, including a major dredging programme, the restoration of fuel sales, reinstatement of key services such as gas, hot water and Wi-Fi, extensive health and safety improvements, the clearance of large areas of the boatyard and improved access across the site following years of underinvestment.

Johara Sykes-Dale,

Managing Director of Western Marinas, comments, “Celebrating Watchet Marina's 25th anniversary feels particularly special because it's given us the opportunity to reflect on just how much progress has been made since we took over. When we acquired the marina, our priority was to get the fundamentals right. We've invested heavily in the infrastructure, improved reliability and focused on creating a marina that berth holders can have confidence in, while laying the foundations for the future.

“There is still more to do, but seeing so many berth holders, visitors and members of the local community come together to celebrate this milestone was a wonderful reminder of how much this marina means to people. Their support gives us great confidence as we continue investing in Watchet and building on the progress we've made.”

Martin Stevens, who has berthed in Watchet for more than 40 years, adds, “I'm over the moon with the progress that's been made. Western Marinas has

done what they said they would and while there are still improvements to come, they've proved they're here for the right reasons. It's great to celebrate everything that's been achieved and I'm looking forward to seeing the marina fill up again as more people discover what a wonderful place Watchet is.”

As Watchet Marina enters its next chapter, Western Marinas remains committed to a long-term programme of investment aimed at improving facilities, enhancing the

customer experience and ensuring the marina continues to play an important role in both the local community and the wider Bristol Channel boating network. Twenty-five years after first opening, the marina is looking firmly to the future, with continued investment helping to ensure it remains at the heart of Watchet's community for many years to come.

For more information visit
www.westernmarinas.co.uk



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WHAT MARINA OPERATORS NEED FROM SMART INFRASTRUCTURE IN 2027

For marina operators, infrastructure has traditionally meant pontoons, utility pedestals, shore power, water supplies, access systems and boatyard equipment.

All remain essential. But as we approach 2027, good marina infrastructure needs to do more than simply function. It should provide clearer information, reduce administration, support better customer service and help inform future investment.

The smartest marina will not necessarily be the one with the most technology. It will be the one where technology solves genuine operational problems.

Infrastructure that can adapt

Marinas are managing increasingly complex demands. Electrical loads are changing, customers expect more digital services and many sites are operating infrastructure installed over several decades.

Operators need to understand where demand is growing, when peaks occur and which areas may require investment. Without reliable data, there is a risk of either underinvesting in critical infrastructure or committing capital before it is genuinely needed.

Flexibility is therefore essential. Systems installed today should be capable of adapting as customer expectations, vessel technology and site requirements continue to change.

Better visibility and faster intervention

There is no shortage of technology capable of collecting data. The real value comes from turning information into action. Smart infrastructure can give marina teams a clearer view of electricity and water consumption, utility pedestal status and equipment performance.

An unusual increase in electricity use may indicate a fault or unexpected load. Continuous water flow could suggest a leak. A communications issue can be flagged before a customer reports a problem. Real-time alerts do not replace experienced marina teams. They help them focus attention where it is most needed and respond more quickly.

Reducing administration

Some of the strongest business cases for smart infrastructure come from removing repetitive work. Manual meter readings, spreadsheet reconciliation, estimated utility charges and customer queries all take time. Smart utility management can

provide remote meter readings and real-time visibility of consumption, while giving berth holders access to their own usage and account information.

This allows marina teams to spend less time managing utilities and more time on customers, safety, maintenance and the wider operation of the site.

Accurate utility data can also support environmental and investment decisions. Operators can establish a baseline, monitor trends, identify unusual consumption and understand whether efficiency measures are working. The same information can highlight seasonal demand and areas where investment may be required, supporting decisions around electrical upgrades, water infrastructure, maintenance and capital expenditure.

At Metpow, we believe smart infrastructure should start with the operational problem, not the technology.

By 2027, it should be judged by the outcomes it delivers:

better visibility, faster intervention, less administration, clearer customer information and more informed decision-making. That is what will make marina infrastructure genuinely smart.

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“ PLYMOUTH BOAT FEST 2026

Showcases the South West's Marine Strength to Record Crowds

Plymouth Boat Fest 2026, powered by Marine AI, delivered another standout celebration of the region's vibrant maritime sector this weekend, as thousands of visitors gathered at Plymouth Yacht Haven for a full day of boating, marine technology and family-friendly fun on-the-water. Building on the success of last year's inaugural event,

the Fest returned bigger and more diverse, with more than 60 exhibitors, expanded pontoon displays and a packed programme of live demonstrations.

