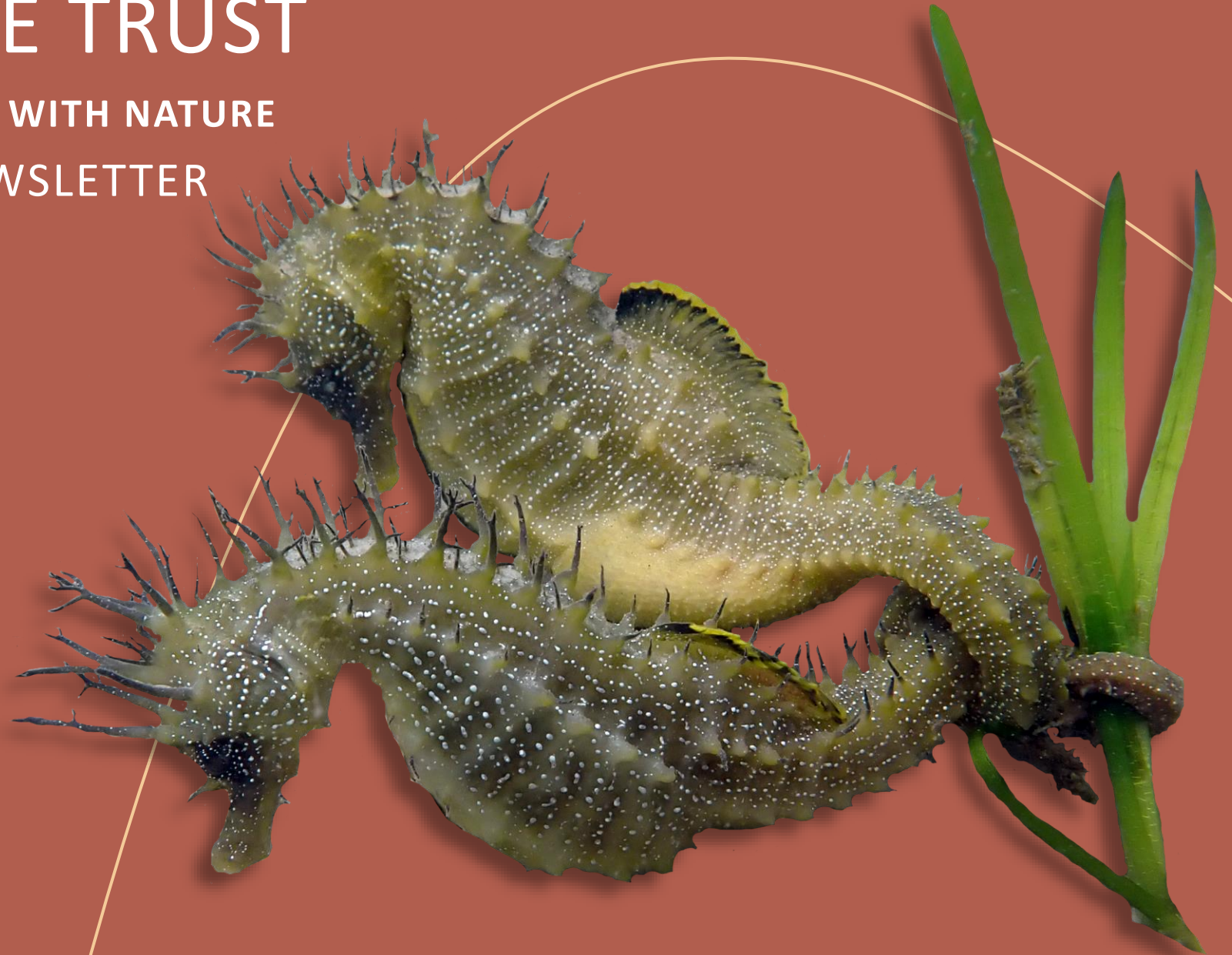


THE SEAHORSE TRUST

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NATURE

STUDLAND SPECIAL NEWSLETTER



Welcome to our Studland Bay special newsletter

Volunteers are the backbone of [The Seahorse Trust](#) and its projects, so is working in partnership with others, such as the [Studland Bay Marine Partnership](#) that we cofounded with so many others. This volunteer/partnership approach has led to The Seahorse Trust leading the way in seahorse conservation in the world. We have partnerships all over the world now, such as the USA, Malta, Denmark, Ireland, Greece, amongst others, including all over the British Isles where we now run seahorse surveys in 5 sites along the south coast.

