

**COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

**MARINE & COASTAL MANAGEMENT
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

WEDNESDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2025

ITEM NO. 04

**POLICY OF FIXED MOORINGS IN ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE
COASTAL AREAS**

Motion: Ms M. O'Brien

"That Fingal adopt the policy of laying fixed moorings with buoys in sheltered environmentally sensitive coastal areas, for use by boats who wish to stop there temporarily, as such, this will reduce the damage to seagrass, other seabed plants and the seabed itself by unregulated anchoring."

Report:

The Council have no plans to adopt a policy for the laying of fixed moorings with buoys. The adoption of such a policy would indicate that the Council had plans for such works. The installation of additional moorings would require funding to be made available for the planning process, design, installation and maintenance of this infrastructure, including safe access to fixed moorings. There is no provision within the Council's 3 year Capital Programme for these works.

Ireland's Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) sets out the authorisation procedure for proposals for new mooring buoys in Irish waters under the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021. Under this Act, one must submit an application for a Maritime Usage Licence (MUL) to MARA. For information the link to the MARA website is: <https://www.maritimeregulator.ie/our-work/maritime-usage-licences/licensing-of-maritime-usages/>. Fingal County Council will not be submitting applications to MARA for the provision of new mooring systems for private vessels in any of the Natura 2000 sites.

There are four harbours under the control of Fingal County Council. These working harbours are at Balbriggan, Skerries, Loughshinny and Rush. Vessel owners can apply for a mooring in one of the four harbours of their choice. Information on moorings and harbours can be found at the following link: <https://www.fingal.ie/council/service/harbours> This includes the application forms for each specific harbour along with different Byelaws and regulations applying to each location. These govern the use of moorings and other activities within the harbours. In addition, there is berthage available for private vessels upon application at Malahide Marina, Howth Harbour and Howth Yacht Club. There is ample provision for mooring & berthage provided for vessels in the Fingal area.

The Council is not aware of damage to seagrass, seabed and other seabed plants caused by unregulated anchoring nor has the Council received any complaints or requests for moorings in the Natura 2000 sites.

Source of Report:

Mary T. Daly, Director of Service, Operations Department.