“We couldn't have asked for a better day,” said Steve Cox, Marina Manager at Plymouth Yacht Haven and event organiser. “It was brilliant to see so many people down on the waterfront, chatting with exhibitors, getting

out on the water and simply enjoying everything the event had to offer. There's a real buzz around Plymouth's marine sector at the moment and Boat Fest is a great chance to bring everyone together and celebrate what makes it so special.”

Marine Technology & Future Skills

A major focus of this year's event was the Marine Technology Zone,

reflecting Plymouth's growing reputation as the UK's home of maritime autonomy. Exhibitors including Marine AI, Fugro, OSHEN, and Plymouth Marine Laboratory demonstrated cutting-edge systems in robotics, AI and autonomous vessel technology.

A strong emphasis on employability ran throughout the zone, with Marine AI showcasing their autonomous software and SeaRegs Training offering guidance for those exploring marine careers. Visitors had the opportunity to speak directly with engineers, software developers and marine technicians, gaining insight into the expanding opportunities within the sector.

On the Pontoons

The onwater exhibition area was expanded for 2026 due to demand from exhibitors, supported by Plymouth Marine Centre. Visitors were able to step aboard an impressive range of vessels, including The Island Trust's 96ft tall ship Johanna Lucretia, WetWheels' fully accessible powerboat, a wide selection of RIBs and leisure craft from Wolf Rock Boat Company and Wills Marine and a stunning Dazcat 1495 racing catamaran built in Cornwall.

Plymouth RNLI, Cattewater Harbour Commissioners and Devon & Cornwall Police also opened their vessels to the public, offering a rare behind-the-scenes look at the region's emergency response and harbour operations.

Marine Leisure, Community Activities & Live Demonstrations

Shoreside exhibitors, led by new partner Haven Knox|Johnston, showcased the breadth of the West Country's marine leisure and services sector, from rigging and repairs to brokerage, conservation and equipment suppliers.

Throughout the day, visitors enjoyed a lively schedule of demonstrations, including autonomous vessel displays by Marine AI, efoiling with Efoil UK, flare demonstrations by SeaRegs Training, and live exercises from the Plymouth RNLI team. Plym Yacht Club's junior sailors took to the water to showcase their dinghy racing skills, while



families joined rowing taster sessions with Cattewater Gig Club, Mount Batten Boat House Chandlery ran liferaft inflations and a marinethemed treasure hunt hosted by the Ocean Conservation Trust.

Looking Ahead

With strong support from exhibitors, partners and the local community, organisers say the event has firmly established itself as a key fixture in Plymouth's maritime calendar.

“The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive,” said Steve Cox. “We're proud to bring the marine sector together and to welcome so many people to Plymouth Yacht Haven. Planning for 2027 starts now!”

To find out more visit
www.plymouthboatfest.co.uk

“Cold Water Awareness: Why every Marina Team needs more than a lifejacket

Recent reports have provided a stark reminder of the risks associated with open water. Between 24 and 31 May 2026, 19 people tragically lost their lives in accidental water-related incidents across the UK.

While these events often make headlines, they highlight a wider issue. Every year, hundreds of people drown accidentally in the UK, many following an unexpected fall into the water - often within just a few metres of safety.

For those working in marinas, boatyards and harbours, cold water is an occupational hazard that deserves the same attention as working at height or fire safety. Yet one of the greatest dangers isn't simply the water itself - it's how the body responds to sudden immersion.

The Hidden Risk of Cold Water Shock

Cold water shock is an involuntary physiological response that occurs within seconds of entering cold water.

It can trigger an uncontrollable gasp reflex, rapid breathing, a sharp rise in heart rate and an immediate decline in clear thinking and coordination.

Professor Mike Tipton, one of the UK's leading experts in cold water survival, describes the first minute after immersion as critical. If breathing becomes uncontrolled, panic can quickly take over, dramatically reducing the chances of self-rescue.

According to the National Water Safety Forum, cold water shock contributes to more than



half of accidental drownings in the UK, while around 40% of victims never intended to enter the water. For marina teams working on pontoons, quaysides and docks, this is a very real workplace risk.

Beyond Traditional Water Safety

Lifejackets, inductions, risk assessments and rescue equipment remain essential, but they don't prepare people for the physiological effects of accidental immersion.

Increasingly, marina owners and operators are recognising



that understanding how the body responds under pressure - and learning simple, memorable techniques to manage that response - strengthens existing safety procedures and improves operational readiness.