To ensure this happens we conduct our research work under licence from the [Marine Management Organisation](#) (MMO). This is because here at the trust we achieved legal protection for British Seahorses in 2008, which means we are legally required to be licenced to look for seahorses (This applies to anyone deliberately going to look for seahorses). Under this licence we now have 15 agents and a few hundred volunteers on 5 sites who regularly go out looking for and monitoring seahorses.

There are some amazing people involved in all of this, too many to name but a massive thanks goes to Ken and Jenny at Studland and Chris and his team in Weymouth, also dive buddies Kim and Paul who have helped the project for many years and without them, we would not know so much.

Although this newsletter is about the amazing success we have had at Studland, please don't forget all the other sites we are researching, and the amount of hard work and time people are putting into that. If you feel you want to donate to, or sponsor the project, please use the QR code below or get in contact by email to thesehorsetrust@gmail.com

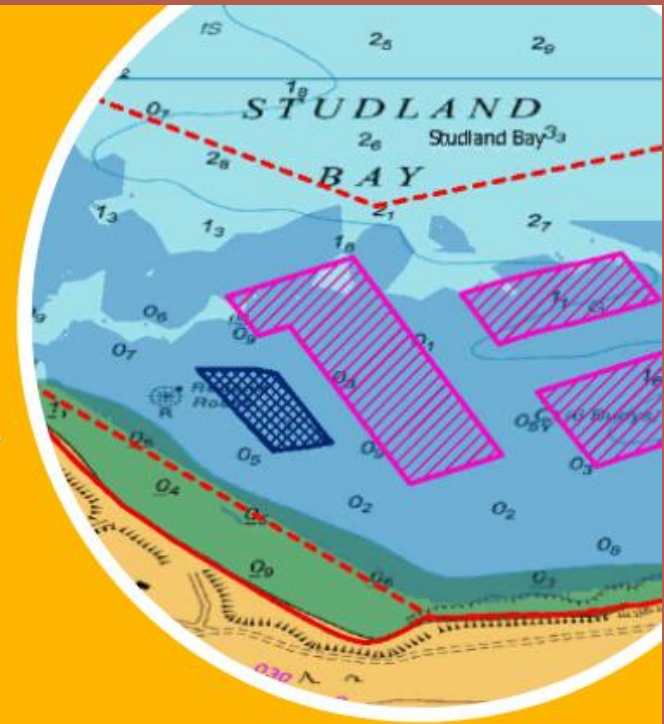
A massive thank you everyone involved in the project.



The Studland Bay Marine Partnership is a partnership of stakeholders including conservation and boating organisations, academics, grassroots community groups and supporting local businesses formed to devise a solution that meets the needs of the public and recreational boaters to continue to enjoy the bay, whilst protecting and restoring the sensitive seagrass habitat at Studland.

