



Port Owen Marina Authority (NPC)

Reg # 1999/010199/08

PostNet Suite 2 Private Bag X1 Vredenburg 7380 · Tel 022 783 0943 · Fax 0865462112

· E-mail: poma@poma.co.za

Newsletter January 2024

January has been a very busy month for POMA staff. The continued growth of Ulva weed in the hot summer months is an ongoing problem needing the attention of two barges used to constantly remove the dead weed from the waterways. Our battle with the Ulva however, must take second place to the dredging.

Dredging Progress: Weekly dredging reports are available in the POMA office and Shadley Savill, our Eco Tech is available should you have any questions regarding the reports.

There were 51 possible dredging hours available in January. During the first week of the month however, equipment had to be recommissioned after the Christmas break and no dredging took place. During the second week dredging proceeded with spoils being sent to the settling pond with the sluice gate closed. This severely limited dredging capacity as there was an extended stoppage period each time the dam was filled to wait for the dam to drain. This procedure was later changed, and we open the discharge gate at the planned start time and dredge through the dam until shut off time, when the gate is closed, and we fill the dam to stand overnight. For the month then, a total of 6 882 cubic meters in 35 dredging hours.

Discipline in the waterways: The Port Owen Marina rules and regulations are generally well respected by 98% of our waterways users. Unfortunately, however there are always those who refuse to follow the rules, either willfully, or through ignorance. In some cases, the perpetrators are visitors that have not been properly informed and anyone hosting visitors is kindly requested to ensure that their guests are informed of, and respect, the fact that All POMA waterways are no wake zones. That is from the East and West entrances, throughout the marina. POMA does attempt to inform all vessels launching at the POMA slipway are informed appropriately.

Jet skis have very clear rules and regulations both in the POMA marina and in the Berg River. There are also National rules and Regulations regarding the use of jet skis.

Poachers remain a problem in the waterways. Unfortunately, POMA has neither the capacity nor mandate to enforce the law and all we can do is pass on relevant information on illegal activities to Cape Nature Berg River Rangers (their telephone number is 079 291 1440). If you do not get a voice reply, please send a WhatsApp text message to the number as that forms part of their statistics and remains on record.

Upcoming events: Members and clients of POMA are informed that Port Owen Yacht Club is hosting The Diamond Coast International Yacht Race from Port Owen and to the Namibian port town of Lüderitz, starting on 21 March 2024 in St Helena Bay near the Laaiplek harbour entrance. During preparations for the start of this event a number of yachts from various yacht clubs in South Africa will be visiting Port Owen.

As we head into 2024 and the late summer weather becomes increasingly conducive to boating we wish all our members and clients a happy, healthy and safe 2024.

DIRECTORS

D Robinson (Chairman); G de Wet; H Lambrechts; M de Bruyn; J Moolman
J de Meillon (Alt); Alan Reynolds (Alt); B Fordyce (Alt)