

Purpose -

The Town of Wareham's Waterways Regulations have been established in order to provide efficient utilization of harbor areas, to improve the safety of moored vessels, and to provide adequate space for the enjoyment of all the users of the harbors. This shall be done by controlling the placement of moorings, establishing standards for mooring tackle, and by establishing regular, systematic mooring inspections.

Section 2 - Boat Regulations, Harbor Service Permit:

No person shall keep any vessel within the waters of the Town of Wareham, held by mooring or dock without first obtaining a Harbor Service Permit from the Harbormaster. This shall include all personal watercraft. No vessel may be anchored in the waters of Wareham for more than six (6) consecutive days without the consent of the Harbormaster Department. Anchoring shall be prohibited within all designated mooring areas. Anchorage may be at the discretion of the Harbormasters Department.

There shall be an annual fee for the harbor service permit which shall be assessed annually, with such fees being established by the Board of Selectmen in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 22F.

The Harbormaster's office shall forward to each harbor service permit holder a bill indicating the due date of the fee. The bill shall be sent to allow 30 days for payment.

The Harbormaster shall issue a harbor service permit decal for the vessel listed on the permit and be displayed to identify that the annual fee has been paid. The harbor service permit shall be displayed in a location that is clearly visible at all times.

Applications for a harbor service permit may be obtained at the Harbormaster Department or on-line. A service fee will be charged for all harbor service

permit applications submitted to the Harbormaster Department.

All fees collected by the Harbormaster Department shall be deposited in a receipt reserved for appropriation account to be used to defray the costs of operating the department.

Section 2A – Boat Regulations / Mooring Regulations

All moorings shall meet the minimum standards as set forth below prior to placement. These standards are set for normal weather conditions. In the event of gale winds or stronger and/or extreme tides, it is the mooring owner's responsibility to ensure certain precautions are taken. The Town of Wareham Harbormaster Department realizes that mooring loads are variable, that it is impossible to say that all vessels of equal length require the same size mooring, and such standards cannot be applied to all vessels. The Harbormasters Department reserves the right to require a vessel owner to increase the minimum mooring standard for any vessel should they feel the minimum standard would be inadequate for the vessel because of unusual design, such as but not limited to, excessive weight, wind age, or draft. Furthermore, the Town of Wareham shall not be held liable for any damage inflicted if a minimum standard mooring fails.

All approved installations shall require the mooring system be inspected by a town approved mooring inspector prior to placement. Once the mooring system is inspected, with the approval of the Harbormaster, the available space within the requested harbor location may be designated.

The harbor service permit number shall be permanently labeled on the mooring ball and on the winter stick for identification purposes. Any mooring ball or winter stick that is not identifiable by the harbormaster may be removed from the waterways.

Wintering of mooring gear

All winter sticks shall be removed prior to June 1st of each year and any mooring having a winter stick attached after June 15th of each year shall be considered abandoned, in which case the harbormaster may remove or order the removal of the mooring. The Harbormaster may contact one or more salvage companies, who then may treat the mooring and associated ground tackle as salvage.

A reinstatement fee of \$75.00 shall be added to the Harbor Service Permit invoice if the owner would like to maintain the location after the winter stick and/or associated ground tackle is removed from the waters. The harbor service permit holder has ten days from the date of removal to contact the Harbormaster Department to reinstate the mooring. After the ten days, the harbor service permit will be revoked and the location will be issued to the next applicant on the waiting list for that area.

Any mooring that is not being used for the holding of a vessel shall be required to have a winter stick correctly attached prior to December 1st.

Permit and renewal process

Any harbor service permit not renewed prior to July 1st of each year, where the harbor service permit involves a mooring, shall be considered forfeited and any mooring, and associated ground tackle, in the waters of the Town of Wareham shall be considered abandoned. After July 1st an additional late fee of \$25.00 shall be added to the harbor service permit invoice.

If the Harbor Service Permit involving a mooring remains unpaid by August 1st, the Harbormaster shall send a notice by certified mail, return receipt requested to the primary address listed on the Harbor Service Permit. The letter will advise the permit holder of the by-law violation.

If the letter **has not been responded to** within 10 days of the mailing, the mooring and all associated

ground tackle shall be removed from the waterways. If the harbor service permits holder **responds** to the certified letter after the removal of the mooring, the permit holder may request to reinstate the mooring to the location in writing to the Harbormaster. An additional reinstatement fee of \$125.00 shall be applied, in addition to the unpaid harbor service permit and the July 1st late fee.

All moorings that are permitted by the Harbormaster to be reinstalled shall be installed in the same fashion as a new mooring installation. The Harbor Service Permit holder shall be responsible for any and all storage, inspection and installation charges that may apply with the reinstallation by a town approved mooring installer.

In the event the certified letter has remained unanswered by September 1st, the harbor service permit shall be revoked and the location may be assigned to the next person on the mooring waiting list.