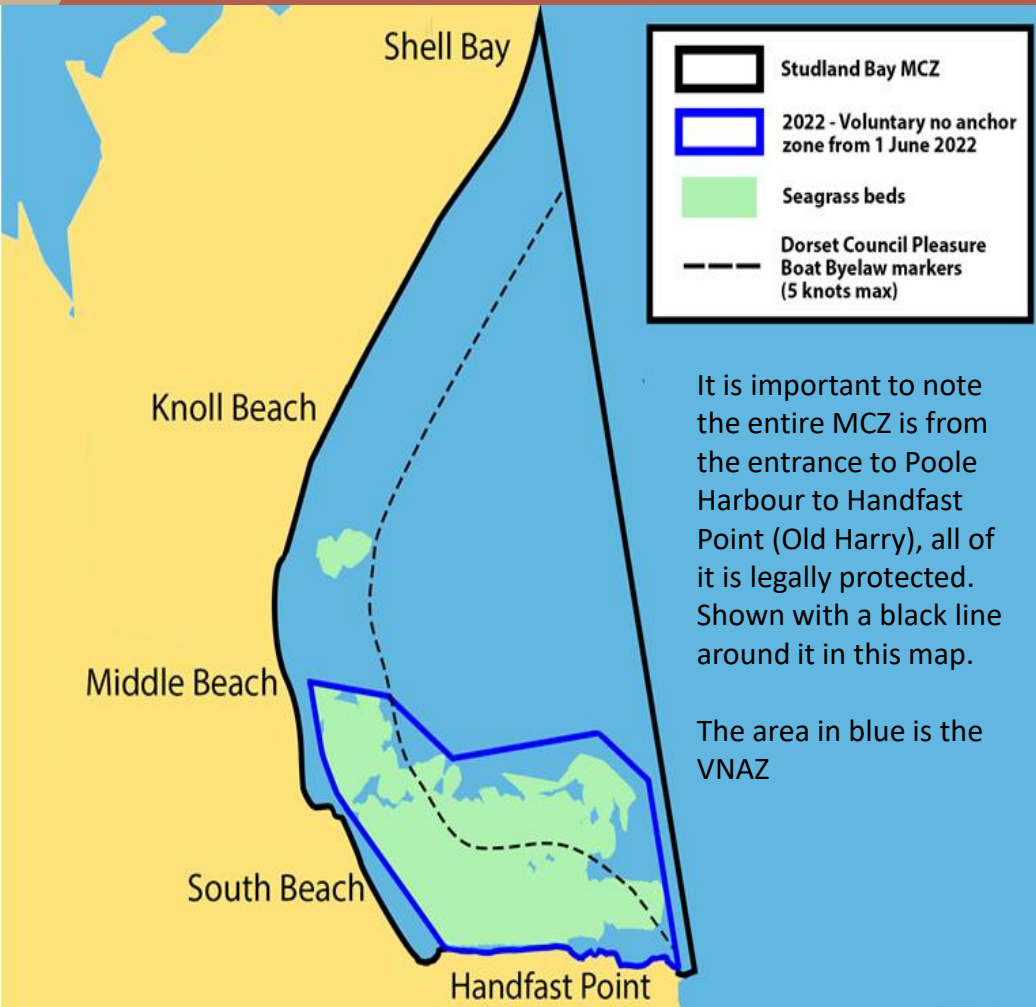


National Trust ~ University of Southampton ~
The Seahorse Trust ~ boatfolk ~ The Royal
Yachting Association ~ Local Yacht Clubs ~
Natural England ~ Planet Purbeck ~ Oceans
to Earth ~ Dorset Wildlife Trust ~ Poole
Harbour Commissioners ~ Studland Parish
Council



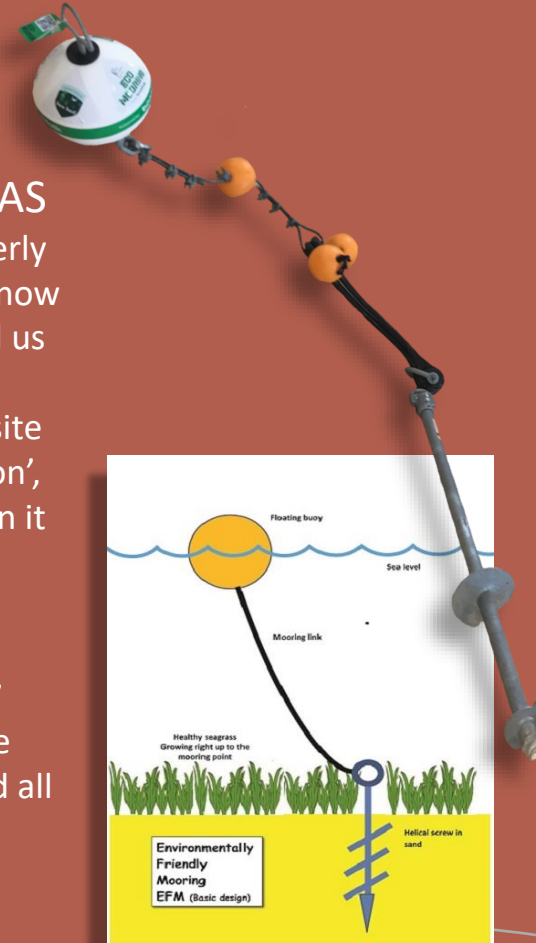
Studland's ocean meadows

The history of Studland is well documented and the problems we faced when we started work on the site in 2008 with Dr Ken Collins and Jenny Mallinson of Southampton University. It was a hard uphill struggle to achieve legal protection for the site as a Marine Conservation Zone, but it finally happened in 2019 thanks to the then Environmental Minister Michael Gove, who believed in the project and our work. Thanks to him Studland is now protected, recovering and thriving because of the hard work by so many people



BOATFOLK MARINAS

Michael Prideaux formerly from [Boatfolk Marinas](#), now of [Kew Marinas](#), helped us to install the first 10 ecomoorings onto the site to 'start the conversation', and what a conversation it started. It changed everything and the Studland Bay Marine partnership now has 87 ecomoorings on the site and they are being used all the time.



