

Guidance Note

ANODE MAINTENANCE FOR VESSELS IN MARINA



Introduction

To ensure the longevity and protection of your vessel's underwater metals, it is crucial to maintain the anodes on your yacht. Proper anode maintenance helps prevent electrolysis and galvanic corrosion, which can cause significant damage to your vessel and vessels around you. It also makes sure other vessels and marina infrastructure are not adversely affected. This guidance note provides essential information on anode maintenance for vessels moored at our marina.

By following these guidelines, you can effectively maintain the anodes on your vessel, ensuring protection against electrolysis and galvanic corrosion. Regular anode maintenance not only preserves the integrity of your vessel but other vessels and marina infrastructure.

What Are Anodes?

Anodes, often referred to as sacrificial anodes, are metal components attached to the underwater parts of your vessel. They are designed to corrode in place of other metal components, protecting them from electrolysis and galvanic corrosion. Common materials for anodes include zinc, aluminium, and magnesium.

Why Anode Maintenance Is Important

1. **Prevents Electrolysis:** Electrolysis can cause significant damage to metal parts of your vessel. Anodes protect these parts by corroding first.
2. **Extends Lifespan:** Regularly maintained anodes ensure the longevity of your vessel's underwater metals, reducing the need for costly repairs.
3. **Ensures Safety:** Proper anode maintenance contributes to the overall safety and seaworthiness of your vessel.

Maintenance Guidelines

1. **Regular Inspections:** Anodes should be inspected at least every six months. Check for signs of wear and depletion. Anodes should be replaced when they are 50% to 70% corroded.
2. **Timely Replacement:** We require that anodes be replaced as necessary to ensure continuous protection and that you use anodes appropriate for the water conditions.
3. **Proper Installation:** Ensure anodes are securely attached and making good electrical contact with the metal parts they are protecting. Use the correct size and type of anode for your vessel's requirements.
4. **Consult Professionals:** If you are unsure about the condition of your anodes or how to replace them, consult a marine professional.
5. **Monitor Electrical Systems:** Ensure your vessel's electrical systems are well-maintained to minimize the risk of stray current corrosion.
6. **Keep Records:** Maintain a log of anode inspections and replacements to track their condition over time. FH reserves the right to request such records and evidence of regular maintenance, non-compliance could result in berthing licences being revoked or not renewed.