



Manchester-by-the-Sea Harbormaster **Harbormaster**

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The Waterline

Greetings Boaters,

Labor Day has come and gone, children are headed back to school, and some boaters are done for the season, TIME TO GO SAILING!

Waterfront Rescue

Kudos to Officer Migneault of the Manchester Police Department. While on recent foot patrol Officer Migneault heard a cry for help in the harbor. Responding immediately he retrieved an elderly gentleman who had fallen into the water and could not get out on his own. His quick action prevented something far worse from happening. Manchester is fortunate to have such astute and attentive officers watching over the town. The Harbormaster Department is grateful to the Police Department for all your efforts!

A Local Champion

Congratulations to Will Brown of Manchester, the newly crowned New England paddle board champion. You can often spot Will paddling through the harbor, always with a lifejacket and obeying boating rules, with other enthusiasts of the sport. He also recently participated in a Boston to Manchester paddleboard fundraising event. What's next Will, first person to cross the Atlantic Ocean on a paddleboard?

MOORINGS

It appears Manchester may be offered a unique opportunity. The construction of the new run way at Logan Airport necessitated the removal of several acres of eel grass bed. Efforts to establish new beds to mitigate the removal of the existing beds failed. Massport, in an effort to comply with environmental requirements put in place as part of permitting the new runway, identified several towns with eel grass beds with an eye to protecting these beds. As it turns out we have one of the largest eel grass beds in the region.

Massport is currently studying two different plans to protect eel grass habitat in Manchester from damage caused by traditional moorings and boat anchors.

- Replace all existing traditional block and chain moorings in Area G and part of Area F with helix style moorings that have little or no impact on eel grass. Purchase and installation cost of these moorings would be paid for by Massport. The benefit to mooring holders in these areas is clear since all new or replacement tackle in these areas must be of the low impact helix type.
- Install a number of day use recreational moorings in the area near Long Beach and the Ram Islands. I am sure many of you have noticed the increased number of boats anchored on weekends in this area of the harbor. So many in fact that the harbormaster has been forced to curtail some water-skiing and tubing activity due to safety issues, an unfortunate situation. Well planned placement of these moorings would ensure broader recreational use of this wonderful boating area traditionally enjoyed by Manchester residents.

So what does Manchester have to give up you ask? Massport would like the area at Long Beach to be designated a “No Anchor Zone” in order to protect the eel grass. Massport would fund the purchase and installation of advisory buoys. Discussion with Massport is in the earliest stages and Massport has been on one site visit with members of the HAC, mooring service companies and the Harbormaster to identify the actual eel grass beds. We have a real opportunity that will require lots of input from Manchester residents. Please contact me with any and all questions and I will update you as more information comes in.

Dredging

It is likely that final permitting for harbor dredging will be complete this Fall. Funding this project is a top priority and all avenues will be explored including increased mooring fees. Given the expected exorbitant cost of dredging and maintaining an adequate depth in the harbor, increased mooring fees cannot be ruled out. I look forward to speaking with you all about this subject and getting your insight.

Morss Pier Renovations

Work is nearing completion on the Morss Pier shelter. Ridge cap, paint and trim will finish the job.

Stop by, say hi and don't forget your lifejacket! You can follow harbor happenings on Facebook at Manchester Harbormaster Department, updated as often as is practical.