ECOMOORING

We started off with 10 ecomoorings and now there is 87, sponsored and paid for by individuals, organisations, grants and local businesses.

We even now have a pay for use scheme, which uses an app called Sippi, so we can cover the £100,000 per annum it costs to maintain and insure the ecomoorings.

An ecomooring has 3 parts, the 2-metre-long helical screw (riser) and the uni-line, which attaches to the floating buoy.



Installing the [Ecomoorings](#) was a massive team effort and involved divers and boat crew working closely together. Step one was to screw the helical screw into the seabed with a compressor.

The boat crew then assembled the [Ecomooring](#) and passed it down to the divers, who assembled the full Ecomooring underwater.

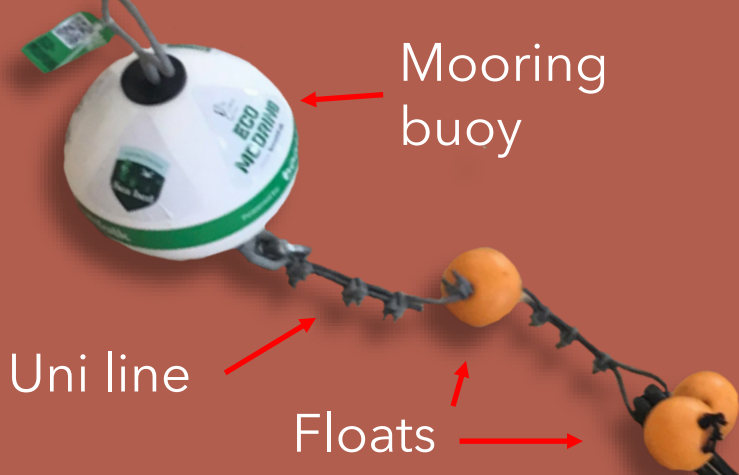
The only thing seen above the surface was the mooring buoy and the only footprint on the seabed was the top of the helical screw which was about 14 cm's across, much smaller than traditional moorings and crucially non damaging.



Conservation in action

This innovative system has made a massive difference, and Studland Bay is starting to recover, with more seahorse sightings and a healing of the anchor scars.





Mooring buoy

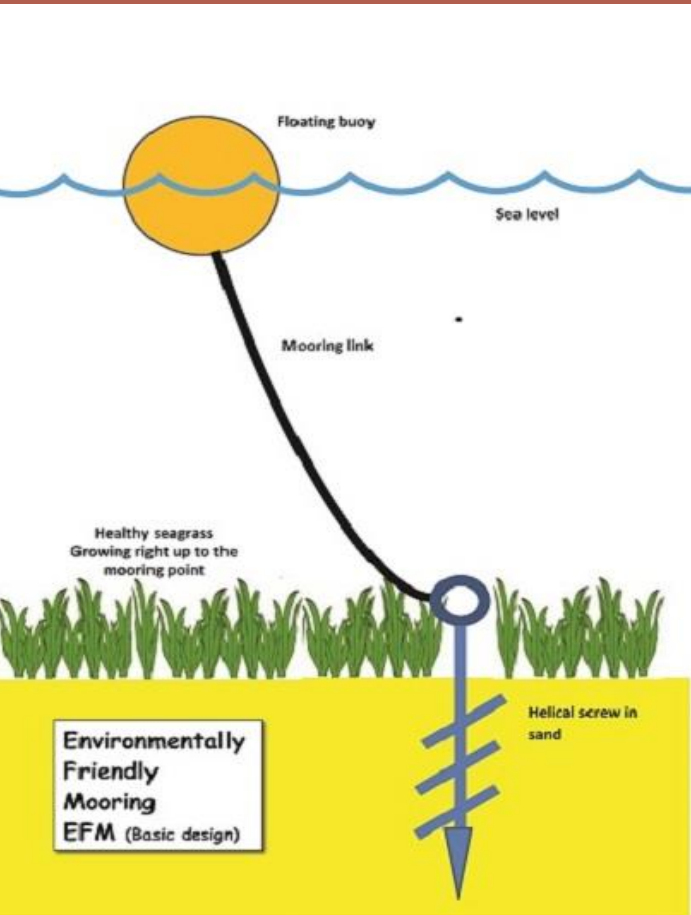
Uni line

Floats

The ecomooring is a simple, but highly effective system, with 3 main parts.

