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## **Commitment to Supporting the Implementation of Eco-Moorings in Marine Protected Areas in Greece**

As Greece progresses with the designation of new Marine Protected Areas, including the proposed National Marine Parks of the Ionian Sea and the South Aegean (Southern Cyclades), currently under public consultation, the transition from planning to effective on-the-ground implementation remains a critical next step. Similar considerations apply across a broader range of coastal and marine areas—both within and beyond formally designated zones—where anchoring practices continue to impact sensitive habitats.

Within this context, approaches to the management of coastal and anchoring zones are being explored by the relevant authorities responsible for marine protected areas in Greece. The introduction of eco-mooring systems represents a key opportunity to safeguard sensitive marine ecosystems, particularly *Posidonia oceanica* meadows, which are vital to the health and resilience of the Mediterranean.

As one of the most active users of these waters, the sailing and yachting sector has a clear role to play in shaping solutions that protect marine ecosystems while sustaining the quality of experience at sea. We recognise both the environmental importance of this transition and its operational implications and are ready to help bridge the gap between environmental policy and maritime reality.

We therefore commit to supporting the effective implementation of eco-mooring systems—not only in principle, but in practice.

Drawing on our collective experience at sea, we aim to contribute to solutions that are safe, reliable, and aligned with real navigation conditions, while preserving the quality and accessibility of the visitor experience across Greece's coastal destinations.

### **To this end, we commit to:**

- Contributing operational expertise to inform the design, placement, and maintenance of eco-mooring systems
- Providing real-world feedback to help refine and improve implementation over time
- Advocating for balanced solutions that protect *Posidonia* while ensuring navigational safety and quality of experience

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By engaging constructively in this transition, we aim to support approaches that reduce seabed disturbance while remaining practical for vessels and adaptable across different locations.

Through this commitment, we express our readiness to play an active role in shaping a model that protects marine ecosystems while sustaining a safe, high-quality experience for all who sail in Greek seas.

## **About**

Sustainable Sailing Greece is a Greek not-for-profit organisation, dedicated to transforming nautical tourism in Greece into a force for environmental protection, local empowerment, and long-term sustainability. We are sailors, environmentalists, educators, and advocates working together to ensure that every sailing journey in Greece not only leaves no trace—but gives back.

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