

Short Term Mooring Framework

Appendix 2a – Calculating availability of mooring space

This appendix sets out how the information required by the Short Term Mooring Framework should be used to establish whether there is a clear need to make changes to mooring stay times. This appendix covers,

- What the Framework says about monitoring
- Correctly gathering and logging sightings against location
- Calculating the use of/availability of moorings
- Calculating the length of available mooring.
- Establishing what might demonstrate a need to change in stay times
- Other factors to consider

What the Framework says about monitoring

The Short Term Mooring Framework process sets out how the use of moorings should be monitored. The Framework states,

a. Monitoring

Sightings of craft that currently use the existing mooring(s) and / or local area over a minimum of 3 months is needed to establish patterns and any need for change. Where a new short term mooring is being considered, monitoring of nearest short term moorings and waterway area / pound should be considered. The data gathered may include:

- Total number and index number of craft on the mooring(s) - frequency is to match proposed change (e.g. if proposing to change to 2 days then sightings must occur every two days)
- Total number and index number of craft using nearby moorings - frequency to match proposed change
- Total number and index number of craft in the local waterway area
- By identifying individual craft you can establish if the mooring is full of the same or different boats each time it is checked. If the craft are different this could indicate that the duration time could be right. If it is the same craft, check if it is a local hire boat or shared ownership.
- By identifying individual craft you can convert this information in to total utilisation of the mooring based upon the length of the craft sighted v the total length of mooring available
- Through your analysis, you can establish if craft are local¹ or visiting the area / passing through to understand patterns of demand
- Contact your local Boating Co-Ordinator who will be able to provide you with monthly sighting data for the mooring(s) to provide a good baseline.

¹Local indicates the boat has a home mooring within 2 x 6 hr cruise time of the mooring.

Correctly gathering and logging sightings against location

When monitoring a section of towpath, sightings must be taken between a consistent start and end point. If the mooring space been monitored is not currently a short-stay visitor moorings it will not have an existing unique functional location (FLoc) code for that mooring. In this situation you will either have to,

- Monitor the moorings in the existing specific kilometre length of the canal ,or
- Have a new mooring zone created on SAP for the purpose of gathering boat sightings. This would should be set up as an L11 with a unique Floc code against which boat sightings can be logged.

If creating a new L11 Floc please ensure that at the end of the trial period if the mooring is to become a short stay mooring the L11 is either converted to a S1 visitor mooring or if no change is to be made the L11 is deleted.

It is preferable to use an existing Floc if possible to avoid creating additional Floc code data on SAP that may not be required in the long-term.

Calculating the use of/availability of moorings

Once you have a fixed start and end point for the section(s) boat sightings are being recorded, ensure that all boat sightings gathered by staff/volunteers are logged against this section. Sightings gathered by volunteers should be recorded using the Mobis application. Sighting logged in Mobis will automatically log into SAP.

After sightings have been gathered for the required period (see guidance in the Framework), this information can be collated by the National Boating Coordinator for your area (contact Jane Lee for details) to provide a summary (by month) of how many boats have been sighted using the moorings. This information should include,

- Total of number of boats per days sightings
- Number of days on which sightings were gathered
- Average number of boats sighted per day that month
- Total length of boats sighted per day (the sightings information cannot give exact boat lengths so use an average of 55ft per boat)

You should end up with a table that looks something like this for each section you're monitoring.

Notif.date	Boats in May (FLoc)	Notif.date	Boats in June (Floc)	Notif.date	Boats in July (FLOc)
01/05/2015	10	01/06/2015	24	01/07/2015	25
05/05/2015	19	02/06/2015	17	06/07/2015	10
06/05/2015	23	03/06/2015	14	07/07/2015	16
07/05/2015	24	05/06/2015	13	08/07/2015	16
08/05/2015	15	09/06/2015	20	09/07/2015	13
12/05/2015	21	10/06/2015	17	14/07/2015	23
13/05/2015	18	11/06/2015	18	15/07/2015	22
15/05/2015	28	16/06/2015	22	16/07/2015	8
22/05/2015	16	17/06/2015	17	20/07/2015	11
26/05/2015	14	22/06/2015	18	21/07/2015	16
27/05/2015	13	23/06/2015	21	22/07/2015	24
Grand Total	201	24/06/2015	21	23/07/2015	17
		25/06/2015	1	Grand Total	201
		Grand Total	233		

Average boats per day			
	# days	# boats	Average #
May	11	201	18
June	13	233	18
July	12	201	17

Once this information is collated you can calculate from the total length of available mooring how much space was occupied by moored boats.

Calculating the length of available mooring.

Start by establishing the total length between the start and end point of the area being monitored.

Deduct lengths for sections that are not available for mooring in that section (some of these will vary from location to location so each waterway will need to use their own local knowledge to calculate the length of deductions), for example

- Locks/lock landings
- Service points
- Bridge holes
- Winding holes
- Sections signed as no mooring for safety or operational reasons
- Any know sections where obstructions make it not possible to moor

Once these have been deducted you should be left with the length of space available for mooring.

Establishing how much space is occupied

The length of the boat will not take into account how boaters have moored (e.g. how much unusable space is left between moored boats). The sightings system does not enable these specific unusable lengths to be calculated, but on most stretches allow 10ft between boats to allow for the fact that most boats don't moor immediately next to each other, however in areas that are known to be very busy (for example in London) it would be reasonable to reduce the amount of space you allow for between boats.

So for example on a most stretches,

495ft (the total length of 9 boats sighted) + 80ft (to allow for 8 x 10ft of space between moored boats which cannot be moored in) = 575ft (total space in use by moored boats)

but on a busy section an example might be,

495ft (the total length of 9 boats sighted) + 16ft (to allow for 8 x 2ft of space between moored boats which cannot be moored in) = 511ft (total space in use by moored boats)

Take Xft (total space in use by moored boats) from Xft (the total length of mooring space available) = remaining mooring space available.

These figures should be converted to percentages to establish how much of the available space for mooring was occupied, so for example

600ft of space available for mooring = 100%

450ft of space occupied = 75%

By calculating this for each day's sightings you will establish what percentage of mooring is in use at different times.

Establishing what might demonstrate a need to change in stay times

There are may be a number of factors that need to be taken into account (as set out in section 3 of the Framework document) but as a rule If the mooring space being monitored is shown to be regularly 70%+ occupied this should be considered as busy and may be a strong factor introducing shorter stay times. If the space is shown to be regularly 85%+ occupied this should be considered very busy and is a strong case for introducing shorter stay times.

Other factors to consider

- Number of boats exceeding 14 days (if the site is currently a general towpath mooring)
- The number of return visits by the same boat to the same mooring (i.e. establishing whether it is different or the same boats being sighted on the mooring.
- The number of hire boats being sighted on the moorings (these will be different people each sighting)

This information can be drawn from the sightings by the national boating coordinator and can be considered alongside the data on available space for mooring to better understand the use of the moorings and if there is a need to change stay times.

Deciding what any revised stay time might be

There is no fixed rule on what revised stay times might be as there may be different factors to be taken into consideration in each location. However, as a general guide it is not advisable to make a significant change to a current designated mooring stay time without strong evidence based case for doing so.

As a guide changes to stay times might follow this pattern,

If reducing stay times	Current stay time	If increasing stay times
7 day	14 day	n/a
2 day	7 day	14 day
1 day / shopping mooring	2 day	7 day
n/a	1 day / shopping mooring	2 day