Mooring Specifications

The below listed specifications are minimum standards for **normal weather conditions**. Under storm conditions vessels should be removed from the waterways.

1. Unless otherwise approved by the Harbormaster, all new and replacement mooring anchors shall be of the type and minimum holding application listed below:

Length of Vessel	Mushroom Anchor	Pyramid	Helix
Under 12'	75 lbs.	75 lbs.	
12' to 15'	100 lbs.	100 lbs.	
15' to 20'	200 lbs.	200 lbs.	
20' to 25'	300 lbs.	300 lbs.	
25' to 28'	500 lbs.	500 lbs.	

2. Helix Anchor

The following specifications shall be considered the minimum allowable specifications of a helix mooring system.

- (a) The shaft must be a minimum of 1 1/2" thick and at least six feet in length.
- (b) The shaft and helix must be of galvanized or other non-corrosive metal, such as stainless steel.
- (c) The shaft must be designed to allow the bottom chain to swivel around the shaft and to be replaced when necessary.
- (d) There shall be a minimum of 2 helixes attached to each shaft with the lower helix being a minimum of 8" in diameter and the top helix being a minimum of 8" in diameter.
- (e) All chain and pennant specifications will remain consistent with the chain and pennant specifications.
- (f) It shall be the responsibility of the Mooring Installer to assure that the proper size and length helix is used according to sub-soils within a given mooring area and for the vessel to be moored.
- (g) The mooring installer shall record the position of the helix mooring by a GPS fix and record all the mooring specifications including the length of shaft, depth of mean high water, torque reading at set, all sizes and length of ground tackle. All information shall be filed with the Harbormasters Office within 10 days of work.

(h) All helix moorings shall be installed as close to flush with the bottom surface as possible with no more than 6" protruding above the bottom surface.

All mooring chain shall be manufactured of galvanized iron or stainless steel and shall be a minimum of size and length specified below: Any/all shackle(s) used shall be secured with stainless steel wire or plastic wire ties.

Navy / Anchor chain may be used to substitute all or a portion of the heavy chain requirements.

The use of Jaw Swivels and quick links are not allowed in the mooring system.

3. Effective January 1, 2016, it will be required that all concrete block style moorings be removed from the waterways and replaced with a system allowable under the Waterways Rules and Regulations. Harbor Service Permit Holders will have one calendar year to comply (ending January 1, 2017)

4. Concrete block style moorings not removed from the water after the deadline date of January 1, 2017 shall have the Harbor Service Permit Revoked and the Harbormaster shall order the immediate removal of the system from the waterways.

5. Any concrete block style mooring that fails a mooring inspection prior to January 1, 2016 shall be required to update the system with an allowable system as defined in the Waterways Rules and Regulations. Proof of removal of the concrete system must be provided to the Harbormaster prior to installing the updated system.

Chain Specifications

Length of Vessel	Heavy Chain	Light Chain	Navy Chain	Elastic Mooring System
Under 12'		3/8" 2X maximum water depth		
12' to 15'	1/2	3/8		
15' to 25'	5/8	1/2		
25' to 35'	3/4"	5/8		
35' to 45'	1"	3/4		

45' and above - To be determined by Harbormaster and installer specifications

**In lieu of traditional chain moorings, an Elastic Environmental Mooring System may be permitted under the approval of the Harbormaster and the guidelines of the Manufacturers Specifications.

The length of the heavy chain shall be equal to 1.5 times the maximum depth of water at the mooring location. The length of the light chain shall be equal to the maximum water depth at the mooring location, except as specified above for boats under 12 feet in length.

Pennant Specifications

- a. Pennants shall be 2.5 times the distance from the water line to the bow.
- b. Pennants shall be constructed of nylon or polyester (Dacron) rope and shall be the minimum diameter as listed below:

Length of Vessel

15' and under	3/8"
15' to 25'	1/2"
25' to 35' **	5/8" ** see below
45' to 55'	1"
55' and above ***	see below

* - Stainless Steel Wire Rope may be substituted.

** - All Vessels Over 23' shall be required to have a double pennant. Vessels between 23' to 28' may use a single pennant if the minimum pennant diameter is upgraded to the next diameter line, with the approval of the Harbormaster.

*** - To be determined by Harbormaster and Mooring System Installer.

- c. The use of polypropylene rope for pennants is prohibited.
 - d. Pennants shall be periodically inspected for wear and/or damage.
 - e. The use of chafe gear on pennants is required and shall cover an area of one foot on either side of the bow chocks.
6. The Harbormaster reserves the right to move any mooring within the towns designated mooring fields or reorganize any mooring field in a manner that will be able to utilize space more efficiently.

(Article 25 Waterways Bylaw Amendment, section 2 and 2A of the October 22, 2012 Annual Fall Town Meeting; Approved by the Attorney General February 25, 2013)