

**MAIN KEY**

Anchorage	East Cardinal Buoy	Channels
Moorings	South Cardinal Buoy	High speed areas
Marina	North Cardinal Buoy	Swimming areas
Sailing Club	West Cardinal Buoy	Coastal path
Slipway	Seagrass Beds	Keep clear, diver below
Starboard Hand Buoy	Main Avocet Beds	Seaward boundary of 10 knot speed limit (vessels under 15m)
Port Hand Buoy	Main roosting sites	Road/rail bridges
Starboard Hand Beacon	SPA/SAC/SSSI/MCZ protected areas	Speed limit (knots)
Port Hand Beacon	Intertidal area	Ferry routes
Beacon	Anchoring and Fishing prohibited	

**NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION**

**THE GREEN BLUE CODE OF CONDUCT**

- Follow these boating top tips to help safeguard our marine environment:
- Never allow rubbish to go overboard.
  - Ensure oil and fuel do not enter the water. Install a bilge filter and keep a spill kit on-board to clean up any accidental spills.
  - Use onshore toilets where possible.
  - Keep your distance from wildlife, get hold of 'The Green Wildlife Guide for Boaters'.
  - Choose anchoring sites carefully and avoid areas of Seagrass (shown on map).
  - Use low phosphate, environmentally-friendly products.
  - Recycle everyday waste.
  - Safely dispose of waste from maintenance, e.g. antifoul scrapings into hazardous waste bins.



**MARINE ANIMALS**

Dolphins, porpoises and basking sharks can be seen in the Plymouth Sound and attract attention from boat users. However, these creatures are susceptible to disturbance. If you are lucky enough to see them, follow these basic rules:

- Let them decide what happens
- Keep your distance and never go closer than 100m
- Never drive head-on to, or separate, groups of animals

It is illegal to deliberately or recklessly disturb, harass or endanger them. Please report any such incidents to the Police stating boat details (type, colour, name etc.) or car registration of the towing vehicle.

**JETSKIS**

- Jetski users have a duty to look out for others and to ensure they ride in a safe and responsible manner:
- Keep clear of the main channels around the Port of Plymouth.
  - Comply with the speed limits.
  - Be aware of the main slipways for launching.
  - Avoid bathing areas, which are clearly marked with yellow buoys during the summer season. If passage through a bathing area is absolutely necessary then craft must not exceed 4 knots, and must proceed with extreme caution, giving way to swimmers.

More information can be found at [www.plymouth-mpa.uk/activities](http://www.plymouth-mpa.uk/activities)

**LYNHER ESTUARY**

The estuary is fringed by valuable remnants of semi-natural ancient woodland. Its salt marsh together with its highly productive mudflats provide feeding and roosting grounds for wintering wildfowl and waders. The estuary is particularly valuable for dunlin, curlew, spotted redshank, grey plover, little egret and avocet. It is also a good place to see the main duck species of the Plymouth waters; widgeon, teal, mallard, pintail and shelduck.

**ST JOHN'S LAKE**

The extensive tidal flats of the lake support the greatest number of estuarine birds in Cornwall. Thousands of birds overwinter here. It is notable for its oystercatcher, dunlin, whimbrel, grey plover and shelduck numbers and, in Spring and Autumn, for its migrating terns.



**RECREATIONAL ANGLING AND FISHING PERMITS**

Plymouth's waterways offer some of the best sea angling in the country but fishery byelaws are changing quickly. Keep up to date by visiting the Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority websites for Devon & Severn (D&SIFCA), and Cornwall: [www.devonandsevernifca.gov.uk](http://www.devonandsevernifca.gov.uk) and [www.cornwall-ifca.gov.uk](http://www.cornwall-ifca.gov.uk)

**Potting, netting and diving byelaws**

A permit must be obtained from D&SIFCA before undertaking these activities:

- Potting: any person using pots to fish.
- Diving: any person diving to remove crab, lobster or scallops.
- Netting: any person using nets to catch fish.

Permit conditions restrict these activities and it is important to know what measures are in place.

**Bass angling**

The bass population is under threat so there are restrictions to limit the bass caught by recreational anglers. Presently, from the 1 April to the 31 October 2019, not more than one seabass may be retained per fisherman per day. Catch and release at all other times. Regulations do change so visit the IFCA website(s) for current restrictions.

**PROTECTING OUR SEAGRASS**



There are six seagrass beds in Plymouth Sound and Tamar Estuaries. Growing in sheltered shallow locations, seagrass is considered one of the most productive habitats in the marine environment and plays an important part in commercial fish life cycles, but it is in rapid decline. Seagrass also harbours several rare British species of fish as well as providing habitat for the two native species of seahorses.

- Please avoid damaging seagrass beds:
- Avoid anchoring in known seagrass locations. If completely necessary please follow the Green Blue anchoring guidelines.
  - Avoid travelling over seagrass in shallow waters.

If divers are monitoring these locations please consider the divers' safety.

The Community Seagrass Initiative is using volunteers to monitor these vital locations for health of the habitat. If you feel you can contribute towards a science programme monitoring these locations visit [www.csi-seagrass.co.uk](http://www.csi-seagrass.co.uk)

**THE RIVER PLYM CODE OF CONDUCT**

The following codes of conduct have been agreed between representatives of the water sports involved, the Plymouth City Council Pier Master and the Queen's Harbour Master:

Small craft may exceed the speed limit for the purposes of water skiing in the area off Chelson Meadow marked by yellow buoys.

Sailboards should launch from the East Beach at Saltram and proceed up river to keep clear of the water-ski area and return by the same route.

All craft not water-skiing should, for their own safety, keep clear of the water-ski area, although the above notice does not give exclusive use to water-skiers. All craft should give a wide berth to the narrow rowing shells and avoid creating a wash in their vicinity. Rowing shells are very fragile, have a low freeboard and are most unmanoeuvrable. All craft are to keep clear of existing moorings and avoid passing through them unless proceeding to or from those moorings.

Board sailing is prohibited east of a line drawn between the Navigation Light Tower at Sparrows Quay to the Yacht Haven Marina hoist up to Laira Bridge.

Reports of accidents or near misses should be made to Longroom by telephone or VHF.

**SIX RNLI TIPS FOR SAFE TRIPS:**

- 1) Training: Knowledge of your activity is essential
- 2) Wear a lifejacket: A life statement, not a fashion one – wear it
- 3) SOS device: Carry a means of calling for help
- 4) Tides and weather: Check the conditions before heading out
- 5) Engine and fuel check: Have you sufficient fuel and spares?
- 6) Inform: Tell others where you are going.

Find out more at [www.rnli.org/safety/respect-the-water](http://www.rnli.org/safety/respect-the-water)

The British Sub Aqua Club (BSAC) and RNLI provide online advice for safe and responsible diving: [www.bsac.com](http://www.bsac.com) [www.rnli.org/safety/choose-your-activity/scuba-diving](http://www.rnli.org/safety/choose-your-activity/scuba-diving)

For more information go to [www.nonnativespecies.org](http://www.nonnativespecies.org) or [www.thegreenblue.org.uk/Boat-Users/Antifoul-and-Invasive-Species](http://www.thegreenblue.org.uk/Boat-Users/Antifoul-and-Invasive-Species)  
Photo credits: Community Seagrass Initiative, Plymouth City Council, Plym Blue Sound Project, Keith Hiscock, Paul Naylor, Naomi Mottram, Sally Sharrock, David Hodder



