

Helpful Information to Applicants- Mystic River

New mooring permits are issued within designated mooring areas. These areas are depicted in the Mystic Harbor Management Plan, available as a downloadable pdf file on the Stonington town website <http://www.stonington-ct.gov/mystic-harbor-managment-commission> and Groton's' Plan- Noank Sector. The documents contain a wealth of information and are currently being updated and revised. Property owners with riparian rights or specific deeded access may be assigned a location in proximity to their access presuming space and mooring guidelines (local and state) allow. Area H currently has a moratorium on new permits, and will be eventually eliminated through attrition. I am responsible for Mooring Areas F, H, I, J, K, and M and part of the Noank Grid as well as the Groton side excluding Noank. Only the Stonington portion of the Noank Grid is under my jurisdiction, the majority being under the Noank Harbormaster's control. The Noank Grid can generally accommodate vessels with deeper draft/larger size than the other designated areas. Realize however, that this mooring area is "open water" and has little wind and wave protection – a long way to row/power a dinghy from the Stonington side over to Noank with a child on a stormy day. There is a slightly higher turnover rate in this area so please indicate if you are willing to accept a mooring there. Area K (Bay Street) is presently too saturated as boat sizes have evolved significantly larger since many of these moorings were originally issued. Most of the boats moored in that area are owned by people who reside in proximity to the mooring area and have deeded access.

Most mooring locations become available due to the death of an owner, health issues, age, or moving far away from the area. At no fee on the Groton side, and \$50/yr. the Stonington, folks hang on to their moorings, some for generations. Fees are set by the towns and commissions, not by me. Generally, if surrendered, the tackle (mooring components) is abandoned and rarely if ever is it in good enough shape to be utilized again by a potential new user. Adequate tackle, which must pass muster, can easily cost a few thousand dollars installed. Helical moorings, Mushrooms, and converted train wheels from 600-1000+ lbs., are acceptable (nothing else) and must be installed by a marina/mooring contractor. Many marinas along the Mystic River provide this service as well as contractors dedicated to doing only this. Prices and quality of materials can vary significantly so do your homework, ask questions, and compare. I cannot recommend a specific provider.

The waiting list is available to view on the Stonington MHMC website page and in the Groton Town Hall. Obviously, spots are more potentially available for certain vessels vs others so I may not follow the list in exact order, which is why some have been on the list for up to 15 years. When a mooring might become available is not something I can predict (so please don't ask), but expect a many year wait even for the easiest to place vessel and remember, many marinas rent moorings. If you refuse a spot offered you are placed at the end of the list should you wish to continue on it. To maintain a spot on the wait list you must submit a form each year. I update waiting information after established permits go out in January and are returned by late February. Applications are entered for the initial year in the order received. The form must be mailed back. If you break this continuity you are dropped from the list. I am looking into accomplishing this process online, but am not there yet. You may wish to print each online updated list as a form of a receipt for your records. Except for very rare occasions, if you didn't receive a new form to stay on the list it is because you did not maintain the continuity and it is not fair to others to reinstate you. It is also your responsibility to keep me accurately informed should your address change.

A list of Connecticut Harbor Masters with contact information, is available online on the D.E.E.P. website

Please contact the respective Harbor Master for a mooring application for their area.

Many towns have websites addressing their mooring rules, which can vary greatly from town to town. Some towns have a shorter wait time than others. In 2017 Harbor Masters were transferred from working under the DOT to the DEEP.

We wish you a safe and enjoyable boating season.

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