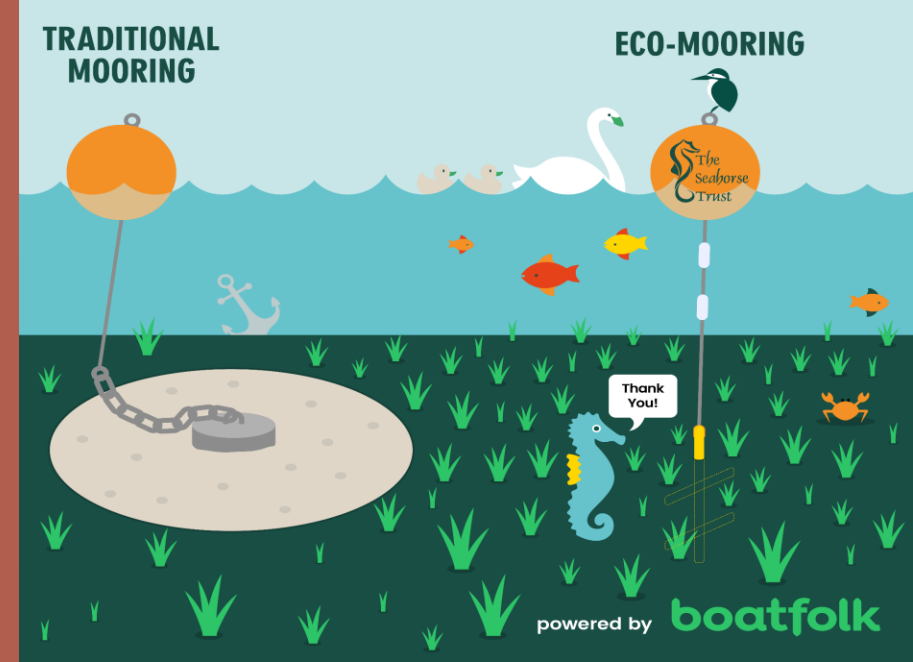
- Mooring buoy
- Elasticated rode
- Helical screw

The picture to the left shows how it fits into the seabed.



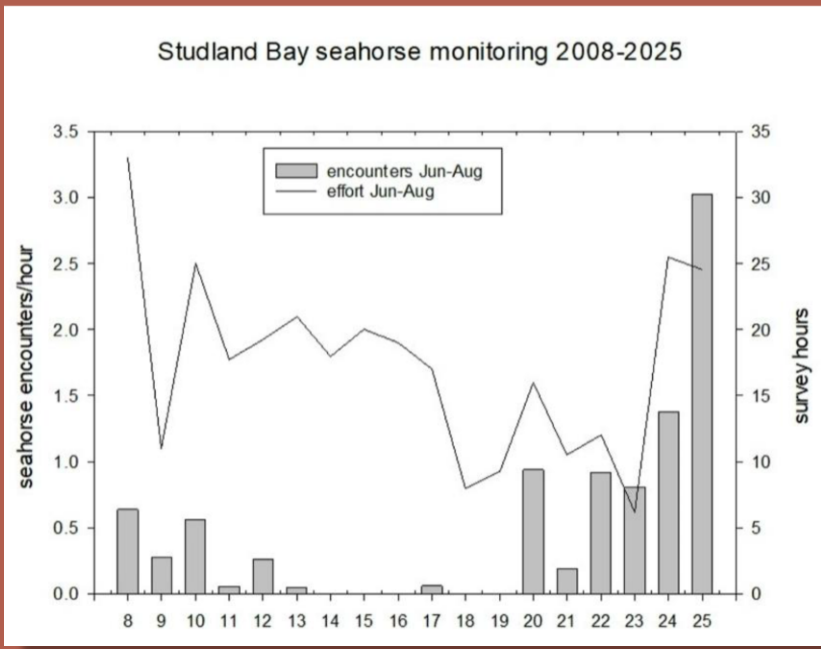
Elasticated Rode

Helical screw



Traditional block moorings with chains (left of picture above), erode a large area around the mooring block. In Studland, some of them were up to 30 metres across, with no growth around them.

Ecomoorings (top right) have very little impact, up to 14cm across, allowing seagrass to grow right up to the top of the helical screw, which sticks out of the seabed for about 10cm.



The project is starting to be a massive success and is the gold standard benchmark for similar projects around the world. We have led the way in marine conservation and habitat and species restoration.

