

RNSA Portland
Winter moorings inspection

This winter the entire EM trot was dropped to the seabed marked by pickup buoys fitted with wire risers. (This was an attempt to stop fishermen cutting them off) This was done just after the boats came off the moorings, early part of November. The surface buoys were power washed and stored in the container over the winter. Mid March all 10 risers were re lifted and the Mooring buoys refitted. This gave the risers about 4 months on the seabed.

All so in March the underwater inspection was carried out by Apex Diving, this was the first time for them to do our winter inspection work. We have a report for each riser from top to the bottom plus a video to show all the riser and bottom connection to the ground chain. Before the boats returned in April.

This year's boat numbers are down on last years so it has been possible for me to fit all the boats on 3 trots. So again in March we have dropped all 10 W trot risers to the seabed marked with the pickup buoys. They will stay on the bottom till next March giving them a full years rest. This is going to help with the life span of the risers, plus the surface mooring buoys.

As we have found this year it is quite a simple operation to remove and refit mooring buoys. I therefore ask that every year the mooring buoys are removed and refitted at the start of the following year. Going back to the way it had been some years ago, this doesn't mean that they are done on the day the boats come ashore. Even if we started by doing 2 trots a winter.

This will keep costs down by not having our risers grinding themselves away over winter and extend the life of the mooring buoys.

If we say the risers will last 4 years, then by dropping them for 4 months every year should extend the working life by 1 if not 2 years, over 4 years. WHAT A SAVING. This is helped by having a secure Container where work can be done over the winter time. The only cost we would have to lay out would be pickup buoys; I think they were around £30 or under a buoy, cheaper than chain plus labour

I feel that it has to be down to all members to take part in this (boat owners),

John Hasker
Mooring Sec
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