



Cheryl Chisholm <mbyca.cpc46@gmail.com>

---

## BHN's Position on Boston Harbor Moorings and Marinas

2 messages

---

Jack Murray <jmurray@bostonharbornow.org>

Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 3:35 PM

To: bostoncaptbill@yahoo.com

Cc: etchisholm@yahoo.com, Cheryl Chisholm <mbyca.cpc46@gmail.com>, Jill Valdes Horwood <jvhorwood@bostonharbornow.org>, Alice Brown <abrown@islandalliance.org>, petegilson@aol.com, petercaten@gmail.com

Dear Captain Scanlon:

Thanks very much for your email to Kathy Abbott last week regarding your support for the Boston Harbor Mooring Program and additional marina capacity on the Boston Harbor Islands for recreational boaters. As an organization we value your support and agree with MBYCA about the importance of encouraging and promoting access to the Islands for the recreational boating community.

As you may know, Boston Harbor Now is the non profit partner of the Boston Harbor Islands Partnership which was created 20 years ago to support the Boston Harbor Islands National and State Park Area. We are a non-profit civic organization that advocates for access to Boston's waterfront including its beaches, islands and the Harborwalk. We work on a myriad of Boston Harbor issues such as climate change and resiliency, improved water transportation, and support for our working port.

We work very closely with The National Park Service and DCR by providing free access to the islands for children and families who cannot otherwise afford to visit. We also conduct over 400 free programs on the islands and the waterfront throughout the year.

We want you and MBYCA to know that BHN wholeheartedly supports the prospect of adding additional moorings around the Boston Harbor Islands for use by private boaters and in fact we are working with our partners in advocating for placement of the moorings this coming season.

DCR currently has a permit application pending with the US Army Corps of Engineers for approximately 130 mooring permits for locations in and around Spectacle, Georges, Gallops and Peddock's Islands. Your May 2017 letter to Paul Sneeringer of the Army Corps raised some excellent points and like MBYCA we had hoped that the permit would have been issued by now.

DCR has worked with MassDOT to address issues raised by the MBTA commuter ferry operators regarding the placement of the mooring permits on Spectacle and admittedly there have been some delays due to questions raised by the Town of Hull Conservation Commission. However, to my knowledge, approvals have now been granted by both the Boston and Hull Conservation Commissions.

We are all very hopeful that the permits will be issued by ACOE in order for the program to move forward this season. Your continued advocacy with The Army Corps might certainly be helpful in this regard as I noticed that you copied MassParks and Mr. Sneeringer on this email last week.

In regard to marina access, we too are supportive of additional marina access on the Islands but as we all know too well, current pier design and limited funding is a factor. We support The Governor's Environmental Bond Bill which provides funding for DCR Capital Programs and we have been trying to identify federal funding that might make the Georges Island Pier eligible for re-construction (the design is already complete).

You will be happy to know that DCR in partnership with Boston Harbor Now and The National Park Service is in the process of investing almost \$700,000 for repairs on piers and gangways at Spectacle, Georges and Peddock's Island. The work on Georges and Spectacle will be completed this Spring while the work on Peddocks is scheduled to be done in the Fall.

Almost \$250,000 alone will be spent on the pier at Spectacle Island to replace decking, pile supports and the wave screen. We are hearing good news in that the DCR expects the marina on Spectacle to be open again this year to recreational boaters. Hours of operation and details for reservations are still being worked out and I would suggest that you refer any questions regarding the marina to DCR.

I hope this is helpful. I wish to assure you that BHN and MBYCA share consistent goals on the important issues you have raised. I hope we can continue to work in partnership to forward these goals on behalf of your membership and the recreational boating community as a whole.

Please feel free to call me if you have questions or wish to discuss further.

All the best,

Jack

---

Hello Jack,

Thank you for your reply.

This is encouraging news that is well received by MBYCA.

May we share your reply with MBYCA members and recreational boating social media groups?

Please let MBYCA and I know how we can continue promoting BHN's good work and efforts that benefit the recreational boating community and all Massachusetts residents and visitors.

We will continue to reach out and lobby the DCR and ACOE on the mooring plans as well as the overall access to the Harbor and the Harbor Islands.

Thank you for reviewing our mooring report sent to DCR and ACOE last year. We will reach out to them again pushing for an acknowledgement of the issues we raised. It would be anti-climatic for the moorings to be implemented in less than a fully functioning or broadly accommodating manner.

MBYCA, it's members and I are all looking forward to exploring the many Harbor Islands this summer and into the future with the return of and the expansion of facilities and access via our recreational boats.

Thank you!

Captain Bill Scanlon Sr.

MBYCA PC, 2016 Legislative Director  
Winthrop YC PC 2010