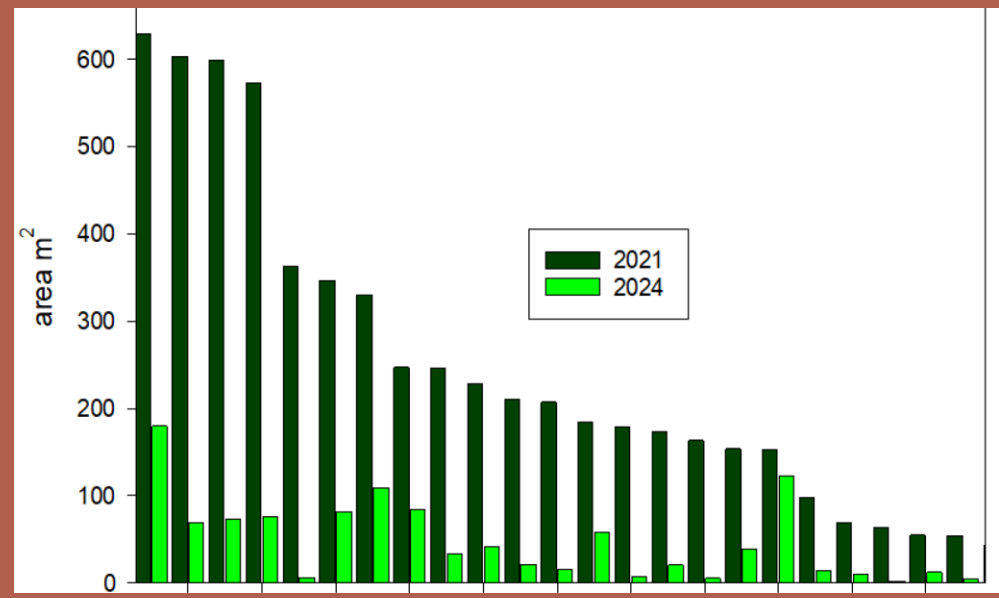
As can be seen from the graph on the left, encounters with seahorses are increasing as the seagrass repairs and the use of the ecomoorings goes up.

In time we hope to install more ecomoorings into the shallower areas. Our hope is boats just use these and no longer anchor. It takes time and cooperation but with the formation of the [SBMP](#) this is and has happened.

The chart on the right shows how anchor scar reduction has been in the area and it has surprised us as to how quickly nature is starting to restore the site. The light green columns show how much the anchor scars have shrunk in 3 years.

We are on our way to bringing [Studland Bay](#) back to a pristine site and to carefully balance the human and nature use in the bay.

Graphs thanks to Dr Ken Collins, Southampton University



Studland Bay has been a massive success

The enormous success at [Studland](#) has been down to an amazing group of people from all walks of life, coming together to work tirelessly to protect seagrass, seahorses and all the myriad of species that live there. Without the collective approach it would have not worked, and it is a great example of people power pulling together for the common good.

Thank you to everyone who has been involved at every level from Michael Gove when he was Environment Minister, to the [Studland Bay Marine Partnership](#), skilfully chaired by David Brown, to Michael Prideaux from [Kew Marinas](#), [Boatfolk Marinas](#), [Dr Ken Collins](#) and [Jenny Mallinson](#) of [Southampton University](#), to all the amazing volunteers who dive and monitor the site year upon year, especially [Kim](#) and Paul.

Working in partnership has made the difference and those green shoots of progress are being seen in the repair of the seagrass and the increased sightings of seahorses. THANK YOU ONE AND ALL.



Adoption and membership scheme online

Don't forget we run an adoption and membership scheme to help raise funds for our seahorse research, education, and conservation work. It is simple to do and can be set up online in minutes. Once you have set it up, we then send out your information pack and send you newsletters electronically a couple of times a year. Sadly, due to costs we can no longer send out the newsletter by post. <https://www.theseahorsetrust.org/adopt-a-seahorse-4/>



Seahorses Environmental Communications

For all press and media enquiries please contact Matt at [Seahorse Environmental Communications](mailto:info@seahorseenvironmental.co.uk) on info@seahorseenvironmental.co.uk Matt, Isobella and the team have been amazing over the years in their incredible support for our work. A massive thank you to them all

Your privacy

If you have received this newsletter and do not want to be on our e-mail list anymore, we are sorry to see you go. Please let us know at theseahorsetrust@gmail.com and we will remove your details ASAP. Please note, we do not sell, share or give your details to anyone else and they are held here at [The Seahorse Trust](http://www.theseahorsetrust.org/) solely so we can keep you updated with the latest news and events by the Trust.

Please check out our Privacy Statement on our website at <https://www.theseahorsetrust.org/>

These amazing organisations below and so many others support us in so many different ways.

Please click on their logos to find out more about them.



Short Snouted Seahorse
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