



Port Owen Marina Authority (NPC)

Reg # 1999/010199/08

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Port Owen Marina Authority January 2026 Newsletter

From the Chairman

Dear Residents, Stakeholders, and Friends of Port Owen

As we step into 2026, I am pleased to introduce a new era of communication for our marina community. Our goal is to keep you informed, engaged, and involved in all matters affecting our shared environment.

A New Era of Communication

Following the Public Meeting after the AGM on 29th November and the dredging meeting on 5th December 2025, we are actively working through the documents and feedback received. We will provide answers to all questions and suggestions before the end of January 2026. To ensure ongoing transparency, I will share a monthly newsletter, and we plan to host quarterly public feedback sessions.

No Wake Zone – Non-Compliance

We continue to face challenges with jet skis and vessels that do not adhere to the no wake zones in the marina. It is important to clarify POMA's authority in this matter. Despite our name—Port Owen Marina Authority—we do not have the legal authority to enforce compliance. The name should have been Port Owen Marina Management, as our role is to manage, not police, the marina. We share your frustrations regarding inconsiderate transgressors and will continue to advocate for respectful behaviour on the water.

Ulva (Sea Lettuce) Management Update

During December, our skeleton staff focused primarily on clearing up the Ulva (sea lettuce) in the canal and marina. The presence of Ulva has been a concern for many, and we share your frustrations. This summer, the growth has been particularly prolific and challenging to manage. It is important to note that this is not unique to Port Owen—many waterways have reported a greater proliferation of Ulva than usual.

Recent research and trends indicate that nuisance macroalgal blooms, including those of Ulva species, are increasing both globally and in South Africa due to environmental changes. While there is no specific report stating that Ulva has been more "aggressive" on the South African west coast in 2025, scientific literature points to conditions that favour more frequent and intense blooms. This has certainly been our experience this season.

Marina Safety and Incident Response

Safety remains a top priority. In December, Derek and I attended to two vessels in the marina—one that came loose from its mooring and another that had taken on a large amount of water. Thanks to swift teamwork, both vessels were rescued without further damage. These events highlight the importance of vigilance and cooperation within our community.

Looking Ahead

We wish everyone a prosperous and fulfilling 2026. The challenges we face are best overcome together, and your continued feedback and involvement are vital to the ongoing improvement of our marina and its environment.

Thank you for your support and engagement. I look forward to working with you all in the year ahead.

Warm regards,

Jeff Hampton
Chairman, Port Owen Marina Authority

Directors

J Hampton (Chairman); J de Meillon; J Joubert; R de Bruyn; J Moolman
D Robinson (Alt); J Da Silva (Alt); JC Latter (Alt)