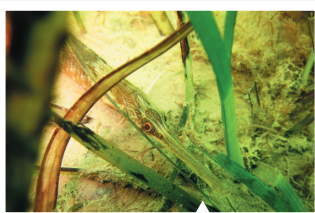


## Why care about Seagrass?

Seagrass meadows are an important, wildlife-rich habitat and breeding ground for some very special sea-life including sea-horses, pipefish and cuttlefish.

The swaying stems create a sanctuary and safe nursery for young fish such as endangered undulate rays and commercially important bream and bass, while the seagrass itself is food for brent geese and other wildfowl. A dazzling variety of marine animals also make their home here, from shrimps and crabs to colourful sea anemones and peacock worms.

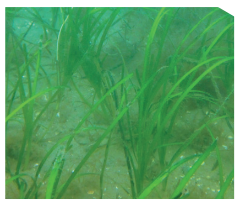


The underwater meadows are important for us too by protecting the coast from erosion, sustaining commercial fish stocks and trapping CO<sub>2</sub>, helping the fight against climate change.

By keeping disturbance to a minimum we can help this complex and fragile wildlife community to thrive in our coastal waters.



**Plan your approach with care to avoid damaging your boat, your pride and the seabed!**



- Know your depth and draft. Smaller craft can reach shallower areas
- Check the tides. If in doubt slow down and use extra caution when boating on a low tide.
- If you run into a seagrass flat, you will leave a sediment trail behind your boat, making the water murky and probably cutting seagrass roots. Stop immediately and lift your engine. Paddle away until clear. Never use your engine to force your way through. It will damage the seagrass and your engine!
- If you run aground on seagrass, wait for the tide to lift you off again. Excessive use of the throttle in an effort to shift the boat will cause significant damage to the seagrass.

**If in doubt, anchor out!**

**If in doubt, prop out!**



**Developed in collaboration with:**



**Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust**  
Protecting wildlife. Inspiring people.



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**Or visit our website: [www.rya.org.uk](http://www.rya.org.uk)**

## Studland Bay



# ANCHORING WITH CARE



## What can boaters do to help?

1.

Choose an anchorage away from the most dense areas on the map. Deploy your anchor correctly to avoid drag.

2.

Use the appropriate length of chain and warp. The correct length can help to reduce scouring.

3.

If your anchor is dragging, raise it and re-anchor. If it continues to drag, choose a different anchorage.

4.

Even if you think the anchor is holding well, check it periodically to make sure it is not dragging.

5.

Raise your anchor correctly when leaving. Firstly check to see how the boat is lying.

If the boat is pulling back away from the anchor, you may need to slowly motor towards the anchor as the crew pulls in the slack and raises the anchor.

6.

Good crew communication is essential to avoid overrunning and fouling the prop.

7.

Bring the anchor and line on-board, and stow it away ready for immediate redeployment.

