

Marinas and the river environment

At the inaugural meeting of the inquiry Dr Rumble from Wessex Rivers Trust outlined a number of sources of pollution impacting on water quality within the River Itchen. This included pollution from marinas and related activity.

In expectation that this would be raised at the 17 November meeting the Scrutiny Manager contacted MDL Marinas, who manage 19 marinas, including Saxon Wharf, Shamrock Quay and Ocean Village Marina on the River Itchen, to develop the Panel's understanding of actions that are being taken to reduce the impact of marinas on the environment.

The following information was provided by Tim Mayer, MDL Marinas Sales and Marketing Director:

Clean before you leave campaign

This is a very simple campaign across the marinas and boatyards to reduce the volume of non-native species invading the river or other local waterways. If you go to any of the marinas on the Itchen you will see the campaign posters.

Water Filtration systems

We've installed filtration systems to clean wastewater from boatyard activities, improving local water quality. Currently these are installed at Cobbs Quay, Northney, Shamrock Quay, Hamble point and Dartside Quay. These will continue to roll out through the estate.

Zero waste to landfill

We've full recycling and waste management facilities at all our marinas, including hazardous waste where we have a 100% zero waste to landfill policy. We're increasing the amount and type of waste we can recycle, from food to ferrous metals, which will then be transformed into new products or used to generate electricity. We implement environmental audits and checks on a periodic basis ensuring less waste is hitting the river. We're playing our part in helping to

Help stop the spread of Invasive Marine Species

CLEAN BEFORE YOU LEAVE

In Great Britain there are approximately 2,000 non-native species, about 300 of these are invasive.

While the majority of non-native species pose little or no risk, some can significantly impact our native biodiversity through competition and disease and cause damage to boats, fouling hard surfaces such as hulls and clogging up boat engines and props.

A few easy steps can prevent the spread of invasive species:

- CLEAN** off aquatic plants and animals from your boat, anchor and equipment before leaving the area
- LEARN** to identify common invasive species and report them to the marina office

Common invading species to look out for:

- Tufty-buff Bryozoan
- Trumpet Tube Worm
- Carpet Sea Squirt
- Tubeworm

DID YOU KNOW? An estimated 7,000 species are carried around the world in ballast water every day! Can you help reduce this number?

Cleaning your boat regularly will help stop the spread! Speak to one of the MDL team to find out more about how to clean your boat properly. Thank you for protecting our waters.

MDL MARINAS mdlmarinas.co.uk/greener-marinas

reduce plastic and waste emanating from our marinas through education, and the continued provision of secure waste and recycling receptacles

Native Oyster Restoration

We're helping replenish the Solent's oyster population by supporting the Blue Marine Foundation's (BLUE) innovative conservation project, bringing employment opportunities and creating cleaner waters for cruising on the Solent. BLUE is a charity dedicated to restoring the ocean to health by addressing overfishing, one of the world's biggest environmental problems. Their vision is a healthy ocean forever, for everyone. We have cages installed across the Hamble River and at Shamrock Quay in the Itchen.

Beneficial Disposal of Dredge Material

As with many marinas globally, our marinas are subject to ongoing siltation and require regular dredging to maintain water depths. We're working with harbour authorities and councils local to our marinas to redistribute the dredge from our sites, helping to build mudflat levels where needed, encouraging saltmarshes to re-establish, and increasing flora and fauna.

Green Tech Boat Show

Returning for a third year, The Green Tech Boat Show will be moving to Ocean Village Marina April 21st – 23rd 2023. The show is specifically designed for boat owners wishing to make the switch to greener options, and prospective owners who'd like to start their boating journey in the most environmentally friendly way possible. The event presents information in a practical way, showcased next to other green technologies. This will allow consumers to understand what the total offering could be, and how they can help the environment by investing in green technology today.

Future Research – Drive in Boat Wash

As you will know leaching from the anti-fouling paints used to prevent the build-up of micro-organisms, algae or plants (known as biofouling) on boat hulls can have negative consequences for marine habitats and is a source of water pollution. We are currently researching methods of efficient antifouling without biocides but also systems that remove the need for antifoul all together. One of these methods is drive in boat washes. These machines are designed to stop using copper based and other harmful antifouling paint all together. The concept is to get boaters to convert away from paint. To give this a realistic chance we need to let boaters clean their boats for a time period before they are required to remove their old paint. For 30 days, one boat, by just sitting in the river can release $30 \times 1.44 = 43.2$ g/copper. That is equivalent to per year 0.525 kg copper (365 days \times 1.44) per boat (if the boat hull is 36 m²). We are hoping to work with local authorities to find suitable locations to locate the (to my knowledge) UK's first Drive in Boat wash.

This is not the extent of MDL Marinas activity to support the environment but provides an overview of a number of key initiatives.