Three Practical Water Safety Tips for Marina Teams

Many of the risks can be reduced through a combination of awareness, preparation and good operational practice and adopting a few simple principles can significantly improve safety and response if the unexpected happens.

- Respect cold water all year round. UK waters remain cold enough to trigger cold water shock, even during summer.
- Wear the right PPE every time. A correctly fitted lifejacket should be as routine as wearing safety boots or a hard hat.
- Prepare before an emergency. Know where rescue equipment is located, understand emergency procedures and practise them regularly as a team.

Looking Ahead

The marina sector has made significant progress in improving water safety. The next step is recognising that effective safety

is not only about equipment and procedures - it's also about understanding human physiology under pressure.

Cold Water Awareness compliments existing health and safety practices by helping teams develop the confidence, knowledge and practical skills to respond more effectively when the unexpected happens.

About the Author

Dan Hughes is Co-Founder of Vitae Vi, a Wim Hof Method Academy Certified Instructor and Advanced Oxygen Advantage Breathwork Coach. Drawing on more than 25 years' experience in the marina industry, he developed one of the UK's first bespoke Cold Water Awareness programmes for marina and dock operations, helping organisations strengthen operational readiness through practical, evidence-based training.

Contact Dan via email for more information
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Sources

- National Water Safety Forum (NWSF) – Water Incident Database (WAID) Annual Fatality Report
- Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) – Water Safety Guidance
- Tipton, M. J. – Cold Water Survival (Human Kinetics)





“ Marinas as Emerging Hubs for Citizen Science and Coastal Observation

While marinas have traditionally been viewed as commercial and recreational infrastructure, attention is turning to their potential to serve as operational hubs for environmental monitoring at the land-sea interface, the complex transition zone where terrestrial and marine ecosystems meet.

TransEurope Marinas is exploring this role as a partner in LandSeaLot, an EU Horizon Europe project integrating satellite and in-situ data, hydrodynamic models, and citizen science to resolve gaps in coastal monitoring. Satellites and models offer valuable large-scale data, but they cannot capture every local change in coastal waters.

Marinas can help complete the picture by engaging boaters and staff in simple observations, using low-cost tools such as sensors on fixed infrastructure or manual readings, providing safe, ready access to local waters that are often hard or costly for scientists to reach.

Benefitting from the reach of its extensive network, TransEurope aims to test how

low-cost, accessible monitoring tools can be integrated within marina life. The objective is to establish whether routine data collection by boaters and marina staff can support marine science, either by means of installing sensors on fixed infrastructure, or contributing manual observations.

Piloting the approach across four south coast marinas

A recent visit led by TransEurope researcher Amina Kechuindi explored this potential across four marinas on the UK's south coast, all Five Gold Anchor-accredited and located near multiple conservation designations. Demonstrations covered a midi Secchi disk, which measures water clarity and colour to flag changes in water quality and a temperature logger for continuous submerged readings.

At Poole Quay Boat Haven, which welcomes over 8,000 visiting yachts annually, managers Kerrie Grey and Tom Killick saw strong potential for engaging boaters in citizen science, noting how easy the tools were to use, allowing anyone to contribute directly to research on changing seas, while Kerrie highlighted the marina's reach as an educational platform for the wider boating public.

At Cowes Yacht Haven, run by the community-focused Cowes Town Waterfront Trust, Managing Director Daniel Jehan indicated their contribution to seagrass restoration work under the LIFE Recreation ReMEDIES project and reported boater



curiosity in local marine life. He welcomed the prospect of trialling EnvLoggers on settlement plates to study how rising temperatures may accelerate biofouling, affecting both marina infrastructure and boats.

Conservation and stewardship in practice

Emsworth Yacht Harbour is one of the UK's oldest marinas with a strong berth-holder community. Staff and local boaters showed enthusiasm for the Secchi disk as a means to chart water clarity and serve as an educational resource. EnvLoggers are currently being deployed to monitor oyster growth conditions, compared across different locations.

At Buckler's Hard Yacht Harbour on the Beaulieu River, within the New Forest National Park, Harbour Master Wendy Stowe and Estate Warden Matt Phillips described extensive existing conservation work, including seal monitoring, salt marsh management and water testing across six sites. The marina already operates a solar-powered sensor providing real-time water height and pressure data, suggesting strong potential to integrate boaters into established monitoring efforts.

Next steps

Three months into the UK initiative, interest is growing among boating, conservation, and academic stakeholders. The focus now is on keeping data collection simple and feasible for marina teams and embedding citizen science into routine marina operations in ways that strengthen existing environmental practices.

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