Authorised use

You must display your Rottnest authorised user permit sticker before you can start using a mooring. The sticker must be clearly visible on the port side of your vessel at all times. You will also receive a mooring summary of your authorised sites and the contact details for each licensee. Please ensure you keep these details on board your vessel for reference.

An interactive map showing the mooring locations in each bay is available from our website at ria.wa.gov.au.

You must contact the licensee of each mooring prior to use. Do not assume availability, especially during peak periods just because there is no vessel on the mooring. RIA cannot provide any guarantee of availability, and if access to an authorised site is not available you will need to make use of the shared mooring system (SMS) colour coded casual use, leaving a competent operator on board at all times.

The priority of mooring access is summarised on the colour coded information card issued with your sticker. Mooring site licensees have priority use of their own mooring site at all times. Licensee vessels display a red sticker showing their mooring site number. You must respect their right to priority access and vacate their mooring immediately upon request. Authorised users of a mooring have priority over other vessels accessing a mooring under SMS colour coded casual access.

Colour coded casual access within the SMS is only available to licensee and authorised user vessels displaying their current colour coded vessel sticker. Please follow the authorised use and casual access guidelines, otherwise infringements will apply and your application may be cancelled.

Please note that a vessel cannot remain secured to any mooring or at anchor overnight unless a competent operator is within the limits of the reserve. The competent operator must reside either on the vessel or in residence on the Island and vessels must be checked at least every 24 hours to ensure safety to other vessels.

All mooring sites have a maximum 40 knots wind limit and must be used in a responsible and safe manner at all times. Mooring use is at your own risk. Ensure you protect all mooring apparatus and report any damage to the licensee or Rangers.

Colour coded casual access

The SMS is made up of licensees and authorised users and colour coded access is only available for their use. It is designed to enhance access to Rottnest Island reserve and give greater flexibility to participants of the system by allowing access to other licensed moorings on a casual basis in addition to their nominated moorings.

All vessels must display a current licensee or authorised user colour coded sticker. A vessel's length determines the appropriate colour code which is indicated on the mooring site licence or authorised user permit sticker. Coloured discs are attached to the mooring buoys indicating the appropriate size of each site. Mooring sizes are based on the certified length of a site. Colour coding applies for casual use only.

Priority of mooring access: Licensees have priority use of their own site at all times over all other vessels. Authorised users of a site have priority over any other SMS vessel using a site under the casual colour coded access.

SMS vessels can access any vacant licensed mooring with the correct coloured disc under casual use, however they must ensure a competent operator remains on board the vessel and is able to move the vessel should the licensee or any approved authorised user arrives to use the site.

The competent operator may only leave the vessel for a maximum period of 20 minutes during which time they must leave their mobile phone number clearly displayed on the vessel and remain contactable. If mobile phone access or signal cover is not available, the competent operator must stay on the vessel at all times. Vessels using a site under casual access overnight must have a competent operator reside on board.

During SMS casual use a vessel must move off the mooring immediately when the mooring site licensee or an approved authorised user of the site arrives to access the mooring. If the competent operator is not on board, then the licensee or authorised user should contact the competent operator by the phone number displayed and request they move their vessel.

The licensee or authorised user can wait on a nearby suitably colour coded mooring while the casual use vessel operator returns to their vessel. If the casual user fails to return and move their vessel immediately, the licensee or authorised user can then call RIA Rangers on 9372 9788 for assistance. Persons engaged in casual access that fail to respond in a reasonable manner and do not return to their vessel upon request will be issued an infringement by RIA Rangers.

All mooring site licensees have been advised to attach their tender to their mooring in a way that does not impede access to the site by other vessels. Under SMS casual use, vessel operators can use a mooring site providing that they do not release or damage a licensee's unattended tender from a mooring site when they tie up to it.

Temporary use of RIA hire moorings

RIA rental swing moorings (green floats) have all been fitted with coloured coded discs to incorporate them into the SMS. This allows licensees and authorised users to access appropriately sized rental moorings if required whilst waiting for their authorised mooring to become available.

Conditions for use are:

- The licensee or authorised user using the rental mooring must first phone the Rottnest Visitor Centre on 9372 9730 to ensure the rental mooring is not booked.
- A competent operator must remain on the vessel at all times. The 20 minute time frame for leaving your vessel does not apply on rental moorings.
- If a hire mooring is occupied when the hire mooring lessee arrives to access their rental mooring site, the licensee or authorised user vessel must move off immediately.

Penalties apply for unauthorised mooring use in the Rottnest Island reserve.